



Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania

Siebold Viburnum

Viburnum sieboldii



eCommons@Cornell,
<http://hdl.handle.net/1813/1140>

Background:

Also known as Siebold's arrowwood, this native of Japan was brought to the U.S. as an ornamental landscape plant. Many cultivars are still sold in the nursery trade.

Range:

The range of this species in the U.S. is not yet widespread. It can be found in scattered portions of the Mid-Atlantic (including Pennsylvania) and New England, as well as Ohio and Kentucky.

Description:

This large shrub or small tree can grow up to 20 feet tall and about half as wide. The simple, two to five-inch long deciduous leaves are arranged alternately along the branches.



Photo: Richard Webb, www.invasive.org

Leaves are dark green with serrated leaf margins. When crushed, they emit a foul odor.

Abundant off-white flowers bloom in May. They can be up to six inches across and cover the whole plant. Small oval fruits change from red to black in color in September.

Habitat:

This plant grows easily and can adapt to various soil types, although it prefers moist, well-drained soil. It will grow in full sun to partial shade.

Biology and Spread:

Fruits grow in abundance along the length of the branches. Birds do love to eat the fruits, so they are a major vector for the spread of this species' seeds.

Ecological Threat:

Little is known about the exact impacts this species has on the environment but it is assumed to have the ability to take over forest edges and disturbed areas, replacing native shrubs and understory trees. The U.S. Forest Service ranks it of "local concern", worth monitoring for invasive tendencies.



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How to Control this Species:

Little research has specifically been aimed at controlling this species. However, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden suggests hand-pulling plants that are less than three feet tall.

Taller shrubs should be cut at ground level prior to fruiting, then apply a 20 percent solution of glyphosate herbicide to avoid re-sprouting.

Look-A-Likes:

Red chokecherry (*Photinia pyrifolia*) (top image) and possumhaw (*Viburnum nudum* L.) (bottom image) are native shrubs that could be confused with small Siebold viburnums.



Photo: Dow Gardens Archive,
www.forestryimages.org



Photo: James Miller & Ted Bodner,
Southern Weed Science Society,
www.forestryimages.org

Native Alternatives:

There are a variety of native shrubs with attractive flowers, fall foliage and fruit for wildlife, including:

Common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)



Photo: Dow Gardens Archive,
www.forestryimages.org

American beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*)



Photo: John Byrd, Mississippi State U.,
www.forestryimages.org

Mapleleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)



Photo: Elmer Verhasselt,
www.forestryimages.org

References:

Invasive Exotic Plant Pest Tutorial for Land Managers:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivetutorial/viburnum.htm>

University of Connecticut Plant Database:

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/v/vibpli/vibpli1.html>

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health:

<http://www.invasive.org>