



Shrubs for
Landscape
Plantings in
New York
State

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INFORMATION BULLETIN 50

A Cornell Cooperative Extension Publication

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Shrubs form a basic part of most landscape plantings. Many are planted for their attractive flowers, fruits, or fall colors; others have exceptionally good quality foliage or growth habits; and some less showy ones are valuable because they tolerate difficult growing conditions.

This bulletin provides a list of many of the most useful and attractive shrubs for landscape planting in New York State. Most are available from commercial nurseries and garden supply centers.

WINTERHARDINESS

A shrub many grow fairly well, but if it is regularly injured by cold temperatures that destroy its desirable features, it does not fulfill its purpose in the landscape. In the following lists, a plant is considered *usefully hardy* when it is fairly dependable in producing the flowers, fruit, type of growth, or other features expected of it when given a reasonable amount of care.

Plants usefully hardy in one section of New York State may have no value in another section. Therefore, the shrubs you choose should be from among those known to be usefully hardy in your area.

The shrubs in this bulletin are divided into three general groups: *Group 1* includes shrubs usefully hardy anywhere in New York State; *Group 2* lists additional shrubs usefully hardy in central New York State;¹ and *Group 3* lists additional shrubs usefully hardy on Long Island, in New York City, and in southern Westchester County.

If you live on Long Island, plants listed in all three groups can be expected to grow well. In central New York, selections can be made from the first two groups. If you live in one of the coldest portions of the state, selections should be made only from the hardiest kinds given in group 1.

If you are interested in trying some of the less hardy shrubs, choose from those listed for the next warmer area, but do so with the understanding that they may fail completely or be too severely injured during the winter to be of value in the landscape planting. If they do well in your area when given adequate winter protection, they can be interesting additions to the garden.

The hardiness of individual plants depends upon so many factors that no recommendations can be infallible, nor does the fact that a shrub is useful in your area mean that it should be widely used in your landscape planting. You must consider the growth habit, seasonal interests, maintenance needs, and suitability of the shrub before using it extensively.

1. In this bulletin, central New York State refers to the following cities and their environs:

Albany	Geneva	Niagara Falls
Batavia	Hamburg	Poughkeepsie
Binghamton	Ithaca	Rochester
Buffalo	Jamestown	Schenectady
Canandaigua	Kingston	Syracuse
Corning	Lockport	Troy
Dunkirk	Middletown	Utica
Elmira	Newburgh	

More winter injury should be expected at higher elevations near some of these areas.

PLANT SIZE AND SPACING

The shrubs you choose should not grow too large for your planting area. All shrubs are not the same size at maturity. Therefore, it is important to select those that meet your needs.

Low shrubs (1 to 3 feet tall) are useful for foundation plantings, particularly around contemporary homes. The permanent low stature of these plants is in keeping with simplified architectural features. Some low shrubs are also useful for rock gardens or other small-scale situations.

Small shrubs (4 to 5 feet tall) are also useful for foundation plantings, particularly around larger homes or other large buildings. Many also are useful as filler or accent plants in the garden or shrub border.

Although *medium to large shrubs* (from 6 to 15 feet tall or more) are useful occasionally as foundation plantings for large buildings, most are used for border, screen, or hedge plantings. They should not be used in small planting areas.

Because most shrubs are of small size at planting time, the tendency is to plant them too close together or too near the edges of lawns or driveways. A good general rule is to space most shrubs as far part as the mature height of the plant. For example, plants that will be 8 feet tall at maturity should be planted about 8 feet apart. Of course, narrow plants should be planted closer together, and very broad spreading plants should be farther apart. Place shrubs at a distance of about two-thirds their expected mature height from the edge of a lawn, walk, or driveway.

The first number after the name of each shrub in the plant lists beginning on page 4 gives the expected mature height of the plant. The second group of numbers after the name of the shrub gives appropriate spacings. The *first* number in this group indicates the distance from a wall; the *second*, the spacing between plants; and the *third*, the distance from a walk, drive, or lawn edge.



LANDSCAPE VALUES

Often some feature such as exceptionally showy flowers, fruit, or fall color is sufficient reason for selecting a shrub for landscape use. Where possible, choose shrubs for seasonal interest throughout the year. Shrubs have other uses as well. Some are useful as screens, for bank or mass planting, whereas others are suitable as filler among showier kinds. Some are especially tolerant of difficult growing conditions.

As an aid in selecting suitable shrubs for particular situations, brief descriptions accompany each plant. Some of the important landscape values of each are given as well as general comments on the more-common cultural, insect, and disease problems that may be associated with that plant. All these aspects should be considered before giving a shrub an important location in the landscape planting. Additional information can be found in gardening books dealing with shrubs. If possible, find the shrub growing in your area and see whether it is the kind of plant you want, or ask a competent plantsperson about the local performance and landscape values of the particular shrubs that interest you.

