

Alternative ornamental plants for northern part of the United States



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Arnold Promise'

Director of grounds for The Scott Arboretum suggests these species.

■ Jeff Jabco, director of grounds for The Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore (Pa.) College, suggests the plants on this and the next page as being "beyond the ordinary" alternative plants.

Earlier this year, Jabco told Eastern Pennsylvania Turf Conference attendees to weigh these factors:

"Pick things with more than one season of interest. Pick something easily available in your area. And make sure to pick insect- and disease-resistant plants, where you can. It'll make your job a lot easier."

—Jerry Roche



Prunus x incam 'Okame'

JEFF JABCO'S ALTERNATIVE PLANTS TREES

SPECIES	NOTES
bottlebrush buckeye (<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>)	8-12 feet tall and about the same width; very tolerant; good in dense shade or sun; bottle-shaped white flowers; low maintenance; good yellow fall color
river birch (<i>Betula nigra</i> 'Heritage')	very resistant to bronze birch borer; attractive tan bark
katsuratre (<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>)	good street tree, or for parks/parking islands; very drought-tolerant when established; low maintenance; no insect or disease problems; no leaf litter because of small leaves; maroon in spring, golden yellow in fall; nice-smelling leaves; about 40-60 feet tall
Alaska cedar (<i>Chamaecyparis nootkatensis</i> 'Pendula')	evergreen; can handle moist, humid conditions; usually no insect or disease problems; 30-45 feet tall with a drooping look
white fringetree (<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>)	12-20 feet tall; member of olive family; frilly white flowers in late spring, turning to drooping
corneliancherry dogwood (<i>Cornus mas</i>)	early flowers of yellow/golden color; limbs low; globe-shaped; small red fruit that are edible; fairly attractive bark; few insect or disease problems
hybrid witchhazel (<i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i>)	flowers early winter through spring; cold tolerant; very fragrant; 'Arnold Promise' is bold yellow while 'Jelena' is coppery colored; 10-20 feet tall
Foster's holly (<i>Ilex x attenuata</i> 'Foster's #2')	tends to stay relatively narrow; has fine texture, leaves narrower; attractive deep red fruit; no leaf miner problems
goldenraintree (<i>Koeleruteria paniculata</i>)	street tree in urban areas; very salt and compaction tolerant; yellow flowers drop off in mid-summer; easy to establish; drought tolerant; golden yellow in fall
Yulan magnolia (<i>Magnolia denudata</i> — <i>M. heptapeta</i>)	yellowish-white flowers are most effective against a dark background; flowers early
star magnolia (<i>Magnolia stellata</i> 'Centennial')	narrow growth habit; packed with white flowers with a tinge of pink; very few problems
crabapple (<i>Malus</i> 'Jewelberry')	apple scab-resistant; smaller of crabapples; 8-12 feet tall and same width; small fruit
flowering cherry (<i>Prunus x incam</i> 'Okame')	smaller of flowering cherries; deep pink flowers; attractive bark; good fall color
yoshino cherry (<i>Prunus x yedoensis</i>)	25-40 feet tall; wider than tall; pink to white flowers
oriental spruce (<i>Picea orientalis</i>)	dark green needles; somewhat tolerant of shade; ½-inch needles
sawtooth oak (<i>Quercus acutissima</i>)	35-45 feet tall; shiny dark green leaves; pyramidal shape

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SHRUBS

SPECIES	NOTES
butterfly bush (<i>Buddleia davidii</i>)	can be cut back to 8-12 inches; can grow 6-8 feet tall; blue, pink or yellow flowers
purple beautyberry (<i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i>)	berries more prominent in fall—a real show; 3-4 feet tall
summersweet (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>)	native to wet areas and shade; sun doesn't affect it; good fragrance; 'Hummingbird' stays under 3 feet tall; 'Rosea' flowers are pink
redvein enkianthus (<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>)	white flowers edged in red; narrow and upright shrub; 10-12 feet tall if allowed; brilliant fall color; reddish leaves
dwarf fothergilla (<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>)	white bottle flowers, 4-5 feet tall; brilliant fall color; reddish leaves
oakleaf hydrangea (<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>)	good in full sun or full shade; creamy white flowers in summer and large leaves; foliage is brilliant red in fall; attractive brown bark in winter
inkberry holly (<i>Ilex glabra</i>)	non-descript evergreen shrub; upright-looking; tolerates both wet and dry areas
winterberry holly (<i>Ilex x 'Harvest Red'</i>)	6-10 feet tall with bright red fruit in fall and winter; other cultivars 3-12 feet and berry color of red, orange and gold
Virginia sweetspire (<i>Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet'</i>)	clump-forming shrub; white drooping flowers; deep red leaves in fall through January
Korean rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron mucronulatum</i>)	purplish flowers, 4-8 feet tall; great in very early spring
shrub rose (<i>Rose x 'Bonica'</i>)	no need to spray or deadhead; very nice rose hips stay on into winter; prune every 2-3 years to one foot high
doublefile viburnum (<i>Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum</i>)	12-15 feet tall, two rows of white flowers; almost no insect or disease problems; good screening plant
chastetree (<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>)	summer purple flowering shrub tall if not cut back; accent plant for perennial gardens; no insect or disease problems

Photo and information source: Jeff Jabco, The Scott Arboretum

EXCESS EQUIPMENT: asset or liability?

How many times have you actually used that extra equipment? Best to sell it or trade it in.

by Ed Wandtke

■ After recently visiting four or five golf courses and maintenance companies, I found enough spare equipment to operate a \$1 million maintenance company or an 18-hole golf course. The green industry is great at keeping equipment manufacturers in business.

There is nothing wrong with buying new equipment if it's needed, but hanging on to old equipment to be used as spares is becoming ever more expensive and risky. Golf course superintendents and landscape/lawn care company owners usually do not realize how much money is tied up in spare equipment.

And frequently, this spare equipment is neglected, stored outside, rather than indoors or under some kind of protective covering.

Good intentions—There are various causes and rationalizations for keeping old

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Is it wrong to sell or throw away equipment you may some day need?

