



Trees, Shrubs and Vines For Low Maintenance Landscapes

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Trees, shrubs and vines are integral parts of the landscape, providing wildlife habitat, beauty and shade to a property. Plants modify the immediate environment by altering the microclimate surrounding them, reducing noise and trapping air pollutants. In addition to their aesthetic and environmental value, woody ornamentals often represent a considerable financial investment in the landscape.

When choosing woody ornamentals for the landscape, it is important to look for characteristics that make a plant a “high value” selection. The ideal plant is one that is tolerant of environmental stress factors such as drought, poor soil conditions and air pollution. It would have few insect or disease problems that might require management. In addition, it would have good form and multi-seasonal interest. While no one plant can be considered ideal, plants that are structurally weak, short lived or intolerant of environmental stresses will require a higher degree of maintenance.

The axiom “the right plant for the right place” is particularly true for woody ornamentals. When selecting plants for the landscape, mature height and spread must be considered as well as the conditions and limitations of the planting site. A woody ornamental planted in the wrong location may fail to thrive, need increased maintenance or become an out-of-scale landscape feature, thus losing its value to the property.

The first step in ensuring good plant health is choosing a recommended low maintenance plant and planting it in the correct location. However, planting practices will also affect plant health. Improper planting techniques or inadequate site preparations usually cause woody plants to decline in vigor or fail. Some common practices that often result in plant failure are:

- planting at the wrong depth (too deep/too shallow)
- soil compaction from heavy equipment, etc.
- insufficient removal of burlap, twine, etc.
- deep mulching up to and against the bark
- mower damage, string trimmer injury or herbicide damage as a result of turf growing up to the trunk
- too much or too little water

The following list of woody ornamentals shares certain characteristics that make them deserving of increased use: reduced maintenance requirements, increased drought tolerance, non-invasive nature, winter hardiness and year round interest. Many are native to North America and would be useful alternatives for invasive species. **Unless noted, they have no significant insect or disease problems.**

Some may be difficult to locate but their desirable traits make the search worthwhile.

Acer saccharum **Sugar Maple** 60' – 75' H Zone 4

- width: 45' – 50'
 - medium growth rate in youth, slower with age
 - generally an upright, rounded habit with dense foliage
 - good green foliage with spectacular fall colors of orange, red and yellow
 - prefers a moist, well drained soil; pH tolerant, not tolerant of salt
 - North American native
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Acer triflorum **Three-flower Maple** 20'-30' H Zone 5

- width: 20'-30'
 - medium growth rate; upright open habit
 - dark green trifoliate leaves with yellow/red fall color
 - brown exfoliating bark with vertical fissures; year round interest
 - full sun, well-drained soil, acid conditions preferred
 - fine landscape specimen, patio tree or in the mixed border
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Aesculus x carnea **Red Horsechestnut** 30-40' H Zone 4

- width: 30' -40'
 - medium growth rate; broadly rounded habit
 - dark green, palmately compound leaves with 5 (occasionally 7) leaflets
 - rose-red flowers borne on 8" panicles; cv 'Briotii' has larger, dark red flowers
 - less susceptible to leaf blotch the common horsechestnut
 - good landscape specimen tree
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Betula nigra 'Cully' **Heritage™ River Birch** 40-70' H Zone 4

- width: 40'-60'
 - medium growth rate, will reach 40' in 20 years
 - off-white to salmon/white exfoliating bark is an outstanding feature
 - pyramidal growth habit, rounded with maturity, single or multi-stemmed
 - adapted to moist situations but will tolerate dry conditions
 - resistant to the Bronze birch borer; less susceptible to birch leaf miner
 - cv Dura-Heat™ is more compact, tolerates heat and drought; cv. 'Little King' (Fox Valley™) is a natural dwarf form 10' -12' H
 - North American native
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Carpinus betulus **European Hornbeam** 40' -60' H Zone 5

- width: 30' -40'
 - slow to medium growth rate; rounded crown with maturity
 - ribbed nutlet in three-lobed, pendulous bract, 1 ½" – 3' long
 - smooth, steel grey bark, "muscled" in appearance
 - clean, dark green foliage; yellow fall color
 - full sun to light shade, tolerant of various soil conditions
 - tolerates heavy pruning and is often used a hedge or screen
 - an excellent landscape plant for many different situations
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Carpinus caroliniana **American Hornbeam** 30' H Zone 2
Ironwood