Some shrubs require special growing conditions if they are to do well. Plants such as rhododendron, mountain laurel, azaleas, and their relatives need a slightly protected location in soil that is well drained but moist, high in organic matter, and preferably acid. If these conditions do not exist naturally or cannot be provided, it is not worthwhile to try growing such plants. In the following lists, plants that require these special growing conditions have the phrase *special growing conditions required* included among the notes. Additional information on the culture of this important group of plants is given in another bulletin; see the *Catalog of Cornell Cooperative Extension Publications*.

PLANT NAMES

The plants in this bulletin are listed alphabetically in each group according to their scientific name. The scientific name used follows *Hortus Third*, an authoritative listing of plants cultivated in the United States and Canada, prepared by the staff of the L.H. Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University. A common name for each plant follows the scientific name. Although the names selected are often seen, other common names may be encountered.

GROUP 1. SHRUBS USEFULLY HARDY ANYWHERE IN NEW YORK STATE

Low Shrubs

Daphne cneorum, **Rose Daphne**

(1'+ high; space 18"-3'-2'). Dense, broad, and rounded with attractive masses of fragrant pink flowers in mid-May. Often difficult to grow, apparently succeeding best when planted shallowly in poor, well-drained soil. Cultivars include 'Ruby Glow' with dark pink flowers and 'Variegata' with leaves with creamy white margins.

Hydrangea arborescens 'Grandiflora', **Hills of Snow Hydrangea**

(3'+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). Valued for its snowball-like white flower clusters in early July. Very effective if not overused. Best if stems cut back to the ground each fall or early spring. The cultivar 'Annabelle' has larger clusters of flowers, up to 12" across.

Juniperus chinensis var. *sargentii*, **Sargent Juniper**
(3' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Narrowleaf evergreen, dense, forming a broad mound. Useful for dry, sunny sites.

Juniperus horizontalis, **Creeping Juniper**

(6"-12" high; space 2'-4'-3'). Narrowleaf evergreen, low and flat with vigorous, prostrate branches. Several variants are available such as 'Bar Harbor' and 'Wiltonii' with blue green foliage, and 'Douglasii' and 'Plumosa' with gray green foliage that turns purple during the winter. Best suited for sunny locations.

Juniperus sabina* 'Tamariscifolia',*Tamarisk Juniper**

(3' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Narrowleaf evergreen, neutral and moundlike with attractive horizontal branching. Often injured by twig blight. Other variants include 'Arcadia' with green foliage and 'Broadmoor' and 'Skandia' with grayish green foliage. Best suited for sunny locations.

***Leucothoe fontanesiana*, Drooping Leucothoe**

(3' high; space 18"-3'-2'). Broadleaf evergreen with graceful arching branches. Foliage turns bronze purple in full winter sun, but performs better in partial shade in colder regions. Useful filler plant among showier kinds. The cultivar 'Girard's Rainbow' has variegated foliage in early spring. Special growing conditions required.

***Pieris floribunda*, Mountain Andromeda**

(3'+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). Broadleaf evergreen, greenish white flower buds in upright clusters are conspicuous on the plant all winter and open in early May. Special growing conditions required.

***Potentilla fruticosa*, Shrubby Cinquefoil**

(3' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Of interest for its showy yellow flowers in mid-June when flowering shrubs are less common. Numerous flower and foliage color variants are available, such as 'Farreri' with dark yellow flowers and green foliage, 'Goldfinger' with bright yellow flowers and dark green foliage, and 'Abbotswood' with white flowers and bluish green foliage. Tolerant of shade and other difficult growing sites, but not particularly attractive during the winter months.

Spiraea bumalda* 'Anthony Waterer',*Anthony Waterer Spirea**

(3' high; space 18"-3'-2'). A dense, stiff, rounded shrub frequently planted for its red flowers in early summer. The cultivar 'Froebelii' is similar, but slightly taller.

***Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, Coralberry**

(3' high; space 18"-3'-2'). Low, colony-forming plant with many slender, upright-arching stems; fruits red, persistent. Although not particularly attractive, useful for mass planting in dry sites. Tolerant of shade.

***Taxus cuspidata* 'Densa', Cushion Japanese Yew**

(3'+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). Narrowleaf evergreen. One of several named dwarf variants of Japanese yew. Dense, broad, and rounded with very dark green, fine-textured foliage. The cultivar 'Nana' is similar, but more irregular in growth habit. Tolerant of many growing conditions, but will not survive in poorly drained soils.

***Thuja occidentalis* 'Globosa', Globe Arborvitae**

(3'+ high; space 18"-3'-2'). Narrowleaf evergreen, dense, and rounded. *T. occidentalis* 'Pumila', Little Gem arborvitae, is similar, but its outline is wider than high, and the surface is slightly undulating. Several other named dwarf kinds are available. All prefer a moist, well-drained soil.

Small Shrubs***Daphne mezereum*, February Daphne**

(5' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Noted for its small, but abundant, fragrant purple flowers in early April. There is also a white-flowered form, the cultivar 'Alba'. Plants may be injured by twig blight.

