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Viburnum alnifolium

[Synonyms : *Viburnum grandifolium*, *Viburnum lantanoides*]

HOBBLEBUSH is a deciduous shrub. Native to north-eastern North America it has small fragrant, white flowers.

It is also known as American wayfaring tree, Devil's shoestring, Down-you-go, Mooseberry, Moosewood, Tanglefoot, Tangle-legs, Trip-toe, and Witch's hobble.

Alnifolium is made up of *Alnus* (genus name) and Latin *-folia* (leaved) components meaning 'with leaves like those of that (alder) genus'.

Many of the common names reflect possible hazards for anyone walking or riding through the plant's natural habitat as the branches often bend to the ground and root themselves thus making hooped undergrowth to trip up the unwary.

The shrub was a source of medicines for a few of the North American Indian tribes. While the Iroquois valued it for treating a range of problems including blood disorders, female ailments, lung diseases, venereal disease and worms, some of the Algonkin tribe prescribed it for headaches.

Hobblebush is believed to have been introduced to Europe in 1820.

The fruit are much enjoyed by birds.