- width: 20'-30'
- slow growth rate; spreading rounded crown
- nutlets in leaf-like, pendulous, three-lobed bracts, 3 1/2" long
- smooth grey bark, "muscled" in appearance, frequently multi-stemmed
- dense green foliage with orange/red fall color
- tolerates shade and damp soil, good as an understory tree or shady lawn specimen
- container stock easily transplanted, established trees hard to move
- North American native

Cercidiphyllum japonicum **Katsuratree** 60'-100' H Zone 4

- width: 20'-30', occasionally equal to height
- moderate to fast growth rate; wide spreading, usually multi-stemmed; can be trained to a single stem
- heart-shaped rounded leaves; clear golden fall color with sweet fragrance
- considered pest free
- sun or part shade; tolerant of wind but not drought
- graceful specimen year round
- cv.'s 'Pendula' and 'Amazing Grace' are weeping in habit

Cladrastis kentukea **American Yellowwood** 50' H Zone 3

- width: 40'
- moderate growth rate; open, arching dome-shaped tree
- pinnately compound leaves with 5-7 leaflets,
- yellow fall color and smooth silver-grey bark, nice framework branches in winter
- white wisteria-like fragrant flower clusters in June
- likes sun and well drained, moist sandy soils
- good underutilized shade tree
- North American native

Cornus kousa **Kousa Dogwood** 30' H Zone 5

- width: 20'-30'
- medium growth rate; vase-shaped habit when young, horizontal branching when mature
- sun or part shade, likes acid well-drained soil, more drought tolerant than *C. florida*
- blooms in June after *C. florida*, the four 1"- 2" pointed bracts persist 4-6 weeks, some turn pinkish with age
- raspberry-like fruit in late August through October, purple/red fall foliage
- tolerant of dogwood anthracnose; resistant to dogwood borer
- an excellent small tree for most landscapes; works well as a specimen tree, patio tree or in combination with small shrubs.
- good winter interest with the branching pattern and exfoliating bark.

special note: hybrids of *C. florida* x *C. kousa* (the "Stellar" series) are available; these six interspecific hybrids show characteristics midway between the two parents, most notably increased resistance to dogwood anthracnose and dogwood borer as evidenced by twenty years of field testing by Dr. Elwin Orton of Rutgers University, NJ. New hybrids of *C. kousa* x *C. nuttalli* (the "Jersey Star" series) are also resistant to dogwood anthracnose as well as powdery mildew; check for hardiness. *C. florida* 'Appalachian Spring' is reputed to be resistant to dogwood anthracnose.

Cornus mas **Cornelian Cherry Dogwood** 20'-25' H Zone 4

- width: 15-20'
 - moderate growth rate, rounded to oval habit
 - multi-stemmed, low-branched shrub or small tree; can be grown with a single trunk
 - small clusters of yellow flowers with drooping yellow bracts appear early spring (March) before leaves
 - clusters of shiny red berries effective in the fall
 - exfoliating bark with maturity
 - prefers sun, tolerant of part shade, wind, adaptable to all soils
 - Cary Award winner
 - pleasant early flowering tree; useful as patio specimen, good winter interest
 - *C. officinalis*, Japanese Cornel, is very similar to *C. mas* and may be used interchangeably
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Cotinus obovatus **American Smoketree** 20'-35' H Zone 5

- width: often equal to height
 - slow growing tree with rounded habit
 - dark blue-green leaves 6" long turning reddish purple to orange, red and yellow in fall
 - fuzzy smoke-like masses of greenish flowers in June and July
 - sun or part shade, pH 5-7, tolerant of wind, drought, soil compaction
 - good small tree with excellent fall color
 - North American native
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Crataegus phaenopyrum **Washington Hawthorn** 25'-30' H Zone 3

- width: 20'-25'
 - medium growth rate; rounded oval habit; thorns
 - dark green, lobed leaves, excellent orange/scarlet fall coloration
 - white flowers in clusters in June; bright glossy red, persistent fruit from fall into winter
 - full sun, well-drained soils, tolerant of urban conditions
 - less susceptible to leaf blight than other *Crataegus*; is susceptible to rust
 - use as specimen tree, near buildings, street tree
 - several cultivars available; 'Princeton Sentry' is almost thornless
 - North American native
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Crataegus viridis 'Winter King' **Winter King Hawthorn** 20' - 25' H Zone 4

- width: equal or greater than height
 - medium growth rate; densely rounded habit, vase-shaped branching; thorns
 - medium green foliage, purple/scarlet fall color
 - white flowers in May, persistent red fruit, 1/2" in diameter
 - less susceptible to leaf blight than other *Crataegus*; is susceptible to rust
 - good specimen tree, fruiting characteristics are outstanding
 - North American native
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Ginkgo biloba **Ginkgo** 50' - 80' H Zone 4

