Viburnum ×burkwoodii 'Mohawk'



The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Viburnum* × *burkwoodii* 'Mohawk', a Burkwood viburnum cultivar of distinction. Glossy, dark red flower buds are ornamental for several weeks before opening in late April to reveal white, waxy flowers with a strong, spicy, clovelike fragrance. The dark green leaves of this deciduous shrub turn a brilliant orange-red in autumn. Resistance to bacterial leaf spot and powdery mildew round out a long list of outstanding qualities.

Winner of a Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal Plant Award, 1993.



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'Mohawk' Burkwood viburnum

Botanical name: Viburnum ×burkwoodii 'Mohawk' (V. carlesii × V. ×burkwoodii)

(NA 28181; PI 315889)

Family: Viburnaceae

Hardiness: USDA Zones (4b)5–8

Development: A backcross of *Viburnum* × *burkwoodii* to *V. carlesii* was made in 1953 by

Donald R. Egolf. Seed produced from this cross was embryo-cultured to expedite seedling production. The cultivar 'Mohawk' was selected from this

population in 1960, evaluated, and released in 1966.

Significance: 'Mohawk' is distinguished from related cultivars by abundant clusters of

glossy, dark red flower buds that are ornamental for several weeks prior to full bloom. The white, waxy flowers with red blotches on the reverse side of the petals have a strong, spicy, clove-like fragrance. 'Mohawk' has a fairly compact growth habit, and foliage that is resistant to bacterial leaf spot and

powdery mildew.

Description: Height and Width: 8 feet tall and 10 feet wide.

Habit: Shrub with spreading branches.

Foliage: Glossy, dark green, deciduous leaves turn a brilliant orange-red in autumn. The foliage is highly tolerant to bacterial leaf spot and powdery

mildew.

Flowers: Brilliant, glossy red flower buds appear on abundantly produced inflorescences several weeks before the flowers begin to open in late April, extending the effective ornamental period by several weeks. The red of the flower buds contrasts well with the white of the opened flowers and is retained on the reverse of the flower. Flowers have a strong, spicy fragrance.

Fruit: A black drupe.

Culture: 'Mohawk' is readily cultivated under diverse climatic and soil conditions. It

grows well in many exposures and soils, but performs best in sun, or in light shade in more southern areas, with moderate moisture and well-drained soils.

Propagation: Roots easily under mist in 4-6 weeks from semi-hardwood cuttings treated

with 1000 ppm IBA.

Landscape use: Specimen plant, massed group, shrub border, good background shrub for the

perennial border or planted near public areas where the spicy fragrance can be

fully appreciated.

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

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