

VIBURNUM ALNIFOLIUM Marsh.
Hobblebush

FAMILY: Caprifoliaceae

HABIT: Straggling or erect shrub to 3 m. tall; flowering May, June; fruiting August, September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Resembles *V. opulus* and *Hydrangea arborescens* in having large, showy, sterile flowers on the border of the cyme. *V. opulus* has trilobate leaves while *V. alnifolium* has ovate, almost orbicular leaves. *H. arborescens* is more diffusely branched and flowers much later than *V. alnifolium*.

TOTAL RANGE: P.E.I. to Ont. and MI, s. to TN, GA, and NC.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 collections from 5 counties of northeastern Ohio: Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Summit. There is a pre-1960 record from Cuyahoga County.

HABITAT: Woods near swamps, stream banks, dense shaded hemlock woods and ravines. Does best on moist, well-drained soils.

HAZARDS: Killing of flowers by late frosts; heavy browsing by white-tailed deer.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Apparently good. Even though fruit production is sparse, this plant reproduces vegetatively by basal sprouting and rooting of prostrate branches.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering or fruiting branchlets.

COMMENTS: White-tailed deer find this species highly palatable. *V. alnifolium* is quickly eliminated when the deer population exceeds the carrying capacity of the habitat. It is interesting to note that in Ohio, where the deer population has risen in recent years, *V. alnifolium* is often found only in sites such as the sides of gorges where it is difficult for the deer to reach.

The state range of this conspicuous, easily identified shrub is probably accurately known.

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