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SHRUBS FOR YOUR HOME

Shrubs for the Home Landscape

For color, texture, privacy and bordering, the shrub is the very basis of a landscape. It defines the garden bed, softens the angles of a home and builds richness in a blank yard. At Oakland, you'll find a wide array of varieties, sizes, colors and pricing for shrubbery. Below are some helpful lists to sort out the issues that arise when trying to decide. Remember, our expert nursery people are always here to help.

Some Helpful Lists

- Vines in the Landscape
- Shrubs for Shade
- Small Border and Foundation Shrubs
- Shrubs for Privacy and Hedges
- Shrubs for Tough Spots
- Narrow Shrubs
- Deer. Yea, We Know
- Evergreen Shrubs
- Planting for Wildlife
- Ohio Native Shrubs

Frequently Asked Questions

Acid Loving Shrubs and Their Special Needs

Soil Testing and Amending

Planting, Watering and Care

Pruning and Over-wintering

Pollination

Invasive Species

Nursery "Lingo"

[* Learn More *](#)



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Vines in the Landscape

Vines occupy a unique place in the landscape. They can creep along the ground or climb a trellis or brick wall. They work well in defining a blank wall or can turn an ordinary arbor into a lush tunnel. The bright blooms of Clematis vine will liven any sunny spot. Be aware of vines unique characteristics and sometimes overly vigorous tendencies. Research your choice before purchasing.

Porcelain Berry: Great fall show of berries. Vigorous.

Trumpet Creeper: Late summer trumpet blooms. Attracts hummingbirds. Very vigorous.

Dutchman's Pipe: Great for shading porches. Will take some shade. Fast grower.

English Ivy: Ground cover or wall climber. Tolerates shade. Evergreen most years.

Bittersweet: Showy orange-red fruit. Good for decorating. Purchase male and female plants.

Clematis: Showy summer blooms. Needs support. Many varieties.

Hydrangea Vine: White blooms. Slow to establish, but worth the wait. Takes shade.

Boston Ivy: Vigorous climber. Nice fall color. Tough.

Silverlace Vine: Fragrant white blooms. Vigorous.

Wisteria: Colorful Drupes of blooms, some fragrant. Very Vigorous.

Vining Honeysuckle: Goldflame is a common variety. Fragrant and vigorous.

Shrubs that Tolerate Shade

One of the most common problems we hear of in the landscape. Areas that are in shade or used to be sunny and now because of mature plantings, get a lot of shade. Below is a list of plants that will grow well in areas with 4 hours of sun or less. Those with a * will grow in deep shade, although possibly in a more open habit. Because plants growing in a shady area are often less vigorous, they tolerate difficult soil conditions less. Incorporate lots of organic matter when planting, and maintain even moisture.

Serviceberry*

Devils Walking Stick

Coralberry

Summersweet*

Black Haw Viburnum

Tatarian Dogwood

Boxwood

Cornelian Cherry

Rhododendron*

Leucothoe*

Witchazel spp.

*Mountain Laurel

Kerria

Yew

Black Jet Bead

Stephandra

Chokeberry

Mohawk Viburnum

Buttonbush

Alleghany Viburnum

Silky Dogwood

Azalea

Contorted Filbert (Henry Lauder's Walking Stick)

Fothergilla spp.

Daphne

Sweetpire

Siberian Cypress

Arborvitae

Bottlebrush Buckeye

Burkwood Viburnum

Gray Dogwood

Leatherleaf Viburnum*

Pagoda Dogwood

Pieris

American Filbert*

Sullivan Cypress

Oakleaf Hydrangea

Mahonia*

Spice Bush*

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Compact Shrubs for Borders and Foundations

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These shrubs are ideal for the beds in front of the home, along walkways, amidst perennials, and in the forefront of beds backed with larger shrubs. They won't grow 10 feet tall and eat your yard. Their presence is smaller (maximum size up to 4 feet), and look great when planted in groupings. We've included the varieties most commonly carried by our garden centers.