- width: variable, 30' to equal or greater than height
- slow to medium growth rate; pyramidal when young, becoming broad with spreading branches
- bright green fan-shaped leaves, turning yellow in fall
- full sun, sandy, moderately moist soil; pH adaptable, salt and pollution tolerant
- male cultivars preferred as fruit of female trees has unpleasant odor

- cv.'s Autumn Gold, Lakeview, and Santa Cruz are male
- useful urban tree, good for parks and municipal plantings, fastigiata cultivars available

Halesia tetraptera (H. carolina) **Carolina Silverbell** 30' - 40' H Zone 4

- width: 20'-35'
- fast growth rate with central leader, conical habit
- bell-shaped white flowers drooping in clusters late April/early May
- smooth bluish-grey bark, becoming ridged with maturity
- sun or part shade, acid soil, tolerant of urban conditions
- graceful tree for the landscape
- North American native

Koelreuteria paniculata **Goldenraintree** 30'-40' H Zone 5

- width: equal or greater than height
- moderate growth rate; open branching pattern
- large compound leaves cast dense shade
- large clusters of yellow flowers, held above the foliage in July
- persistent bladder-like fruit (may be messy)
- drought tolerant; prefers sun, adaptable to: soil conditions, pH
- excellent tree for lawn specimen, blooms when little else is in flower

Liquidambar styraciflua **American Sweetgum** 60'-75' H Zone 5

- width: 2/3's or equal to the height
- medium to fast growth rate; distinct pyramidal habit when young, rounded crown at maturity
- alternate, simple, star-shaped leaves; dark green above, light green underneath; outstanding fall color
- rounded fruit capsule, remains on tree into the winter; can be messy
- prefers full sun and moist soil; has fleshy roots and takes time to establish after transplanting
- useful for lawns, parks, or a specimen trees; many cultivars available
- No. American native

Magnolia x loebneri **Loebner Magnolia hybrids** 25' H Zone 5

- width: often as wide as tall
- medium to fast growth rate; broadly rounded habit
- flowers generally with 12 or more petals, fragrant, mid to late April
- silvery-grey furry buds provide winter interest
- cv. Ballerina: up to 30 petals, fragrant, white with pinkish blush; escapes spring frosts
- cv. Leonard Messel: 12 petals, dark pink in bud opening to pinkish white, yellow fall color; Cary Award Winner
- cv. Merrill: 15 white petals, 3"-3 1/2" across, late April, fragrant; cucumber-like pods with red seeds in fall
- excellent specimen trees

Magnolia stellata **Star Magnolia** 15' – 20' H Zone 4

- width: 10' to 15'
- slow growth rate; oval to rounded habit
- white flowers with 12 to 18 petals, 3" to 4" in diameter, fragrant, in April
- prefers a moist, well drained soil high in organic material; full sun for best flowering
- cv. Centennial vigorous, upright habit, originated at the Arnold Arboretum
- cv. Royal Star has large flowers 4" to 5" across

- excellent specimen tree for residential and commercial landscapes

<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	20' H	Zone 5
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- width: 10'-20'
- moderate growth rate; multi-stemmed spreading habit
- dark green leaves, 3"-5" long, silvery underneath, evergreen in mild winters
- fragrant creamy-white 3" flowers in May/June
- bright red seeds in 2" pods effective in the fall
- likes full sun, tolerant of shade, wet soils
- small specimen or patio tree
- North American native

<i>Malus 'Donald Wyman'</i>	Donald Wyman Crabapple	20' H	Zone 5
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- width: 25'
- moderate growth rate; spreading, rounded form
- deep pink buds open to white flowers, bright red fruits, 1/8" in diameter, effective in fall and persist through winter
- full sun, well-drained soil; tolerant of drought, salt, air pollution
- resistant to apple scab and cedar apple rust
- one of the best ornamental Crabs, can be used as a specimen or in massed plantings
- many lovely crabapples are available; **be sure to select only disease resistant cultivars**
- Cary Award Winner

<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Tupelo, Black Gum	30'-50' H	Zone 4
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- width: 20'-30'
- medium growth rate; pyramidal form when young, distinct horizontal branching when mature
- dark green lustrous leaf, exceptional burgundy/ scarlet fall foliage
- prefers moist, well-drained soils, pH 5.5 -6.5
- full sun or part shade, tolerant of wind and wet conditions, moderately drought tolerant
- excellent winter aspect with horizontal branching, good for naturalizing
- container stock easily planted, established tree hard to move
- North American native

