

## Two Seasons of Interest

### Rob Cole

One of my favourite shrubs in the garden is *Viburnum plicatum* f. *tomentosum* 'Dart's Red Robin' which unfailingly gives a good account of itself throughout the year, but especially in spring and autumn.



It is a deciduous shrub with a rather tiered habit and for us has grown to about 1.5m high and as much across in the fifteen years since it was planted.

In late May and early June it is covered in flat heads of clean white flowers, which assume a pinkish tinge as they mature. They last for about four or five weeks before falling gracefully.

In early September it is clad in a mass of rather pointed red berries which eventually mature to black by the start of November. Not only are the fruits attractive in Autumn, but the leaves turn to a deep, dark, plummy red before they begin to fall in December, leaving an attractive framework of branches and twigs to enjoy, especially after a fall of snow, or even a hard frost.



We grow other Viburnums, too, but none has the presence and impact of 'Dart's Red Robin' for such a long period of interest.