EVERGREEN

Boxwood– Green Gem, Green Velvet
Azalea-many varieties
Holly– China Girl, Boy; Blue Prince, Princess
Inkberry
Japanese Holly
Dwarf Hinoki Falsecypress
Juniper– Blue Star, Grey Owl, Lime Glow
Dwarf Blue Spruce-Montgomery, Globe
Mahonia
Bird Nest Spruce
Dwarf Norway Spruce
Mugo Pine
Dwarf White Pine
Dwarf Scotch Pine
Rhododendron– PJM, Cunningham White
Yew- Rependans, Densifomis, Everlow, Fairview, Wardii
Arborvitae– Hetz Midget, Rheingold, Globe, Tom Thumb

DECIDUOUS

Abelia– Edward Goucher
Barberry– Crimson Pigmy, Bagatelle, Concord, Royal Burgundy
Qunice– Texas Scarlet
Summersweet– Hummingbird, Sixteen Candles
Deutzia– Slender, Chardonnay Pearls
Pearlbush
Forsythia– Arnolds Dwarf, Bronx
Hydrangea– many varieties with small mature size
Sweetspire-Henry's Garnet, Little Henry
Mock Orange– Miniature Snowflake
Cinquefoil sp.
Alpine Currant
Spirea– Anthony Waterer, Gold Mound, Magic Carpet, Little Princess, Snowmound
Lilac– Dwarf Korean, Sugar Plum Fairy
Weigela– many varieties
Viburnum– Summer Snowflake, Bailey Compact Cranberry, Cardinal Candy Linden, Cayuga Fragrant

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Shrubs for Privacy and Hedging

The shrubs listed below are excellent for making a natural or manicured hedge and also for screening. The plants with a * are particularly good for pruning into a formal hedge. As for privacy the evergreen shrubs are of course better for screening unwanted sights than the deciduous shrubs, though many will grow thick enough to be good screens even in winter. General species names are listed. There may be several varieties available in each species that grow quite differently, so narrow your choice to a few and then consult with Oakland's gardening expert to fine tune your choice.

EVERGREEN

Boxwood*	Sullivan Falsecypress	Upright Juniper Yew*
Manhattan Euonymous	Inkberry	Holly
Magnolia	Hardy Bamboo Arborvitae	Leatherleaf Viburnum

DECIDUOUS

Hedge Maple	Amur Maple	Chokeberry
Barberry*	Forsythia	Witchazel
Winterberry	Lilac	Bayberry
Pussywillow	Viburnum sp.	Hibiscus
Seven Son Flower	Kerria	Pyracantha
Alpine Currant*	Hedge Cotoneaster	Weigela

Shrubs For Tough Spots

The following shrubs are most likely to grow or at least give it a go when others die. Remember, give them a fighting chance and dig a big hole, incorporate a lot of organic matter and try to keep watered till established.

Chokeberry	Deutzia	Barberry
Burning Bush	Butterfly Bush	Smokebush
Juniper	Privet	Mugo Pine
Wax Myrtle	Mock Orange	Alpine Currant
Viburnum	Lilac	Pussywillow
Redtwig Dogwood	Forsythia	Hibiscus



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Narrow Shrubs

The following shrubs tend to grow narrow and upright, ideal for a plant to soften a building corner, guard either side of a front entrance, bring interest to a blank wall or forming a green fence for border or privacy. The most appropriate variety of each species are also listed.

Upright Juniper: Hetz, Spartan, Skyrocket, Moonglow, Irish, Moffet Blue, Blue Arrow, Blue Point, Montbatton, Hooks, Iowa, Chinese.

Holly: Dragon Lady, Centennial Girl, Sky Pencil.

Boxwood: Green Mountain, Graham Blandy, Green Tower.

Arborvitae: Emerald Green, Holmstrup, DeGroot Spire, Yellow Ribbon, Dark Green.

Yew: Hicks, Citation, Pyramidal.

Chokeberry: Red or Black

Buckthorn: Columnar, Finline

Lilac: Tinkerbell

Cornelian Cherry Dogwood

False Cypress: Hinoki Gracillis, Sullivan, Hinoki Jade.

European Hornbeam

Shrubs Less Desirable to Deer

Yea, We Know. They are voracious, and their antlers can destroy a plant in a minute. It is frustrating, but if you're in an area with high deer pressure, borrow a page from their book; Adapt. Protect your high value plants by exclusion and with repellants. Get to know the plants that deer do not eat. In general, plants that are aromatic or prickly are less attractive to deer. Below is a list of plant less desirable to deer. Good Luck.

