**Nannyberry**

*Viburnum lentago*

*Viburnum lentago* is native throughout most of the northern half of Illinois; habitats include mesic and rocky woodlands and low woodlands along streams. It can grow as a single trunk tree up to 25 feet tall or as a vase-shaped shrub with multiple trunks. Nannyberry prefers partial sun with moist to average soil but can adapt to other environmental conditions and is easily grown. An excellent choice for a privacy screen or hedgerow, nannyberry is available through the Openlands Native Plant Sale now through September 30.

The creamy-white flowers appear in late spring and are very fragrant. These flowers are abundant and attractive, making for a striking spring display. The leaves are simple, opposite and pointed at the tip. The leaves have a serrate margin, are about two to four inches long, and often have a rounded to broadly wedge-shaped base. The foliage turns orange, maroon or dark red in autumn, making them a nice choice for group plantings in natural areas as well as formal landscapes.

The dark blue fruit, somewhat juicy and sweet, is edible for humans and prized by many upland gamebirds and songbirds. Birds, such as Indigo Bunting and Prairie Warbler, use the branches for nesting sites. Many pollinators, including butterflies, are attracted to the pollen and nectar of the flowers. Between the fruit, flowers and fall color *Viburnum lentago* has something to offer all year round.

For more information on this species, please contact trees@openlands.org.