<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	American Hophornbeam Ironwood	25'-40' H	Zone 4
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- width: two thirds the height
- fairly slow growth rate; good small tree with pendulous or horizontal branching habit
- grows in full sun to partial shade, very drought tolerant once established
- fruit is a small nut enclosed in wafer-like, papery structure resembling hops, 1 1/2" - 2 1/2" long
- nice grey bark flaking into narrow dark stripes
- great small tree for the landscape, tolerant of urban conditions
- No. American native

<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood Sorrel Tree	40' H	Zone 5
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- width: 20'
- slow growth rate; narrow tree with drooping branches
- small, lily-of-the-valley shaped flowers in hanging clusters in July
- rich green leaves, scarlet fall color, smooth grey bark
- full sun or part shade, moist well-drained soil, pH 4.0-6.0

- beautiful flowering tree; excellent fall color in combination with persistent fruiting capsules
- best used as a specimen plant
- North American native

Ptelea trifoliata **Hoptree** 15'-20' H Zone 3

- width: equal to height
- slow growth rate; small, rounded habit, may be shrub-like
- small, inconspicuous fragrant flowers followed by showy, wafer-like papery fruit
- dark green summer foliage with yellow fall color
- adaptable to most soils, sun or light shade; understory tree in native woodlands
- interesting small tree for the landscape; golden leaved cultivar available
- North American native

Styphnolobium japonicum (formerly *Sophora japonica*) **Japanese Pagoda Tree** 50-75' H Zone 4

- width: variable, may equal height
- slow growth rate when young, more rapid with maturity
- upright with spreading habit and broad crown
- compound leaves, 6"-10" long
- pea-like fragrant flowers in drooping panicles in mid to late summer, persistent yellow fruit pods may be messy
- full sun or part shade, well-drained soil, tolerates heat, drought, and urban conditions
- lovely leguminous tree, good as a specimen or as a shade tree, excellent for showy late bloom

Sorbus alnifolia **Korean Mountain-ash** 40' H Zone 4

- width: 20'-30'
- medium to fast growth rate; pyramidal habit when young, rounded with maturity
- alternate simple leaves, bright green aging to dark green, orange/red fall foliage
- smooth, grey beech-like bark, good winter interest
- white flowers in 2"-3" clusters in May
- persistent pinkish red fruit, very ornamental
- more disease resistant than other *Sorbus* species
- specimen tree, parks, golf courses

Stewartia pseudocamellia **Japanese Stewartia** 20' - 40' H Zone 5

- width: variable
- slow growth rate; single stem or multi-stemmed, pyramidal habit
- camellia-like flowers in July, white with yellow stamens, 2 1/2" diameter
- excellent bark, flaking off to reveal grey, brown, tan and olive coloration
- full sun or part shade, moist well-drained soil, pH 4.5-5.5
- handsome small tree with year round interest, best shown as a specimen
- Cary Award Winner

Styrax japonicus **Japanese Snowbell** 20'-30' H Zone 5

- width: equal to height
- medium growth rate; broadly rounded crown with horizontal branching
- fragrant bell-shaped pendulous white flowers in May/June
- full sun or part shade, light loamy soil, pH 5.0-7.0

- cv. Pink Chimes has pink blossoms; weeping forms available
- lovely small tree for patio or lawn specimen

Syringa reticulata **Japanese Tree Lilac** 30' H Zone 4

- width: 15'-25'
- moderate growth rate; upright spreading habit
- creamy white fragrant flowers in large upright panicles, up to 12" in June; cherry-like bark
- resistant to powdery mildew
- full sun, pH adaptable, well-drained soil
- excellent specimen tree, may be used as a street tree, good for parks, golf courses
- cv. Ivory Silk compact, heavy flowering
- Cary Award winner

Ulmus parvifolia **Chinese or Lacebark Elm** 40'-50' H Zone 4(5)

- width: 40'
- medium to fast growth rate; variable habit, some are rounded, some are vase shaped
- dark green leaves, yellow/purple fall color
- mottled bark, in tones of grey, green, orange and brown, is an excellent feature
- sun, moist well-drained soil, tolerant of urban conditions
- resistant to Dutch elm disease, elm leaf beetle and Japanese beetle
- tough tree for the landscape, many cultivars available, **not to be confused with *U. pumila* (Siberian Elm) which is a brittle, inferior tree.**

