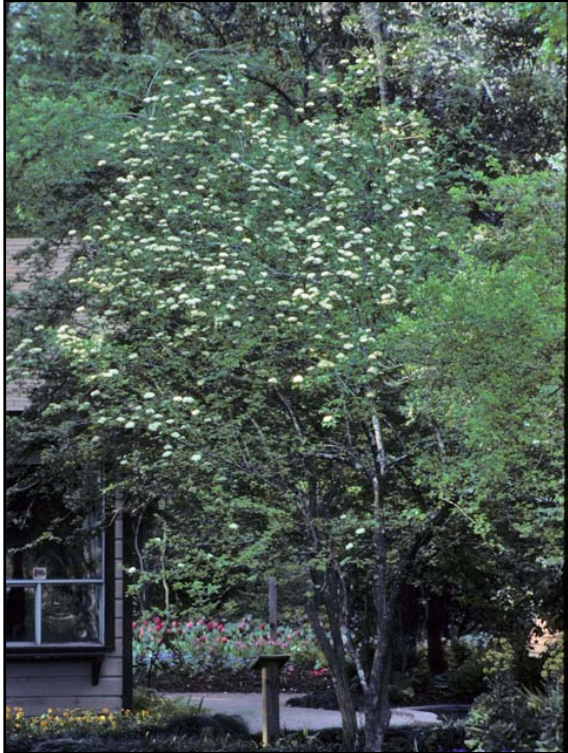


NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Lindheimer Chapter

PLANT OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER, 2010

RUSTY BLACKHAW VIBURNUM, *VIBURNUM RUFIDULUM*



Fall Leaf Color

Tree in Bloom

Viburnums generally are shrubs or small trees that favor partly shady and moist conditions. Our local species, Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum, is found along fencerows and streams in Central and East Texas. There is much to admire about this plant. It has glossy dark green leaves that turn a wonderful range of warm colors in the fall. It also has attractive white flowers in late spring which are followed by clusters of blue-black fruit that birds and other animals love. It is reported that the fruit tastes similar to raisins and was used by early pioneers in cooking. It can grow to be over 20' tall, but is usually seen as a smaller tree or shrub.

This plant is difficult to propagate and slow growing and as a result it is not common in nurseries. If you do find one, give it sun to part shade in moist but well drained soil. Rusty Blackhaw makes a great understory plant, where it can grow as a bush or trained as a small tree. It doesn't seem to be particular as to soil type, but may suffer from root rot in heavy clay. While it is said to be moderately deer resistant, it is best to protect young plants with a tall enclosure if deer are a problem in your area.