***Forsythia ovata*, Korean Forsythia**

(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). The hardiest of the forsythias. Showy yellow flowers in mid-April. Flower buds are rarely lost above the snow line; a good choice for the colder regions of the state as long as winter temperatures do not regularly exceed -25° F.

***Juniperus chinensis* 'Pfitzerana', Pfitzer's Juniper**

(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Narrowleaf evergreen with wide-spreading branches. The cultivar 'Hetzi' is similar, but has more-intense blue green foliage. Upright, narrow to columnar forms are also available as well as other variants with spreading growth habit. Full sun preferred. Scale may be a problem.

***Kalmia latifolia*, Mountain Laurel**

(5' high; space 2'-4'-3'). One of the finest broadleaf evergreens for the north. The flowers, appearing in mid-June, are abundant and showy. They are usually pink in bud and white in flower, but pink to red variants are also available. Special growing conditions required.

***Mahonia aquifolium*, Oregon Holly Grape**

(4' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Broadleaf evergreen, low-growing, hollylike plant with attractive yellow flowers in early May. Foliage, although very attractive in summer, is commonly injured by winter wind and sun. Protected locations result in best performance.

***Pinus mugo*, Mugo Pine**

(3'-5'+ high; space accordingly). Narrowleaf evergreen. The most-common shrubby pine, normally dwarf and dense, but variable in this regard and sometimes attaining very large size. Pine needle scale is the most common problem.



***Rhododendron carolinianum*,**

Carolina Rhododendron

(4' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Broadleaf evergreen, small in stature with fine texture. Showy pink flowers in mid-May. A white-flowered variant is available. Special growing conditions required.

***Rhododendron*, kinds often called azaleas**

(4'-5'+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). Valued for showy flowers, wide range of colors, and long sequence of bloom. Some of the species are listed along with their flower color and time of bloom in central New York. Some of the hybrid groups and variants are discussed under "Additional Plants Usefully Hardy in Central New York." Special growing conditions required.

***R. mucronulatum*, Korean Rhododendron**—rosy purple flowers in mid-April.

***R. vaseyi*, Pink Shell Azalea**—pink, almost white flowers in mid-May.

***R. periclymenoides*, Pinxterbloom**—pale pink, slightly fragrant flowers in late May.

***R. prinophyllum*, Roseshell Azalea**—clove-scented bright pink flowers in late May.

***R. calendulaceum*, Flame Azalea**—orange to red flowers in early June.

***R. arborescens*, Sweet Azalea**—fragrant white flowers in late June.

***R. viscosum*, Swamp Azalea**—fragrant white flowers in mid-July.

***Ribes alpinum*, Alpine Currant**

(5' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Neutral and dense with fine-textured foliage. Well suited for hedges or mass planting situations. The cultivar 'Green Mound' is lower growing, to 3' high, and is more compact.

***Rosa rugosa*, Rugosa Rose,**

(5' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Neutral and upright with glossy dark green foliage. Blooming in mid-June, flower colors range from red to pink to white. Plants usually spread by underground parts. Renewal pruning helpful for keeping the plants in vigorous condition. Excellent for use in seashore situations.

***Rosa virginiana*, Virginia Rose**

(5' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Single pink flowers in early June, good red autumn color, and red stems and fruit all winter. One of the best wild roses for landscape planting on banks, especially in naturalistic landscapes.

***Symphoricarpos rivularis*, Snowberry**

(5' high; space 2'-4'-3'). An upright-spreading to arching plant, especially noted for its abundant white fruits. Often is troubled by mildew when planted in the shade, and in some seasons disease disfigures the fruit. Several variants available.

***Virburnum acerifolium*, Mapleleaf Viburnum**

(4' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Excellent understory plant for woodland plantings. Attractive soft red purple to pink fall color. Tends to form colonies rather than distinct individual plants.

***Viburnum carlesii*, Korean Spice Viburnum**

(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Outstanding for its fragrant pink to white flowers in mid-May. Good quality gray green foliage in summer and velvety red fall color. If possible, plants should be obtained on their own roots because grafted plants commonly have a vigorous understock that may sucker and take over the more desirable plant.

Medium to Large Shrubs

***Acanthopanax sieboldianus*, Five-leaf Aralia**

(8' high; space 3'-5'-4'). A pest-free foliage plant, which tolerates poor, dry soil in sun or shade.

***Clethra alnifolia*, Summersweet**

(8' high; space 4'-6'-5'). Fragrant white flowers in late July. Does best in shady locations in moist, acid soil. The cultivars 'Pink Spires' and 'Rosea' have pink flowers.

***Cornus alba*, Tatarian Dogwood**

(8' high; space 4'-6'-5'). A vigorous shrub with showy white fruits, good red fall color, and red stems all winter. Tolerant of moist, poorly drained soils. The cultivar 'Sibirica' has even showier red stems. Renewal pruning necessary to maintain good twig color. Other variants have variegated foliage.

