

# Fulligrove House Garden

Common name: **Laurustinus**

Botanical name: ***Viburnum tinus***



- ❖ Large, evergreen shrub
- ❖ Flattened clusters of small, fragrant, creamy-white or light pink flowers, produced from reddish-pink buds, produced over a long period in late winter and spring, followed by metallic blue then black berries
- ❖ Glossy, dark green oval leaves in opposite pairs
- ❖ Perennial with a dense bush habit
- ❖ Height and spread 2.5 – 4m
- ❖ Full shade, partial shade or full sun. All pHs, all soil types, north, south or west-facing, sheltered, moist but well drained/well drained soil.
- ❖ Hardy
- ❖ Member of the Adoxaceae family (the same as elderberry)
- ❖ Provides nectar and pollen for bees and the many other types of pollinating insects
- ❖ Find this in area 7 of the garden

## Did you know?

*Viburnum tinus* is not native to Britain. It comes from the Mediterranean area of Europe and North Africa. In the UK, it is a popular choice for hedging or grown as a specimen shrub in mixed borders. Our native species of viburnum in the UK are guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*) which are deciduous and often found in hedgerows, riversides and edge of woodlands. There are over 150 species of viburnum worldwide. At Fulligrove House garden there is also a *Viburnum plicatum* (Japanese snowball bush) which is deciduous.

The common name laurustinus comes from Latin and means 'laurel-like *tinus*', in reference to the evergreen foliage and the leaves' similarities to bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) – which is also in this garden.

A 2020 study of the fruit's dazzling metallic blue hue showed that the colour of its fruit is due to fat in its cellular structure, the first time this type of colour production has been observed in nature. The combination of the bright blue colour and high nutritional content make these fruits an irresistible treat for birds, increasing the spread of their seeds and contributing to the plant's success.

*V. tinus* has been used for its traditional medicinal properties, for example in Pakistan. The active ingredients are viburnin and tannins. Tannins can cause stomach upset. The leaves when infused were believed to help reduce fevers. The fruits have been used as purgatives against constipation but should not be consumed due to toxicity.

*Viburnum tinus* leaves can be affected by the viburnum beetle which is a leaf beetle. Most of the damage is caused by the larvae in spring, but some further defoliation is done by the adult beetles in late summer. Holes are eaten in the leaves of viburnums, with the larger leaf veins remaining, give the foliage a lace like appearance.

### Sources of information

[Viburnum tinus|laurustinus/RHS Gardening](#)

[Viburnum tinus - Wikipedia](#)

[August: Metallic blue fruits | News and features | University of Bristol](#)

[Guelder Rose \(\*Viburnum opulus\*\) - Woodland Trust](#)

[Wayfaring tree \(\*Viburnum lantana\*\) - Woodland Trust](#)

[Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum 'Mariesii'|Japanese snowball 'Mariesii'/RHS Gardening](#)