

Summer Wine Ninebark Plant

Location: Teaching Garden, Will Rogers Park, Rogers County, Oklahoma, Flower bed outside the gate behind the sign Board.

Photos and article by Sumathy Vannarth, Master Gardener class of 2018



Photo on 09/03/2020: Graceful Arching Branch and Dark purple wine colored leaves.



Photo on 01/17/2021: Exfoliating Multilayered barks on mature branches give attractive rugged look.



Photo on 09/03/2020: Dome shaped cluster of white flowers and pink buds with prominent group of stamens.

Only 2 branches had flowers in Sept. 2020. Leaves are dark purple wine colored, deeply lobed and have serrated edges

Scientific Name: Physocarpus. **Common Name** (Trademarked name): Summer Wine Ninebark.

Name Physocarpus came from the Greek word for “bladder fruit” – (Physo = bladder, karpos = fruit)

The name Summer Wine came from the dark purple wine colored leaves appear in spring and summer.

The name Ninebark derived from exfoliating barks on older stems. There are many layers of bark, if peeled often reveal reddish bark.

Origin of Summer Wine: Cross between dwarf Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Nana’ and wine red leafed Physocarpus opulifolius Monlo done by Timothy Wood in Michigan in 2000.

Summer Wine Ninebark is a multi-stemmed deciduous compact low maintenance plant grows well in full sun and partial shade. The plant is adaptable to any type of soil acid or alkaline, sand, clay, gravel, rocky, moist or dry soil. USDA plant hardiness zone recommend is Zone 3 through 8. Mature size is 5 to 6 feet tall and 5 to 6 feet wide. Pruning can be done any time. **The graceful arching tall stems** give fountain-like look if unpruned. The strong

roots stabilize the soil and prevent erosion. Attractive **deep purple wine red leaves** emerge in spring and remain in summer and early fall. The leaves are 1 to 5 inches long round with lobes, prominent vein and serrated edges. The leaves may turn yellow in fall before dropping out. The **flowers are in clusters** and dome shaped, seen at the end of branches in summer. Each white flower has 5 petals, bunch of prominent stamens coming out of center. Buds are pink in color. Bees and butterflies are attracted to the flowers. Reddish **seed pods** appear after flowering like inflated sacs. The mature stems reveal **exfoliating barks** in many layers in winter.

Propagation: 1. Using Root suckers – Expose root sucker connection to mother plant, sever the root, plant in a pot or in the ground. 2. Divide the base clump of stems to make a new plant. 3. Use hard wood cuttings to create plants. 4. Use volunteer seedlings. 5. Do layering the tip of young branch 6. Purchase a new plant.

Diseases that can affect the plant: Black spot fungus and Powdery mildew fungus can occasionally affect the plants. Treat with antifungal agents and repeat as needed.

Care of the plant: Add some organic material at the time of planting and water until the plant is well established. Summer Wine Ninebark is drought tolerant. It is mentioned that the plant is indestructible and established plants will recover from completely cut down. The plant is listed as deer resistant native plant and Proven Winner. All parts of the plant are poisonous to human beings.

Landscape Use: Summer Wine Ninebark is recommended for use as hedges for screening, as accent plant to brighten the difficult areas, use in slopes to control soil erosion and use in butterfly garden.

This is an attractive carefree plant for any area where nothing else grows.