Conifers

Abies concolor **Concolor or White Fir** 50'-100' H Zone 4

- width: 15'-30'
- medium growth rate; pyramidal habit with horizontal branching
- fragrant bluish-green needles, 1 1/2"-2" long, cones green when young, purple/brown at maturity
- full sun, moist well drained sandy loam, will tolerate light shade, heat, drought; dislikes clay soil
- a good substitute for pest-prone spruce
- cv. Candicans, with blue needles, is a good substitute for Colorado Blue Spruce
- suitable for large landscapes
- North American native

Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca' **Blue Atlas Cedar** 120' H Zone 6
(usually 40-60 in landscape)

- width: 30'-40'
- rapid growth rate when young
- stiff erect growth habit when young, flat topped when mature; not for the small area
- evergreen needles in bunches, silvery-blue in color, upright cones 3" x 2"
- tolerates sun or part shade, likes moist conditions but tolerant of dry soils
- will not tolerate exposed sites or wet areas
- best used as a specimen tree, needs a **spacious** location

<i>Cedrus libani</i>	Cedar of Lebanon	120' H (usually 40-60 in landscape)	Zone 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - width: 80' - slow growth rate; pyramidal in habit, maturing to flat topped with horizontal branching - dark green needles with upright cones - full sun, moist well-drained soils, intolerant of shade or pollution - best used as a specimen tree, needs a spacious location 			
<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i>	Japanese Plum Yew	5'-10' H	Zone 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - width: variable, spreading - dark green, yew-like needles, evergreen - prefers moist, well-drained soils; very drought tolerant once established - shade and heat tolerant evergreen, may be used as a substitute for <i>Taxus</i> (Yew) - thought to be deer resistant 			
<i>Xanthocyparis nootkatensis</i> (formerly <i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i>)	Alaska Falsecypress	45' - 60 H	Zone 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - width: 20'-30' - medium growth rate; conical habit with drooping branches - dense, dark blue-green, scalelike needles - full sun, requires moist soil and atmosphere - cv. Pendula has graceful hanging branches - best used as a specimen - Cary Award Winner - North American native 			
<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i> 'Nana Gracillus'	Hinoki Falsecypress	6' H	Zone 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - width: 3'-4' - handsome evergreen foliage ranging from dark green to gold, somewhat drooping branches, graceful - sun or light shade, moist, well-drained soils; some protection from wind - useful as specimen, foundation shrub, mixed border - many cultivars available, ranging in height from 9" to 50' and color from deep green, bluish silver to gold 			
<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>	Sawara Falsecypress	50'-70' H	Zone 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - width: 10'-20' - medium growth rate; pyramidal open habit - evergreen, scale-like needles, brownish red shedding bark - full sun, tolerant of wind, salt air, acid well-drained soils - many cultivars are available with different needle formation and coloration - best used as a specimen 			
<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Atlantic White Cedar	40' - 50' H	Zone 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - width: 10' - 20' - medium growth rate; narrow spire-like habit when mature - green to bluish-green foliage, with silvery-like resin glands on the back 			

<i>Pinus parviflora</i>	Japanese White Pine	25'-50' H	Zone 5
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- width: 25'
- variable growth rate; wide spreading, casts medium shade
- slender needles in clusters of 5, 2"-3" long, bluish-green with a silvery band on the underside
- purplish bark with an open branching pattern, graceful winter aspect
- full sun, moist, well-drained soil, tolerant of most soil conditions, salt air, wind, and drought
- good substitute for pest prone Japanese Black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*)
- excellent specimen pine; graceful with attractive cones, good for coastal areas

<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern White Pine	50' -120' H	Zone 3
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- width: 20' - 40'
- fast growth rate; pyramidal habit when young; open horizontal branching with maturity
- needles in clusters of five, 2" - 4" long, bluish-green and pliable; smooth grayish-green bark when young, dark brown and furrowed with age
- prefers moist, acid well-drained soils; prefers full sun; tolerates light shade when young, intolerant of high winds and salt
- good evergreen for large properties
- North American native

<i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i>	Japanese Umbrella Pine	30'-60' H	Zone 4
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- width: 15-20'
- extremely slow growing; variable habit, often broadly pyramidal, very dense
- Dark-green needles 2"-5" long in whorls around the stem giving an "umbrella" appearance
- cones 3" - 5" long
- sun, moist well-drained soils, protection from wind
- useful as a specimen or in a mixed border

Broad Leaf Evergreens

<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry	6" - 12" H	Zone 2
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- width: 2' - 4'
- slow growth rate; low growing spreading habit forms an evergreen ground cover
- shiny dark green leaves turn reddish bronze in fall and winter
- small pinkish-white flowers followed by bright red berries in fall
- difficult to transplant, use container-grown plants; requires full sun and well-drained acid soil; tolerant of salt and sandy, infertile soils
- excellent ground cover for open, exposed areas and coastal planting
- Cary Award Winner
- North American native

