

Recipe Bonus: Spring Celebrations



Southern Living

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Gardening,
Louisiana Style

\$200 Living Room
Makeover

Kids With
Cameras
At Disney

Dinner on
The Grounds





Snowball viburnum's deep-pink buds give rise to creamy-white blossoms. The flowers smell of cloves and allspice and are good for cutting.



Showy clusters of flowers decorate this fragrant shrub in spring. It grows 6 to 10 feet tall and wide and likes full sun or light shade.

The Spice Is Right

If this plant tasted as good as it smells, it would be extinct.

Meet fragrant snowball viburnum (*Viburnum x carlcephalum*), one of the garden's foremost olfactory delights. A hybrid of Chinese snowball (*V. macrocephalum* Sterile) and Korean spice viburnum (*V. carlesii*), it combines the best of both parents. From the former, it receives showy spring flowers—good for cutting—that change from pink to white as they open. From the latter, it inherits magnificent floral fragrance redolent of cloves and allspice. As Atlanta landscape architect Bill Smith observes, “The fragrance is just incredible. One plant perfumes an entire garden.”

Open and upright, fragrant snowball viburnum grows 6 to 10 feet tall and wide. After flowering, it fades into the background in summer,

offering little beyond deep-green leaves. But don't leave the theater yet—the show isn't over. In late autumn, well after other deciduous plants have defoliated, snowball viburnum dons a leafy cloak of rich burgundy. In Bill's garden, the handsome foliage persists into December.

To take advantage of the wonderful spring scent, plant this shrub where it welcomes people as they gather or pass by—near a walk, deck, porch, or sitting area. You can also add it to the rear of a mixed border or the edge of a woodland garden.

Despite its multiseason and multisensory appeal, fragrant snowball viburnum is strangely absent from most local garden centers. No, it hasn't been devoured by ravenous gardeners. It's just because South-

erners as a whole prefer evergreen shrubs, and nurserymen stock what their customers want. Fortunately, you can purchase this plant through the mail. Good sources include Carroll Gardens, 1-800-638-6334, and Wayside Gardens, 1-800-845-1124.

Of course, a mail-order viburnum will be smaller than its garden center counterpart. But don't fret. “It's a fairly quick grower,” notes Bill, “so you won't have to spend the rest of your life waiting for it to do something.” *Steve Bender*

SNOWBALL VIBURNUM AT A GLANCE

Size: 6 to 10 feet tall and wide

Light: full sun or light shade

Soil: moist, well drained

Growth rate: 1½ to 2 feet a year

Pests: none serious

Prune: immediately after flowering

Range: Upper, Middle, Lower South

Expect to pay: \$9-\$10 for a 1-gallon plant