

Damburneya coriacea



Unlocking the Secrets of Leatherleaf Viburnum Propagation: A DIY Guide

The Leatherleaf Viburnum (*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*, not *Damburneya coriacea* which doesn't exist) is a gardener's delight, prized for its unique foliage and beautiful blooms. This hardy evergreen boasts leathery, dark green leaves with a textured, almost wrinkled appearance, lending it the common name "Leatherleaf." In spring, clusters of creamy-white flowers emerge, attracting pollinators and adding a touch of elegance to the landscape. But did you know that beyond its ornamental value, the Leatherleaf Viburnum is surprisingly easy to propagate?

Whether you're looking to multiply your existing plants or share this beauty with friends, this comprehensive guide will equip you with the knowledge to propagate Leatherleaf Viburnum successfully.

Method 1: [Softwood Cuttings](#) – The Beginner's Choice

Softwood cuttings are an excellent option for beginners due to their high success rate and relatively simple process.

When: Early summer, when new growth is still flexible but has started to firm up.

You'll need:

- Sharp pruning shears
- Rooting hormone (powder or liquid)
- Seedling starting mix or a 50/50 blend of peat moss and perlite
- Small pots or a propagation tray

Let's propagate:

1. **Take your cuttings:** Choose healthy, vigorous stems from the current year's growth. Each cutting should be 4-6 inches long. Make a clean cut just below a leaf node.
2. **Prepare the cuttings:** Remove the leaves from the bottom third of the stem. Dip the cut end in rooting hormone.
3. **Plant the cuttings:** Insert each cutting into a pot filled with the moist seedling mix. Gently firm the soil around the base.
4. **Provide a humid environment:** Cover the pots with a plastic bag or use a humidity dome to create a mini-greenhouse. This will help retain moisture and promote rooting.
5. **Care for your cuttings:** Place the pots in a bright location but out of direct sunlight. Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged.
6. **Check for roots:** After 4-6 weeks, gently tug on a cutting. If you feel resistance, roots have likely formed.

Method 2: Hardwood Cuttings – For the Patient Gardener

Hardwood cuttings are taken from dormant, mature stems and require a bit more patience, but still yield excellent

results.

When: Late fall or early winter, after the leaves have dropped.

You'll need: The same materials as for softwood cuttings.

Let's propagate:

1. **Take your cuttings:** Select healthy, dormant stems that are at least pencil-thick. Cut them into 6-8 inch lengths. Make the top cut just above a bud and the bottom cut just below a bud.
2. **Prepare the cuttings:** As with softwood cuttings, remove leaves from the bottom third and treat with rooting hormone (optional for hardwood cuttings).
3. **Plant the cuttings:** Insert the cuttings into the prepared pots, ensuring at least two buds are below the soil line.
4. **Patience is key:** Hardwood cuttings take longer to root, usually 8-12 weeks. Keep the soil lightly moist and be patient!

Bonus tip: You can also propagate Leatherleaf Viburnum by layering. Simply bend a low-growing branch to the ground, wound it slightly, and bury the wounded section under soil. Roots will develop at the wound site, and you can then separate the newly rooted plant from the parent.

Propagating Leatherleaf Viburnum is a rewarding experience that allows you to expand your garden and share the beauty of this remarkable plant. With a little patience and these proven techniques, you'll be well on your way to cultivating new life and enjoying the timeless elegance of Leatherleaf Viburnum for years to come.