

NEWS RELEASE

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A Plant for All Seasons

The Viburnum group of plants was introduced to me for the first time in my college woody ornamental class. The course consisted of a lecture and then a hiking tour across campus and into the surrounding neighborhoods looking at trees and shrubs. I distinctly remember the first Arrowwood Viburnum shown to me by McCain Auditorium. This is only one of the 20 different species of Viburnum we had to learn.

Join me on Saturday, October 8 beginning at 10 am for a presentation on Viburnums. These plants range in size from two feet to thirty feet in height. Blueville Nursery at 4539 Anderson will be hosting the presentation. Along with slides, there will be samples of the plants to look over.

Viburnums are quite diverse and have more than one interesting characteristic. Many have showy spring flowers. Some are fragrant. Leaves vary in color, texture and substance between species. Changing leaf color in the fall is common for most. A few have a very showy late summer and fall fruit.

K-State Research and Extension recently did a study on 19 different species. I will share preliminary results from this study. There are 32 different Viburnums that I have in my landscape which I will share my antidotal thoughts on them.

If you only have room for one, I suggest the one named 'Cayuga.' It has done great in my collection and the K-State study. The flowers are fragrant and showy in the spring. I have had mine since 2004 and it is six feet tall and five feet wide. Leaves are dark green during the summer and an orange-red in the fall.

Planting in the fall gives plants an extra season to get established before the stress of summer. Soil temperatures in the fall and spring build healthy roots. The viburnums we plant here are genetically cold hardy. Viburnums are considered wildlife resistant. I do put metal cages around my young ones for winter protection insurance from rabbits.

Enjoy this fall season and your landscape. Research on gardening continues to prove its worth. It improves your mood, lowers stress, and cuts the risk of stroke and heart attack.

You can find out more information on this and other horticulture topics by going to the Riley County, K-State Research and Extension website at [www.riley.ksu.edu](http://www.riley.ksu.edu). Gregg may be contacted by calling 785-537-6350 or stopping by 110 Courthouse Plaza in Manhattan or e-mail: [geyeston@ksu.edu](mailto:geyeston@ksu.edu).