***Cornus sericea* 'Flaviramea', Golden-twig Dogwood**

(6' high; space 3'-5'-4'). Showy yellow fall color and bright yellow winter twigs combine well with *C. alba* for seasonal interest. Renewal pruning necessary to maintain good twig color. Tolerant of moist, poorly drained soils.

***Enkianthus campanulatus*, Redvein Enkianthus**

(8'+ high; space 4'-6'-5'). Interesting bell-like flowers in late May. Good orange to red fall color, late. Special growing conditions required.

***Euonymus alata*, Winged Euonymus**

(8' high; space 4'-6'-5'). Bright magenta red autumn color, showy fruits, and conspicuous corky winged twigs make this plant an extremely useful addition to most landscape plantings. The cultivar 'Compacta' has similar seasonal interests except for being more compact and with less-conspicuous wings on the twigs. Often used as a barrier plant, but has somewhat brittle twigs and stems.

***Ilex verticillata*, Winterberry**

(8' high; space 4'-6'-5'). Neutral plant with upright to spreading branching. Both pistillate (female) and staminate (male) plants are needed to ensure formation of showy red fruits. Fall color is yellow. Plants prefer, but do not require, a moist, acid soil. Several variants with more abundant fruiting are available.

***Ligustrum amurense*, Amur Privet**

(10' high; space 4'-6' [18"-24" in hedge]-5'). A stiff, dense, upright plant with fine texture. The hardiest privet for northern hedges, but less attractive than some of the other species.

***Lonicera morrowii*, Morrow Honeysuckle**

(6' high; space 6'-8'-7'). Makes a broad, dense mound twice as wide as high. Flowers are white fading to yellow and appear in late May. Not particularly attractive in winter, but very tolerant of difficult growing sites.

***Lonicera tatarica*, Tatarian Honeysuckle**

(8' high; space 6'-8'-7'). A general utility plant for border and background plantings. Flowers are rose in late May. Not particularly attractive in winter, but tolerant of difficult growing sites. Several flower and fruit color variants are available.

***Philadelphus coronarius*, Sweet Mock Orange**

(10' high; space 6'-8'-7'). An old favorite in American gardens. Dense and vigorous with fragrant white flowers in early June. Several similar species and hybrids are available; although the flowers may be larger, they may lack the distinctive fragrance.

***Physocarpus opulifolius*, Common Ninebark**

(10' high; space 6'-8'-7'). Coarse in appearance, but grows well in poor, dry soils. Flowers white, in spirelike clusters, in early June, followed by reddish capsules that turn tan or brown and persist well into the winter. Exfoliating, orange brown bark interesting, especially in winter.

***Prunus tomentosa*, Nanking Cherry**

(8' high; space 4'-6'-5'). Treelike shrub with broad, rounded shape. White flowers in late April before the leaves. Susceptible to borers, fireblight, and scale.

***Rhamnus frangula*, Alder Buckthorn**

(10 high; space 6'-8'-7'). Loose and open with glossy green foliage. Most commonly available as cultivar 'Columnaris', a compact, very narrow columnar form suitable for use as a barrier plant in limited space situations. When used for hedges, plants should be placed 18"-24" apart. Performs best in moist, well-drained soils.

***Rhododendron catawbiense*, Catawba Rhododendron**

(6'-8' high; space 4'-6'-5'). Broadleaf evergreen with magenta flowers in late May. One of the parents of the Catawba Hybrid Rhododendrons, a group discussed in the section on plants usefully hardy in central New York. Special growing conditions required.

***Rhododendron maximum*, Rosebay Rhododendron**

(8'-12' high; space 6'-8'-7'). Broadleaf evergreen with white flowers in late June. Not as effective as the earlier blooming types, but grows well in the shade and is useful as background planting for showier kinds. Special growing conditions required.

***Rosa hugonis*, Father Hugo's Rose**

(8' high; space 4'-6'-5'). Upright-arching plant with fine-textured foliage. Showy yellow flowers in late May. *R. harisonii*, Harison's yellow rose, is similar in appearance. Both best suited for use in association with other roses or with herbaceous perennials in a border planting.

***Spiraea prunifolia*, Bridalwreath Spirea**

(6' high; space 4'-6'-5'). Plants are dense with gracefully arching branches. Showy double white flowers in early May and attractive glossy red fall color.

***Spiraea x vanhouttei*, Vanhoutte Spirea**

(6' high; space 4'-6'-5'). Neutral, upright-spreading to arching shrub with showy white flowers in late May. Valuable if used with restraint. Faded flowers persist, and aphids commonly infest young shoots.

***Syringa x chinensis*, Chinese Lilac**

(15' high; space 8'-10'-9'). Fine-textured, upright-spreading shrub with attractive rose purple flowers in late May. Useful as specimen plant or intermingled with other shrubs in border plantings. Especially useful on small properties. Susceptible to borers, scale, and mildew. Reported to be intolerant of urban conditions.



