



## *Viburnum nudum* 'Little Cherub'



**Botanical Name:** *Viburnum nudum* 'Little Cherub' (PI 700070; NA 83685)

**Hardiness:** USDA Zones 5-9

**Development:** *Viburnum nudum* 'Little Cherub' originated from seeds that were wild-collected in western North Carolina in 2000. Eleven seedlings were grown out at the USNA Research Farm in Beltsville, MD. The distinctly dense, compact growth of one seedling warranted further observation in the field, and the original plant remains approximately 3' tall after over 20 years of growth.

**Significance:** 'Little Cherub' is the only cultivar of *Viburnum nudum* with strongly compact growth, and one of only two commercially available cultivars of compact, US native viburnums. Typical *V. nudum* individuals grow 10-20' tall and require regular pruning to maintain an attractive form in the landscape. 'Little Cherub' reaches only 2-3' tall and wide at maturity and retains typical flower characteristics including inflorescence size, scent, and bloom time. This selection represents a garden-friendly *V. nudum* that requires no special maintenance in the landscape, supports native pollinators and frugivores, and has no problematic insect pests or diseases.

**Description:** **Height and width:** 2-3 feet tall and equally as wide after 20 years of field growth in Beltsville, MD. **Habit:** Strongly compact shrub. Develops a dense, spherical form at maturity. **Foliage:** Lustrous, dark green, deciduous leaves that take on tints of red and purple in late autumn. **Flowers:** Aromatic white flowers arranged in flat-topped inflorescences to 5" wide. Flowering occurs in May to June.

**Propagation:** Rooting occurs within 6-8 weeks from cuttings taken in late May to June using 0.15% KIBA and placed in a bark mix under mist. Plants will fill a 1-gallon container and set flower buds during the first year of growth.

**Landscape Use:** Can be grown in grouping, masses, or a spot element in a shrub border, low unpruned hedge, or pollinator garden.

**Availability:** Contact Kevin Conrad, U.S. National Arboretum, 10300 Baltimore Ave., B010A, Beltsville, MD 20705, [Kevin.Conrad@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Kevin.Conrad@ars.usda.gov).