



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Program

Leelanau

Highbush Cranberry

Viburnum opulus var. americanum Aiton

A Conservation Plant Release by USDA Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, MI



Leelanau Highbush Cranberry

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rose Lake Plant Materials Center along with the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources released a selected ecotype of highbush cranberry for the Great Lakes Region in October of 1999 as a native shrub intended for use as a windbreak species on organic or wet soils.

Description

Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry is a tall, native shrub that grows to 13 feet in height. Although taller than it is wide, Leelanau Germplasm has multiple stems and a rounded growth form. Leaves are paired, deeply 3-lobed, palmately veined and coarsely toothed. Flowers bloom in May forming flat, white clusters with wider (0.5-0.9 inches) sterile flowers about the perimeter. The ripe fruit is red, 0.3-0.5 inches long, single stoned and persistent. It is similar to the European *v. opulus*. Leelanau has convex petiole glands associated with the American variety.

Source

Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry originated from a native stand in Leelanau County, Michigan. Seeds collected from the stand were used to produce a production block at Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC).

Conservation Uses

Leelanau Germplasm is intended for use as a windbreak species on organic or wet soils. It may have some value for wildlife, as an alternative to introduced shrub species.

Area of Adaptation and Use

Highbush cranberry is found throughout northern North America. The anticipated area of use for Leelanau Germplasm is in the Great Lakes region, well within the species range. It is best adapted to moist or organic soils, performing poorly on dry sites. Leelanau Germplasm is a selection from naturally occurring germplasm. It does not meet the assessment of a plant that could become invasive based on the guidelines adopted by the NRCS Plant Materials Program.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Leelanau Germplasm can be successfully established using 1-0 or 2-0 container grown stock and following normal planting procedures. It is best to plant in early spring or late fall when plants are dormant. Heaving actions often lift seedling from the ground before the roots become established. On heavy or organic soils where frost heave may become a problem, fall planting is discouraged. The minimum plant-to-plant spacing for the windbreaks is 3 to 6 feet, and 12 feet between rows. In wildlife plantings, the spacing should be further apart. Deer browse has not been a limiting factor.



Leelanau Highbush Cranberry with fruit

Ecological Considerations

Competing vegetation should be controlled. Mulch or geotextile materials must allow for water infiltration and air movement. Organic mulches should be kept at least 6 inches away from the stem to discourage rodent feeding. Irrigation may be required during establishment under conditions of high drought stress. No major disease or pest problems have been observed. Once established, minimal maintenance will be required.

Seed and Plant Production

Highbush cranberry can be propagated by seed or vegetatively. Seed planted in the spring of 'Year 1' will germinate and merge in the spring of 'Year 2'. Seedlings can be lifted from seed propagation beds and transplanted using conventional methods. Vegetation propagation is done using softwood cuttings.

Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry produces seed annually. Seed should be harvested in the fall when berries are bright red and are soft to the touch. Seeds should be separated from the berry pulp and dried before storage.



Close-up of Leelanau in bloom

Availability

Commercial producers may obtain seed or seedlings from the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center for increase purposes. For a list of commercial producers of Leelanau Germplasm highbush cranberry please contact the Center.

For more information, contact:
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
7472 Stoll Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: 517-641-6300
Fax: 517-641-4421

Citation

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>



Leelanau Highbush Cranberry in bloom

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