***Syringa vulgaris*, Common Lilac**

(15'+ high; space 8'-10'-9'). The most common lilac in American gardens. Many named kinds available in white, violet, blue, lilac, pink, reddish purple, and purple as well as single or double flowers. Useful as specimen or intermingled with other shrubs in border planting. Borers, mildew, and scale are frequent problems. Reported to be intolerant of urban conditions.

***Taxus cuspidata*, Japanese Yew**

(6'-15' high; space accordingly). One of the finest narrowleaf evergreen shrubs for the north. The species and most of the variants are broad and spreading plants, but other habit variants are available. For example, the cultivar 'Capitata' is treelike with a strong central stem and is useful in areas where snow or ice breakage is troublesome. The foliage is dark green and extremely tolerant of shearing, making it the best evergreen plant for hedges. Foliage may burn occasionally during the winter when plants are located on the south side of buildings or are in exposed locations. Tolerant of most growing sites, but will not tolerate poorly drained soils.

***Viburnum dentatum*, Arrowwood**

(8' high; space 4'-6'-5'). A neutral, dense, upright to spreading filler plant for sun or moist shade. The leaves turn a brilliant glossy red in autumn. The fruits are blue black on bright yellow pedicels. Tolerant of poorly drained soils.

***Viburnum opulus*, European Cranberry Bush**

(8'+ high; space 4'-6'-5'). A vigorous, dense, upright plant with attractive white flowers in early June. Showy red fruits persist all winter. The cultivar 'Roseum' has showier flowers, but no fruits are produced. Very susceptible to damage by aphids, and appropriate sprays must be applied each year. *V. trilobum*, American cranberry bush, is similar in appearance in flower and fruit, but is not as susceptible to aphid injury and, therefore, is a logical substitute.

***Viburnum prunifolium*, Black Haw**

(15' high; space 8'-10'-9'). Plants are dense and compact with more or less horizontal branching. Fall color is an excellent red. Useful as hedge or specimen plant. Decaying foliage after it has dropped from the plant in the fall may give off objectionable odor, especially if the weather is warm and moist.

GROUP 2. ADDITIONAL SHRUBS USEFULLY HARDY IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

Low Shrubs

***Chaenomeles japonica*, Dwarf Flowering Quince**

(3' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Dense and rounded with glossy green foliage. Showy orange to red flowers in early May. May be troubled by fire blight, borers, or scale. Flower buds are lost occasionally above the snow line in central New York.

***Cotoneaster horizontalis*, Rockspray**

(3' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Branches upright spreading to arching. Excellent fine-textured glossy green foliage turning bright red in late fall. Abundant red fruits persist in winter. *C. apiculatus*, cranberry cotoneaster, is similar but with larger red fruits. Several other low-growing species and variants are available. All may be troubled by fireblight, borers, and scale. Probably best if used in small quantities.

***Deutzia gracilis*, Slender Deutzia**

(3' high; space 18"-3'-2'). Rounded shape with many slender, upright stems. Masses of small white flowers in late May. Best performance in full sun. Not particularly attractive in winter. Twig kill may occur during exceptionally cold winters.

***Prunus glandulosa*, Flowering Almond**

(3'+ high; 18"-3'-2'). Showy double pink flowers in mid-May. May be troubled by borers and tent caterpillars. A white-flowered cultivar is available.

***Taxus baccata* 'Repandens', Weeping English Yew**

(3'+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). The only variant of English yew hardy in central New York. Plants are broad and arching with very dark green foliage. Performs best in protected locations in most upstate areas. Does not tolerate poorly drained soils.

Small Shrubs

***Berberis thunbergii*, Japanese Barberry**

(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Round, thorny, and very dense in winter and summer. Brilliant red autumn color and long-lasting showy red fruits. Looks best if allowed to develop naturally with a minimum of pruning. Numerous foliage-color, size, and growth-habit variants are available.

Cotoneaster divaricatus, Spreading Cotoneaster
(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Wide-spreading shrub with attractive red autumn color and showy red fruits in fall and winter. Best in full sun. Useful in foundation plantings as well as in the border. May be troubled by fireblight, borers, and scale.

Hydrangea quercifolia, Oakleaf Hydrangea
(5' high; 3'-5'-4'). Planted primarily for bold foliage effects. Can be pruned to the ground each spring; produces a handsome foliage mass from 3 to 4 feet high. Flowers are white, in terminal clusters. Fall color often a showy red or red purple. Flower buds may be injured in colder regions.

Ilex glabra, Inkberry
(4' high; space 2'-4'-3'). Broadleaf evergreen, useful as a filler among more showy broadleaf evergreens or other plants. Foliage may burn in exposed locations in winter. Prefers acid soil sites. 'Nordic' is a lower-growing, more-compact cultivar.

