## Viburnum ×carlcephalum 'Cayuga'



The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Viburnum* ×*carlcephalum* 'Cayuga', one of the first viburnum cultivars introduced by the Arboretum, and still one of our finest. A proven performer, 'Cayuga' is resplendent with snowball-like inflorescences of pink buds opening to waxy, white, sweetly fragrant flowers in late April. Occasional "bonus" flowers often appear in small clusters at odd times later in the growing season, providing unexpected interest. Abundant, moderately fragrant annual bloom, medium-textured, dark green foliage, and compact, even growth habit make 'Cayuga' a wonderful shrub for the garden or landscape.



**U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction** Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit





## 'Cayuga' fragrant snowball viburnum

**Botanical name:** Viburnum ×carlcephalum 'Cayuga' (V. carlesii × V. ×carlcephalum)

(NA 28180; PI 315888)

Family: Viburnaceae

**Hardiness:** USDA Zones 5–8

**Development:** A backcross of *V. carlesii* × *V.* × *carlcephalum* was made in 1953 by Donald

R. Egolf. Seeds of this cross were embryo-cultured to expedite seedling production. A superior young plant from this hybrid population was selected for intensive evaluation in 1960, named 'Cayuga', and released in 1966.

**Significance:** 'Cayuga' is distinct in producing abundant inflorescences of pink buds that

open to white flowers. The individual flowers open from one side of the inflorescence in such a way that nearly all of the flower clusters display pink buds accenting the white, waxy, fragrant flowers. In addition, it has a fairly compact growth habit and dark green foliage that is finer textured and has better color than previous *Viburnum* ×*carlcephalum*, and has higher tolerance

to bacterial leaf spot and powdery mildew than Viburnum carlesii.

**Description:** Height and Width: 8.5 feet tall and 11 feet wide at 20 years.

**Habit:** Fairly compact shrub with spreading branches.

**Foliage:** Dark green, slightly glossy, medium-textured, deciduous leaves, highly tolerant to bacterial leaf spot and powdery mildew. Leaves are smaller and less coarse in texture than other selections of *V.* ×*carlcephalum*. Fall color

is a dull orange red.

**Flowers**: Abundant, terminal, compound cymes, each with 20-35 florets. Glistening pink buds open to white, waxy flowers. Flowers appear with young leaves in late April and open progressively from one side of the inflorescence to the other. Occasional flowers often open from smaller clusters during the

remainder of the growing season. Flowers are fragrant.

Fruit: A black drupe.

**Culture:** Adaptable to diverse climatic and soil conditions. Performs best on heavy

loam soils with a pH of 6.0-6.5. Avoid poorly drained soils. Grows well in full

sun to partial shade.

**Propagation:** Softwood cuttings must be taken early, before terminal flower buds are

initiated. Softwood cuttings, treated with 8000 ppm IBA, root in 4 weeks

under mist. May be difficult to overwinter the first year.

**Landscape use:** Specimen plant; shrub border; good plant for the urban landscape.

**Availability:** Limited availability from wholesale and retail nurseries.

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