<i>Ilex crenata</i>	Japanese Holly	Height varies with cultivar	Zone 5-6
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- width: 15"-10'
- alternate, simple, evergreen leaves closely spaced on the twigs

- generally compact, multi branched growth habit
- moist, well-drained soils; full sun to light shade
- subject to mite infestations under hot, dry conditions; white fly may pose a problem
- useful in the border, foundation, hedges, rock gardens
- many cultivars available; a good substitute for Boxwood (*Buxus* species)

Ilex glabra **Inkberry** 6' - 8' H Zone 5

- width: 8'- 10'
- alternate, shiny, dark green leaves, evergreen; upright stems
- suckering growth habit; tends to lose lower leaves with age
- prefers moist, acid soils; tolerant of shade and adaptable to wet areas; also drought tolerant
- cv. Shamrock has better form and color, more compact growth
- useful for wet areas or naturalizing; 'Shamrock' useful for foundations
- North American native

Ilex x meserveae **Meserve Hybrid Hollies** 8'-15' H Zone 5

- width: 8'-10'
- these "blue hollies", hybrids between *I. rugosa* and *I. aquifolium*, have alternate blue-green, spiny leaves and bright red berries
- generally slow growing and shrubby in habit
- male and female forms required for berry production
- prefer well-drained soil supplemented with organic matter; sun to light shade
- specimen or mixed border
- cultivars 'Blue Princess' and 'Blue Prince' are Cary Award Winners

Ilex pedunculosa **Longstalk Holly** 25' H Zone 5

- width: 15'-20'
- slow to medium growth rate; broadly upright habit
- leaves not spined, resemble Mt. Laurel in form, shiny dark green
- usually multi-stemmed, densely foliated
- female plants bear long stalked red berries, effective in fall through winter
- full sun or part shade, pH 5.0- 7.0, likes good drainage and protection from wind
- tolerant of air pollution, salt, soil compaction
- specimen evergreen, near buildings

Pieris floribunda **Mountain Pieris** 2'-6' H Zone 4

- width: 2'-6'
- alternate, simple evergreen leaves; appear whorled around the stem
- creamy white, bell-shaped flowers in upright panicles in April-May; yellow-green flower buds prominent in winter
- somewhat stiffly branched, rounded growth habit
- prefers: moist, acid soils, full sun to light shade
- resistant to the andromeda lace bug, excellent substitute for *Pieris japonica*
- useful for foundations, borders, with other broadleaf evergreens
- North American native

Rhododendron 'P.J.M.' **P.J.M. Hybrid Rhododendrons** 3'-6' H Zone 4

- width: variable

- Cary Award Winner
- useful in plantings with other ericaceous plants or as a specimen

Exochorda racemosa **Common Pearlbush** 9'-15' H Zone 4

- width: 9'- 15'
- opposite, simple leaves on upright, arching branches; older trunks develop exfoliating bark
- flower buds are grouped like pearls along the terminal branches, opening into white flowers in late April
- adaptable to many soil conditions; drought tolerant once established
- tough plant for the shrub border

Fothergilla major **Large Fothergilla** 6'-10' H Zone 4

- width: 6-10'
- alternate, simple leaves on erect stems, usually multi-stemmed
- outstanding fall color of yellow/orange/scarlet
- white, bottlebrush-shaped flowers in late April-early May, fragrant
- prefers a moist, acid soil supplemented with organic matter; full sun to partial shade
- Cary Award Winner; useful for naturalizing, for the border or as a specimen; good substitute for Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)
- North American native
- *F. gardenii* is a smaller version, rarely more than three feet high, hardy to Zone 5

The witch hazels (*Hamamelis* species) are a group of hardy shrubs that deserve greater use in the landscape. These shrubs are generally problem free and offer color in the garden at a time of year when little else is of interest. The following species are listed in sequence of bloom from January, February, March and November. Each is in bloom for an extended period of time as the ribbon-like petals curl up during freezing weather.