Ilex x meserveae, Blue Holly
(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Broadleaf evergreen with excellent dark green to blue green foliage. Both staminate (male) and pistillate (female) plants are necessary in a planting for the formation of attractive and often abundant showy red fruits. 'Blue Prince' and 'Blue Princess' are male and female cultivars, respectively. Proving to be one of the best evergreen hollies for colder regions. Some protection from winter wind and sun may be helpful in the coldest regions. Prefers acid soil sites.

Kerria japonica, Kerria
(5' high; space 3'-5'-4'). Bright yellow flowers in late May and distinctive green stems in winter. The cultivar 'Pleniflora' has double yellow flowers and is more commonly grown. Plants tend to spread by underground parts to form thickets. Killing of the twig tips common in colder regions.

Myrica pensylvanica, Bayberry
(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Rounded, dense shrub with glossy green foliage. Both pistillate (female) and staminate (male) plants needed to form attractive and persistent gray fruits. In sandy soils, plants spread rapidly by underground parts. Easily maintained at any height by gradual removal of older stems. All plant parts are fragrant when crushed. Very useful for mass planting situations. Tolerant of seashore conditions.

Philadelphus x lemoinei, Lemoine Mock Orange
(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Dense and rounded with abundant white flowers in mid-June. Several variants are available.

Rhododendron x gandavense, Ghent Hybrid Azalea
(4-5+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). A complex group of hybrids varying in flower color and hardiness. All have showy flowers in late May. Colors available in the variants include white, pink, red, orange, and yellow, with both single and double flowers. All require special growing conditions, except that locations in full sun are suitable.

Rhododendron x kosteranum, Molle Hybrid Azalea
(4-5' high; space 2'-4'-3'). A variable group of hybrids between hardy *R. japonicum*, Japanese azalea, with orange red to brick red flowers, and tender *R. molle*, Chinese azalea, with golden yellow flowers that bloom in late May. Named variants are available. All require special growing conditions, except that locations in full sun are suitable.

Rhododendron x laetevirens, Wilson Rhododendron
(4' high; space 2'-4'-3'). A dense, rounded, broadleaf evergreen valued primarily for its attractive dark green foliage and compact growth habit. The purplish rose flowers appear in May. Special growing conditions required.

Rhododendron 'P.J.M.', P.J.M. Rhododendron
(4' high; space 2'-4'-3'). A dense, rounded, broadleaf evergreen with lavender purple flowers in late April. Foliage turns a dark purple in late fall. Especially valued for its flower-bud hardiness. Special growing conditions required.

Rhus aromatica, Fragrant Sumac
(4' high; space 3'-5'-4'). Tough, hardy, low and spreading, with excellent summer foliage quality and bright red fall color. Especially useful for bank plantings. The cultivar 'Gro-low' grows to 2' high with wide-spreading branches.

Spiraea thunbergii, Thunberg Spirea
(5' high, space 3'-5'-4'). Neutral plant with very fine foliage texture. Showy white flowers in early May and attractive soft reddish brown fall color. Twigs may be injured in severe winters.



Medium to Large Shrubs

***Chaenomeles speciosa*, Japanese Quince**

(6' high; 4'-6'-5'). A dense neutral shrub with showy flowers in early May. Depending on the cultivar, flower colors range from red to orange, pink, and white. Flower buds are occasionally injured by cold in central New York. Fireblight, borers, and scale may be troublesome.

***Forsythia x intermedia*, Showy Border Forsythia**

(8' high; space 4'-6'-5'). Upright-spreading to arching shrub. The showiest forsythia, with yellow flowers in mid-April. Fall color an attractive reddish purple. Flower buds may be lost above the snow line during an especially cold winter. Some name kinds are 'Beatrix Farrand', 'Lynwood Gold', 'Spectabilis', and 'Spring Glory'.

***Forsythia suspensa*, Drooping Forsythia**

(8' high; space 6'-8'-7'). Neutral and rounded with pendulous branches. Attractive yellow flowers in mid-April and showy yellow fall color. Useful for bank planting and for hanging over walls. About as hardy as *F. x intermedia*.

***Hamamelis vernalis*, Vernal Witch Hazel**

(10' high; 6'-8'-7'). One of the first woody plants to bloom in the spring. Small, but very fragrant, flowers in February or March. *H. mollis*, Chinese witch hazel, and *H. japonica*, Japanese witch hazel, are similar, but have showier yellow flowers.

***Hamamelis virginiana*, Common Witch Hazel**

(15' high; space 6'-10'-7'). Upright-spreading, loose, open native shrub with attractive yellow fall color. The last woody plant to flower in the Northeast. Showy yellow flowers in October, most effective after the leaves drop from the plant. Shade tolerant.

***Hibiscus syriacus*, Shrub Althea, Rose-of-Sharon**

(10'+ high; space 6'-8'-7'). An old favorite valued for its showy flowers in late July. Numerous flower color variants are available. Rather stiff, upright branching.

