

PLANT SELECTION FOR LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPE BEDS

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Sub-shrubs – look like shrubs, but cut off to 2-3 inches in spring

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia</i>	6-10' tall, flowers showy, fragrant
Russian Sage	<i>Perovskia atroplicifolia</i>	purple spikes on silver stems, 3-4'
Beauty berry	<i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i>	metallic purple berries 3-4' arching

Vines

Clematis	Clematis (Gypsy Queens, Hagley Hybrid)	keep mulched, cut to 1' in spring
Sweet Autumn Clematis	<i>Clematis maximowitzi</i>	mass of white flowers late summer
Honeysuckle vines	<i>Lonicera</i> 'Freedom' and Goldflame'	slower more delicate, long bloom

Shrubs (generally arranged from smaller to larger)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Grow-Low Sumac	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	3-4' spreading, hot red fall color
Dwarf fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	no pests, white fuzzy fls, orange fall color
Sweetpire	<i>Itea</i> 'Henry's Garnet' or 'Little Henry'	flowers Aug, deep red fall color
Snowmound Spirea	<i>Spiraea nipponica</i> 'Snowmound'	white flowers, blue-grey foliage
Dwarf Lilacs	<i>Syringa meyeri</i> and <i>S. palibian</i> 'Miss Kim'	no powdery mildew!
Michigan Holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	red berries 'Red Sprite' + 'Apollo'
Annabelle Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Annabelle'	oldie but goody, mow in spring
Oakleaf Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	great everything, dry shade tolerant
Tree Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	best types: 'Praecox' or 'Tardiva'
Shrub Roses	<i>Rosa</i> 'Meideland' (any) 'Carefree Wonder'	plus many other varieties
Viburnums	many species and cultivars 'Mohawk'	many of the best have tribe names
Rose-of Sharon	<i>Hybiscus syriacus</i>	showy late summer, no pruning
Smoke Bush	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	'Velvet Cloak' 'Royal Purple'
Japanese Tree Lilac	<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	awesome July flowers, cream color
Witch hazels	<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i> or <i>H. x intermedia</i>	no pests, early bloom, A+ fall color
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> or <i>canadensis</i>	early bloom, orange-red
fall color		

Trees (small to large)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Star Magnolia	<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	lots of flowers, very hardy
Paperbark Maple	<i>Acer griseum</i>	pricey but what bark! red fall color
Amur Maple	<i>Acer ginnala</i>	tough as they come, red fall color
Hedge Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	larger and very tolerant, yellow fall
Kousa Chinese Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	the best showy dogwood for Mich.
Cornelain Cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	yellow flowers early, red berries
Lacebark Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	no DED, OK in urban soils, bark!
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	no known pests, urban soil tolerant
Silver Linden	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	not host to Jap Beetles! tough, nice
Green Ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanicum</i> (use males)	fast growing, tolerant, strong wood
White Ash	<i>F. americana</i> 'Autumn Purple'	almost as tough as green ash
Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> 'Moraine'	spectacular fall color, fruitless type

Evergreens**Common Name**

Arborvitae
Junipers
White Pine
Limber Pine
White Fir
White Spruce
Douglas Fir

Scientific Name

Thuja occidentalis
Juniperus – many types
Pinus strobus ‘Pendula’ and ‘Nana’
Pinus flexilis
Abies concolor
Picea glauca
Pseudotsuga menziesii

Comments

all colors and shapes, globe types
plant ‘em and forget ‘em
dwarf and weeping types
hardier and prettier than white pine
the best blue conifer for Michigan
the best spruce – aka Black Hills
another nice substitute for B.S.

Deciduous Conifers**Common Name**

Weeping Larch
Bald Cypress
Dawn Redwood

Scientific Name

Larix ‘Pendula’
Taxodium distichum
Metasequoia gypstroboides

Comments

yellow fall color, fast growing
wet soils, shearing, rust fall color
fast growing, rust fall color