

SITES AND PROPER SHRUB SELECTION

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The following plants were chosen for their superior ornamental value and because they are well adapted for particular sites or uses. Most plants on the list have more than one season of interest and medium to low maintenance requirements.

key: ♣ = great flower show, 🌳 = great fall color, 🌟 = great everything!
* = winter interest (berries or colorful stems)

Great plants for challenging sites: There are many shrubs which are drought tolerant, resistant, hardy and downright ugly. Here are a few tough customers you don't have to be a Botanist to appreciate:

wet soils

Aronia arbutifolia 'Brilliantissima'
Chenomeles speciosa
Clethra alnifolia
Cornus 'Kelsey', 'Cardinal' etc.
Hydrangea spp.
Ilex glabra and *verticillata*
Kerria japonica
Salix 'Flame' 'Purpurea Nana'
Sorbaria
Taxodium distichum
Viburnum dentatum and *trilobum*

Chokeberry 🌳
Quince ♣
Summersweet ♣
Dogwoods *
Hydrangea ♣
Inkberry and Michigan Hollies *
Japanese Kerria ♣*
willows *
false spirea ♣
bald cypress *
Arrowwood and cranberrybush viburnums 🌟

dry soils

Acer ginnala
Berberis
Cotinus coggygria
Hypericum
Juniperus 'Hughes'
Lonicera 'Emerald Mound' etc
Rhus aromatica
Spiraea you name it
Syringa meyeri, *patula* and *japonica*
Rosa 'Meideland Hybrids'
Viburnum lantana

Amur Maple 🌳
barberries
smokebush ♣
St. John's Wort ♣
Hughes Juniper
Emerald Mound honeysuckle ♣
Grow-Low sumac 🌳
Spireas (*bumalda* and *japonica* best) 🌟
Lilacs ♣
shrub roses ♣
wayfaring tree 🌟

salty soil/ salt spray

Buxus macrophylla
Chamaecyparis
Comptonia peregrina
Hibiscus syriacus
Myrica pennsylvanica
Pinus mugo
Ulmus parvifolia

boxwood *
false cypress *
sweet fern 🌳
rose of Sharon ♣
bayberry *
mugo pine
lacebark elm 🌟

alkaline soils

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata
Clematis
Daphne Carol Mackie
Koeleruteria paniculata
Mahonia aquifolium
Malus

porcelain ivy vine ♣
Clematis ♣♣
Daphne ♣
golden rain tree ♣
Oregon grape holly *
Crabapples 🌟

<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i> cvs.	mockorange ✿
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	germander ✿✿
<i>Viburnums, carlesii, burkwoodii, juddii</i>	fragrant viburnums ☼☼
<i>Weigela florida</i>	weigela ✿☼

shady sites

<i>Amelanchier</i> sp.	serviceberry ☼
<i>Buxus koreana</i>	Korean boxwood ✿✿
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Carolina allspice ☼
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda dogwood ☼
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	fothergilla ☼
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	oakleaf hydrangea ☼☼
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	witch hazel ✿
<i>Ilex x meservae</i>	blue holly ✿
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	hemlock ✿

deer/rabbit infested areas

<i>Buddlea davidii</i>	buddlea ✿
<i>Callicarpa speciosa</i>	beautyberry ✿✿
<i>Caryopteris clandonensis</i>	gray beard ✿
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	smooth hydrangea ✿
<i>Perovskia</i>	Russian sage ✿ ✿

Buying tips: Remember that roots are much more important than shoots when buying shrubs. Check the condition of the root system. Look for firm white, tan or brown roots which fill the container. Avoid plants sitting in water, those with mushy or smelly root systems and plants which are potbound.

Planting tips: Most shrubs are grown in peat or bark-base container media. These media are great for growers, but can delay the establishment of shrub roots into the native soil, making the new plants less resistant and higher maintenance. Proper planting techniques can help. Rough up the root mass when planting...break up the outer inch or so of the ball and point the broken root tips out into the hole. Backfill with the native soil, mixing in the excess container media. Do not add peat moss unless you are working in very sandy soils. (I will be glad to debate this with any pro-moss folks after the session). Water well but hold off on fertilizing with more than a low rate of nitrogen for the first season. Incorporate phosphorus and potassium fertilizer prior to planting if a deficiency is indicated by soil test.

Resources: Looking for some excellent sources of information? These are my favorites:

Ornamental Plants Plus CD-ROM created by MSU Extension and MNLA. Edition 2, 1998

TONS of info on plant selection, plant problems, pruning, fertilization, etc.

Contains last 5 years Landscape and Turf CAT Alerts, "Green Tips" extension bulletins, and over 3000 plant photographs - all free from copyright and fair game to print and use!

Landscape Plants for Eastern North America by Harrison Flint, Wisley Interscience Press, 1983

Great book for those who already know plant ID. Great scale drawings of plants.

Bailey Nurseries Reference Guide, Bailey Nurseries, St.Paul, MN

A handy pocket-sized book with sizes, bloom, foliage and fruit colors, site requirements, etc. for hundreds of trees, shrubs and perennials.

Ground Covers for the Midwest, North Central Region Extension Publication 400.

One in a series of four very useful and very inexpensive guides to woody plants. Compiled at University of Illinois by Voight, Hamilton and Giles.