***Ilex pedunculosa*, Longstalk Holly**

(15'+ high; space 6'-8'-7'). Broadleaf evergreen. Large shrub or small tree with high-quality glossy dark green foliage. Need both pistillate (female) and staminate (male) plants for attractive long-stalked red fruits. Foliage may benefit from protection from winter wind and sun. Acid soils preferred.

***Kolkwitzia amabilis*, Beautybush**

(10'+ high; space 6'-8'-7'). A vigorous grower with showy pink flowers in early June. Shape rounded with upright and arching branches. Exfoliating bark may detract from its appearance in winter.

***Ligustrum obtusifolium* var. *regelianum*,**

Regel Privet

(8' high; space 6'-8'-7'). A neutral shrub with graceful horizontal branching. Blue black fruits are abundant and attractive all winter. Useful for hedges or as filler in landscape groupings.

***Lindera benzoin*, Spicebush**

(10' high; space 6'-8'-7'). Rounded shrub with rather loose, open branching. Small yellow flowers in mid-April, red fruits on pistillate (female plants), and showy yellow fall color. A native shrub well suited for moist, partly shaded locations.

***Lonicera fragrantissima*, Fragrant Honeysuckle**

(8' high; 4'-6'-5'). A desirable plant with good quality semievergreen foliage. Creamy white flowers in early April are small, but very fragrant.

***Rhododendron*, Catawba Hybrids**

(6'-15' high; space accordingly). A large and complex group of broadleaf evergreens noted for their showy flowers in late May and early June. Among the many named kinds, the Ironclads are noted for their hardiness and performance in central New York State. Some of the outstanding members of this group are listed according to flower color. All require special growing conditions.

White

'Album Elegans'
'Album Grandiflorum'
'Boule-de-neige'
'Catawbiense Album'

Pink

'Everestianum'
'Lady Armstrong'
'Mrs. C.S. Sargent'
'Roseum Elegans'

Red

'America'
'Atrosanguineum'
'Charles Dickens'
'Nova Zembla'

Purple

'Purpureum Elegans'
'Purpureum Grandiflorum'

***Rhodotypos scandens*, Jetbead**

(6' high; space 3'-5'-4'). Neutral, upright-spreading shrub with small white flowers in mid-May. Hard, black, shiny fruits remain all winter. Useful for mass planting situations.

***Taxus x media* 'Hicksii', Hick's Yew**

(8'+ high; space 4'-6' [2' in hedge]-5'). Narrowleaf evergreen with narrow columnar shape. Intermediate in foliage character between Japanese and English yew. Lacking a strong central stem, the upright branches must be tied securely in winter to prevent heavy snow or ice from splitting the plant open. Several other variants of *T. x media*, varying in shape and branching, are available. Not tolerant of poorly drained soils.



***Viburnum dilatatum*, Linden Viburnum**

(6' high; space 3'-5'-4'). Dense and rounded shape. Especially valued for its showy brilliant red fruits in late fall and early winter. Several variants are available with even more abundant fruiting.

***Viburnum plicatum* f. *tomentosum*,
Double File Viburnum**

(8' high; space 6'-10'-7'). An excellent shrub with distinctive horizontal branching. Showy white flowers, fruits that change from red to black, and velvety red to reddish purple fall color. Requires adequate space to develop its full potential. The cultivar 'Mariesii' has larger flower clusters. *V. plicatum*, the common Japanese snowball, lacks the attractive horizontal branching, but the flowers are larger, in rounded clusters.

***Viburnum sieboldii*, Siebold Viburnum**

(10'+ high; space 8'-10'-9'). An excellent large-growing viburnum that is often treelike in character; good quality summer foliage, creamy white flower clusters in mid-May, and red fruits that change to black on pink pedicels. Attractive branching structure evident during the winter. Decaying foliage, after it has dropped from the plant in the fall, may give off an objectionable odor, especially if the weather is warm and moist.

***Weigela florida*, Weigela**

(6' high; space 3'-5'-4'). Valued for its attractive rose pink flowers in late May. Plants are somewhat stiff and coarse in appearance and not particularly attractive in winter. Many named foliage and flower-color variants are available.

**GROUP 3. ADDITIONAL SHRUBS
USEFULLY HARDY ON LONG
ISLAND, IN NEW YORK CITY
AND SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER
COUNTY**

Low Shrubs

***Berberis verruculosa*, Warty Barberry**

(3'+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). Broadleaf evergreen, dense and rounded in shape. Leaves are glossy dark green above and white below. Useful for small-scale plantings.

***Buxus microphylla*, Littleleaf Boxwood**

(3'+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). Broadleaf evergreen, dense, rounded, with fine foliage texture. Several variants are available including var. *koreana*, a hardier type with yellow green foliage, and 'Wintergreen' with better-quality green foliage.

***Callicarpa dichotoma*, Beautyberry**

(3'+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). Graceful arching branches and clusters of uniquely colored violet fruits.