<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	Vernal Witch Hazel	6'-10' H	Zone 4
<i>H. mollis</i>	Chinese Witch Hazel	10'-15' H	Zone 5
<i>H. x intermedia</i>	Hybrid Witch Hazel	15'-20' H	Zone 5
<i>H. virginiana</i>	Common Witch Hazel	15'-20' H	Zone 3

- width: 15'
- fragrant blossoms have four ribbon-like petals in shades of yellow and red, bloom period extends for three to four weeks
- alternate, simple leaves, somewhat coarse in texture; outstanding fall color
- prefer moist, acid soils supplemented with organic matter; sun to light shade
- excellent plants for winter interest, naturalizing, for borders
- *H. x intermedia* has several cultivars which have flowers ranging from red to yellow, 'Arnold Promise', with yellow petals, is one of the better-known hybrids
- *H. mollis* 'Pallida', with soft sulfur-yellow petals, is a Cary Award Winner
- *H. vernalis* and *H. virginiana* are native to North America

Heptacodium miconioides **Seven-Son Flower** 20' H Zone 4

- width: 12'- 15'
- introduced to the U.S. in 1980 by the Arnold Arboretum; forms a large shrub or small tree
- clusters of white, fragrant flowers appear in late August to September; red seed capsules appear in late September to October
- flaking, light tan bark offers winter interest

- adaptable to varied soil conditions, sun to light shade, tolerant of coastal conditions and wind.
- useful as a specimen or in the border

Hydrangea paniculata **Panicle Hydrangea** 10'-15' H Zone 3

- width: 6'- 10'
- opposite, somewhat whorled leaves; insignificant fall color
- large panicles of white flowers in late July to August, turning a pinkish color by fall, persistent
- upright, arching stems, flowers on new wood
- prefers moist, well-drained soils; pH adaptable; sun to light shade
- 'Grandiflora', 'Tardiva', and 'Limelight' are improved selections
- useful as a specimen or in the border

Hydrangea. quercifolia **Oakleaf Hydrangea** 4'-6' H Zone 5

- width: 4'-6' or wider; suckering habit
- large, deep green oak-shaped leaves; good russet red fall color
- large, upright panicles of white flowers in June to July, persistent; flowers on new wood
- prefers moist, well-drained soils, pH adaptable, sun to light shade
- useful for massing, in the border or for naturalizing
- needs a protected, warm location in zone 5; many cultivars available
- cv. Pee Wee is a compact form
- North American native

Ilex verticillata **Winterberry** 6'-10' H Zone 3

- width: 6'- 10'
- alternate, simple **deciduous** green leaves, yellow fall color; male and female plants
- bright red berries ripen in September, persist until January
- grows in moist, acidic soils; tolerant of wet conditions, intolerant of drought; sun to light shade
- both male and female plants required for berry production
- useful for: naturalizing, winter effect, wet areas, shrub borders
- many cultivars and hybrids available; cv. Red Sprite is a Cary Award Winner
- 'Winter Red and 'Winter Gold' are heavy fruit bearers
- good substitute for Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
- North American native

Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet' **Virginia Sweetspire** 3' - 4' H Zone 5

- width: 6'; can form large colonies
- alternate, simple, semi-evergreen leaves; scarlet to crimson fall color
- abundant 6" long upright spikes of lightly fragrant, white flowers in June-July
- densely branched shrub, rounded in habit
- moist, fertile soils preferred; tolerant of wet conditions; full sun to light shade
- useful for naturalizing, shrub border
- North American native
- good substitute for Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

Kolkwitzia amabilis **Beautybush** 6'- 10' H Zone 4

- width: 8'

Rhododendron viscosum **Swamp Azalea** 1'- 8' H Zone 3

- width: 3' -8' alternate, simple **deciduous** leaves, orange/bronze fall color
- white, highly fragrant flowers in June-early July
- upright, open growth habit; forms small thickets in the wild
- tolerant of wet soils, low pH, sun to light shade; intolerant of drought
- useful for naturalizing, especially on pond shores, etc., may be used in the border
- North American native

The Sumacs (*Rhus* species) are a group of durable shrubs that can form large colonies as they sucker freely from the base. Many of the best species for landscape application are native to North America. Excellent for massing on embankments or for naturalized areas, they should be sited with care due to suckering.

Rhus aromatica 'Gro-low' **Gro-low Sumac** 2' H Zone 3

- width: 6-8'
- alternate, trifoliolate bluish-green leaves, often glossy; yellow/orange to scarlet fall color
- small, pale yellow flowers appear before the foliage in spring followed by bright red berries in late summer
- suckering growth habit makes this a wide-spreading ground cover; may become invasive
- adaptable to many soil conditions, prefers acidic soils; full sun to light shade; drought tolerant
- useful for embankments, areas with poor soils, wide-scale ground cover
- foliage resembles poison ivy but doesn't cause a reaction
- the species, Fragrant Sumac, is a larger plant in all respects; useful for slopes and banks

