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Viburnum 'Emerald Triumph'¹

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Origin

Viburnum 'Emerald Triumph' was selected from a hybrid population resulting from a controlled cross between *Viburnum burejaeticum* Regel & Herder and *Viburnum x rhytidophylloides* Suring. 'Alleghany'. It is the first viburnum cultivar to be introduced from the woody plant breeding program at the University of Minnesota. After seven years of evaluation it was named 'Emerald Triumph'. This cultivar was registered in 1993 with the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., which serves as the registration authority for this genus.

Description

'Emerald Triumph' viburnum has a dense, rounded form. Mature height is approximately 2–2.5 m (6–8 ft) with about an equal spread. Leaves are ovate, about 10 cm (4 in) long, and are generally similar in appearance to *Viburnum Lantana* L. but with much greater glossiness. Leaf color is dark green, corresponding to RHS 137A (1). Leaves tend to remain on the plant quite late in autumn, with little change of color. 'Emerald Triumph' viburnum blooms in May in the Twin cities area. The flowers are creamy white, borne in slightly rounded cymes which average 5–8 cm (2–3 in) in diameter. Individual fruits are about 1–1.5 cm (3/8–5/8 in) in length and are borne in clusters. Beginning in early August (in Minnesota) the fruit changes from green to red (RHS 45A at peak) and eventually to black. The colorful red fruit provides landscape interest for three to four weeks.

Adaptation

'Emerald Triumph' viburnum is well-adapted to a range of growing conditions. It is fully cold hardy in Chanhassen, MN, USDA Hardiness Zone 4a. This cultivar is hardier than 'Alleghany' viburnum which consistently shows winter die-back at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. No serious insect or disease problems have been noted on 'Emerald Triumph'.

Cultural Conditions

'Emerald Triumph' viburnum has grown well under various cultural conditions. At the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum this cultivar is growing well in several different soil types including muck peat and clay loam soils. As with most other viburnums optimum growth will be at-

tained when grown in moist, fertile, well-drained soil. This viburnum seems to be adaptable to a range of soil pH. Plant in full sun for best flowering and fruiting.

Performance

This viburnum cultivar has performed well at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen, MN and also at the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station in Morris, MN. 'Emerald Triumph' viburnum has been distributed to test sites throughout the midwest through the U.S.D.A. North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station in Ames, Iowa. Plants were distributed in the spring of 1992 so performance data is not yet available.



Fig. 1. Original plant of *Viburnum* 'Emerald Triumph' in flower.



Fig. 2. Flower cluster of 'Emerald Triumph' viburnum.

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'Emerald Triumph' viburnum.

in early June and treated with
when stuck in peat:perlite and
ist.

Landscape Uses

Excellent dark green foliage, showy late summer fruits, and reliable cold hardiness are the key attributes of 'Emerald Triumph' viburnum. There is great potential for expanded use of viburnums in northern landscapes. 'Emerald Triumph's' clean green foliage is a welcome change from overused landscape plants such as *Lonicera* and *Philadelphus* whose foliage is often diseased and unattractive by mid-summer. 'Emerald Triumph' viburnum can be used effectively as a single specimen or in groups or masses. Its dense habit makes it valuable for informal hedges.

Availability

'Emerald Triumph' viburnum has been released through the royalty program of the Minnesota Nurserymen's Research Corporation. Growers interested in producing this cultivar can contact the authors or Mr. Don Selinger, Minnesota Nurserymen's Research Corporation, 1325 Bailey Road, St. Paul, MN 55119.

Literature Cited

1. Royal Horticulture Society. 1966. The Royal Horticultural Society colour chart. Royal Hort. Soc., London.