

Viburnum plicatum var. *tomentosum* 'Igloo'

This double file variety has an exquisite form

When a man dedicated to viburnums tells you about the best one he's ever seen, you listen. George Krauth, owner of Viburnums by George in Estill Springs, Tenn., will tell the values of 'Igloo' to anyone willing to listen.

In 1990, Krauth was touring Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library in Winterthur, Del. There he spotted a plant that took his breath away - the original specimen of *Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum* 'Igloo.' It was dense, stood 3 feet tall and wide and had a domed shape.



In bloom, 'Igloo' is covered with white flowers, which are followed by dark-red fruit.

"With over 100 species and cultivars of this wonderful group of plants, here was the queen," Krauth said. "Truly another of God's great gifts to the world."

'Igloo' was discovered as a chance seedling in a shady area at the garden by Hal Bruce. Krauth was allowed to take cuttings and has now developed an impressive inventory.

Spring/fall color

In mid-spring 'Igloo' is "absolutely covered" in white flowers, Krauth said. The blossoms are followed by abundant, dark-red fruit in July. Due to the shape of these fruits, Krauth feels that *V. plicatum* var. *tomentosum* 'Mariesii' could be a parent plant.

'Mariesii' is a very old variety, introduced in the 1870s. It's a taller variety, with 10-foot specimens fairly common.

'Igloo' leaves are dark-green and emerge in late winter. In fall they change to an excellent reddish purple.

"'Igloo' does well here in the Deep South," Krauth said. "With our hot and humid summers, she stands tall and also performs extremely well in the Midwest and Northeast."

The plant is hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 5.

Easy to propagate

The plant roots easily from cuttings. It grows best in moist, well-draining soils.

Because of its rounded, igloo shape, this plant makes an excellent informal hedge and can also be used in mass plantings.

Expect it to reach an ultimate size of 6 feet high and 8 feet wide.

• **For more:** Viburnums by George, George P. Krauth, 2 Viburnum Circle, 136 BJ's Landing, Estill Springs, TN 37330; 931-967-5983 or 931-649-2150; fax (931) 649-2080; www.viburnum.com.

-Todd Davis

specifics

Name: *Viburnum plicatum* var. *tomentosum* 'Igloo'

Common name: 'Igloo' double file viburnum.

Description: Deciduous shrub reaching 6 feet high and 8 feet wide. As the name implies, it has a rounded, dense form. Flowers are white and fall color is excellent reddish purple.

Exposure: Full sun to partial shade.

Uses: Mass plantings, shrub borders, hedges and short screens.

Hardiness: USDA Hardiness Zones 5-8.

Propagation: Easy from cuttings.