Rhus copallina **Flameleaf (Shining) Sumac** 20' - 30' H Zone 4

- width: equal to spread
- medium growth rate; dense and compact habit when young, more open and irregular when mature
- alternate compound leaves with 9 -21 leaflets, shiny dark green with a winged mid-vein, bright scarlet fall color
- pale yellowish-green flowers in erect terminal clusters in late summer; fruits are fuzzy crimson berries on female plants, effective fall into winter
- prefers full sun and well-drained soils; tolerant of dry, rocky soils or infertile soils
- excellent for naturalizing, on embankments or waste areas

Rhus typhina **Staghorn Sumac** 15' - 25' H Zone 4

- width: equal or greater than height
- medium to fast growth rate; open spreading shrub with a flat-topped appearance, forms wide spread colonies
- alternate compound leaves with 13 to 27 leaflets; bright green leaves turn scarlet and orange in fall; stems covered with velvety hairs that in winter resemble furry antlers
- greenish-yellow flowers in erect clusters in June; bright crimson fruit in hairy clusters effective August into winter; fruit favored by birds
- will grow in almost any soil except wet; full sun, tolerant of urban conditions
- excellent for massing, for exposed or waste areas; careful siting required in ornamental landscapes
- cv. *Laciniata* offers a finer cut-leaf texture and has excellent fall color; cv. *Tiger Eyes* has golden foliage

- a vigorous vine for walls, trellises or other structures
-

Clematis tangutica **Golden Clematis** 9' Zone 5

- climbs by clasping petioles; moderate growth rate
 - pinnately compound leaves; somewhat finer in texture than other *Clematis*
 - soft yellow bell-shaped flowers 3" to 4" in diameter appear in June; re-blooms sporadically during the summer and heavily in fall; followed by seed heads with long silky hairs
 - blooms on new wood; may be cut back in late winter or early spring
 - prefers moderately moist, well-drained soils; performs best in full sun; mulch to keep soil cool
 - excellent as a specimen vine
-

Hydrangea anomela subsp. *petiolaris* **Climbing Hydrangea** 60' Zone 4

- climbs by aerial root-like holdfasts; slow growth rate when young, vigorous once established
 - lateral branches protrude outwards from the vine, giving it a three-dimensional effect
 - opposite, simple leaves; a good dark green turning yellow in fall
 - white, lace-cap type flowers, 6" to 10" across, in June; very showy against the foliage
 - prefers a rich, moist soil in full sun to light shade
 - excellent for growing along brick walls, on arbors, up into trees, along stone walls; needs strong support
 - *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* (Japanese Hydrangea-vine), another excellent vine, is closely related and sometimes confused with Climbing Hydrangea. It can be told apart by the coarser leaves and by having only a single large sepal on the margin of the flower cluster (Climbing Hydrangea has 4 or 5).
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Lonicera sempervirens **Trumpet Honeysuckle** 10' - 20' Zone 4

- climbs by twining; rapid growth rate
 - opposite, semi-evergreen leaves; new growth reddish maturing to bluish-green; terminal leaves are fused into a single leaf surrounding the stem
 - scarlet trumpet-shaped flowers with a yellow throat produced in showy clusters in late spring; attracts hummingbirds
 - prefers moist, well-drained soils in full sun; tolerates dense shade but will not flower as well
 - excellent for growing on a trellis or as a fence cover; occasional aphid infestations
 - North American native
 - excellent substitute for Japanese honeysuckle
-

Parthenocissus quinquefolia **Virginia Creeper** 30' - 50' Zone 4

- climbs by tendrils with adhesive discs; fast growth rate
 - alternate, palmately compound leaves, 3 – 5 leaflets
 - dark green **deciduous** leaves followed by bright scarlet fall foliage; bluish-black berries only effective after the leaves fall, excellent scarlet fall color
 - full sun or light shade; tolerant of most soil conditions, air pollution, urban conditions
 - very drought and salt tolerant; good for coastal locations
 - good for covering walls, trellises
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References:

Please refer to these excellent resources for more information on these and other trees and shrubs for landscape planting.

Dirr, Michael A., *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*, 5th Ed., Stipes Publishing Company, Champaign, IL 61820, 1998

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USDA PLANT HARDINESS ZONES (JANUARY 1990)
Range of average annual minimum temperatures for each zone

Zone 1	below -50° F
Zone 2	-50° to -40° F
Zone 3	-40° to -30° F
Zone 4	-30° to -20° F
Zone 5	-20° to -10° F
Zone 6	-10° to 0° F
Zone 7	0° to 10° F

LANDSCAPE, NURSERY and URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM IPM FACT SHEET



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