Viburnum 'Eskimo'



The U.S. National Arboretum introduction, Viburnum 'Eskimo', established a landmark in the breeding and development of elite viburnum cultivars. A compact, slow-growing shrub, 'Eskimo' is covered with white "snowballs" of tubular flowers in early May. Handsome, dark green, semi-evergreen foliage is resistant to bacterial leaf spot. This is a perfect plant for the home or the public garden!

Winner of a Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal Plant Award, 1992.





'Eskimo' hybrid viburnum

Botanical name: Viburnum 'Eskimo' (V. ×carlcephalum 'Cayuga' × V. utile, F2 seedling)

(NA 43148; PI 445780)

Family: Viburnaceae

Hardiness: USDA Zones 6–8

Development: Viburnum × carlcephalum 'Cayuga' was crossed with V. utile in 1962. A

selection from this cross was self-pollinated in 1967. From this seedling population with its three-species parentage (*V. carlesii*, *V. macrocephalum*, and *V. utile*), a plant was selected for evaluation in 1975, named and released

in 1981 as 'Eskimo'.

Significance: 'Eskimo' establishes a landmark in the development of elite viburnum

cultivars. It is the first selection that combines the tubular flower type in a snowball inflorescence from V. 'Cayuga' with the dwarf growth habit and semi-evergreen foliage of V. utile. 'Eskimo' also served as a parent in the

breeding of the later introduction 'Nantucket'.

Description: Height and Width: 4-5 feet tall and wide.

Habit: Slow-growing, compact shrub.

Foliage: Leathery, glossy, dark green, semi-evergreen leaves; highly tolerant

to bacterial leaf spot.

Flowers: Abundant, pure white, 3-4 inch ball-shaped inflorescences of tubular

white flowers in early May.

Fruit: A drupe. Fruits ripen in August to a dull red and then to black.

Culture: 'Eskimo' is readily cultivated under diverse climatic and soil conditions, but

grows best in full sun to partial shade in a heavy loam with an adequate

moisture supply.

Propagation: Roots easily from semi-hardwood cuttings under mist, treated with 1000 ppm

IBA, in 4 weeks.

Landscape use: Specimen plant, hedge, massed group, shrub border. Slow-growing, compact

growth habit makes it ideal for the home landscape. Excellent in containers.

Availability: Readily available from mail-order firms and retail and wholesale nurseries.

U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction

Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

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