***Cotoneaster dammeri*, Bearberry Cotoneaster**

(12"-18" high; space 2'-4'-3'). Very low growing broadleaf evergreen with prostrate-trailing branches. Excellent-quality foliage and moderate amounts of red fruits in the fall. Often used as a ground cover on banks or for trailing over walls. Suitable in central New York State if located in protected locations. Cultivars include 'Coral Beauty', 'Lowfast', and 'Skogholm'.

***Ilex crenata* 'Helleri', Heller Japanese Holly**

(3' high; 18"-3'-2'). Broadleaf evergreen, low and dense, with very small leaves. The cultivar 'Stokesii' is similar in appearance. Particularly useful for small-scale plantings. Acid soils preferred.

***Rhododendron mucronatum*, Snow Azalea**

(3' high; space 2'-4'-3'). A broad-spreading semievergreen shrub with gray green leaves. Attractive white flowers in early May. Special growing conditions required.

***Rhododendron obtusum*, Kurume Azalea**

(3'+ high; space 2'-4'-3'). A large group containing many variants. Although many kinds are useful farther south, few grow well north of New York City. Three of the hardiest are the cultivars 'Amoenum' with rosy purple flowers and 'Hino-crimson' and 'Hinodegiri' with red flowers. All bloom in early May. Special growing conditions required.



Small to Large Shrubs

***Abelia x grandiflora*, Glossy Abelia**

(5' high; space 3'-5'-4'). Neutral shrub with small, glossy green, semievergreen leaves. Abundant, fragrant white flowers most of the summer. Frequently killed to the ground in upstate New York, but still useful because flowers are formed on the new wood each year. In favorable climates, useful for mass or barrier plantings.

***Berberis julianae*, Wintergreen Barberry**

(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Broadleaf evergreen with good-quality foliage. Plants are thorny, very dense and compact growing, and useful for barrier plantings. Apparently one of the hardier evergreen barberries.

***Buxus sempervirens*, Common Boxwood**

(15'+ high; lower in variants; space accordingly). Broadleaf evergreen long associated with southern gardens. Needs care and protection in New York State. Dwarf boxwood, *B. sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa', is perhaps best known and is valued for its very slow growth, dark green color, and fine texture. Other variants are available, some with increased hardiness potential. Snow breakage and leafminers are frequent problems.

***Cotoneaster salicifolius* var. *floccosus*, Willowleaf Cotoneaster**

(5'+ high; space 4'-6'-5'). Broadleaf evergreen with graceful arching branches. Leaves are glossy green and willowlike; fruits are red and usually abundant. Plants are especially useful for training on walls or stone surfaces.

***Ilex crenata*, Japanese Holly**

(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Broadleaf evergreen, usually dense and compact growing, with glossy green, fine-textured leaves. Fruits are black and of little landscape value. Many variants are available, differing in mature size, branching habits, and winterhardiness. None of the variants perform well upstate without protection from winter wind and sun. Acid soils are preferred.

***Ligustrum ovalifolium*, California Privet**

(10'+ high; space 4'-6' [18"-24" in hedge]-5'). A dense, fast-growing deciduous shrub with upright-branching and glossy green foliage. Useful primarily as a barrier plant. It is useful for tall hedges on Long Island, but is unreliable upstate except for low hedge plantings.

***Pieris japonica*, Japanese Andromeda**

(5'+ high; space 3'-5'-4'). Broadleaf evergreen, dense, with upright to arching branching. Foliage is glossy green. Nodding reddish flower buds are attractive in winter, followed by showy white flowers in mid-April. Best when planted in locations protected from drying winds and winter sun. Several variants with pink to red flowers are available. Special growing conditions required.

***Prunus laurocerasus*, Cherry Laurel**

(10'+ high, 4'-5' high in variants; space 2'-4'-3'). Wide-spreading broadleaf evergreen with thick, glossy, dark green foliage. May require protection from drying winds and winter sun for satisfactory performance even on Long Island. The cultivars 'Otto Luyken' and 'Schipkaensis' are considerably more winter-hardy than the species, which is only suitable for use in milder climates.

***Pyracantha coccinea* 'Lalandei', Laland Fire Thorn**

(10'+ high; space 4'-6'-5'). Broadleaf evergreen. Thorny, dense, and compact with variable branching. Particularly noted for its showy orange red fruit clusters in the fall. Well adapted for training against walls. Subject to fireblight, borers, and scale. May be grown in central New York State if protected from winter wind and sun, but fruiting may be reduced. Many similar kinds are available. Some are sufficiently hardy to be useful in New York State; others are best in milder areas.



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The New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is a statutory college of the State University, at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 1968, 1977, revised 1985.

Produced by Media Services at Cornell University

This publication is issued to further Cooperative Extension work mandated by acts of Congress of May 8 and June 30, 1914. It was produced with the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, New York State College of Human Ecology, and New York State College of Veterinary Medicine, at Cornell University. Cornell Cooperative Extension offers equal program and employment opportunities.