Black or Red Chokeberry

Blue Mist Spirea

Dogwood

Forsythia

St. Johnswort

Kerria

Sprucebush

Oregon Grape Holly

Pieris

Potentilla

Some Spirea sp.

Barberry

Quince

Smokebush

Witchazel

Holly

Beautybush

Honeysuckle (invasive)

Wax Myrtle

Bird Nest Spruce

Pyracantha

Some Viburnum

Boxwood

Summersweet

Contoneaster

Some Hydrangea sp.

Juniper—most

Leucothoe

Magnolia sp.

Mock Orange

Mugo Pine

Pussy Willow

Weigela

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EVERGREEN SHRUBS

The use of evergreen trees and shrubs in the landscape is a basic design element that adds year-round presence and texture in the landscape. In addition to pleasing green relief to our drab winters, evergreens anchor the landscape with fountain shrubs and borders, and soften the hard edges of the home and property line. The deep greens of evergreen shrubs make for a pleasing background to colorful floral displays and provide excellent formal hedges..

There are two types of evergreens. Shrubs with needle or scale like leaves and broadleaf evergreens. Within these two classes are an infinite number of varieties of growth habits , sizes, and foliage characteristics.

A few notes on growing evergreens. With very few exceptions evergreens appreciate a well drained soil, high in organic matter but with even moisture. Many, like hollies, rhododendrons, azaleas, and pieris, require acidic soil pH to thrive. The good thing about many evergreens is that many species will tolerate a good amount of shade. There are a number of excellent sources of additional information listed at the end of this article.

EVERGREENS WITH NEEDLES OR SCALELIKE FOLIAGE

Spruce – There are many varieties of low-growing (birdnest) spruces, green and blue needled, dwarf upright and weeping. Come on out to Oakland and see the all the varieties.

Pine – Same as Spruce, many low mounding types in White Pine, Scotch Pine, Japanese Pines, Mugo Pines. Also many dwarfs, uprights, and weeping types.

Falsecypress – A large group of plants including low mounding types like Sawara, Gold Mops, a large group of plants in the Hinoki species, and many upright specimens such as Sullivan cypress, Blue Alaskan Cedar, and Weeping Alaskan Cedar.

Juniper – Where do you start with Junipers. A standard in the sunny landscape, there is a shape, size, and color to fit about any spot. Note the word “Sunny”.

Arborvitae– A softer and greener version of juniper, likes more water because of the shallower root system and will tolerate more shade. Excellent for privacy hedges, foundation plants, and accents. A few varieties will achieve large size.

Yew – The standard foundation plant, probably the original landscape plant. But consistent deep green color, a variety of sizes to choose from, and tolerant of either sun or deep shade.

Siberian Cypress – A single species of creeping juniper like foliage, but thrives in shade and dry conditions. Dislikes excess wetness, and harsh sunny spots.

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Heather – A creeping evergreen groundcover type plant with pretty pink or white bloom mossy type ground cover which likes cool spots.

Hemlock – Besides the huge evergreen tree we are all familiar with, there a number of fantastic dwarf specimen species, useful in the conifer garden or a shady bed.

Yucca – At home in the desert, this interesting species delights with a spike of white blossoms in summer and pleasing mound of spike type leaves yearlong. A number of new varieties with variegated leaves.

BROADLEAVED EVERGREENS

Boxwood – Makes a excellent great hedge or foundation plant. Many varieties.

Inkberry – like Boxwood but more vigorous, better as a round shrub.

Holly – Shrub to tree size, unique leaf and red berry, need male and female plant for berries. Needs a shelter from winter cold, acid conditions.

Japanese Holly – lower growing and tolerates shade. Small dark green leaf.

Mahonia – excels in shade and well drained soil, but not so picky. Nice yellow bloom in early spring, holly-like leaf, bluish berry.

Azalea – Great colorful blooms, leaves semi evergreen to deciduous. A classic in sun dappled gardens.

Rhododendron – Large leaved evergreen with showy blooms in late spring. Many varieties. Needs well drained organic soil and even moisture. Mixes naturally with azaleas.

Leucothoe – Lance shaped leaves green or variegated with white bloom in spring. Red in Fall. Needs shade and good soil.

Pieris – Also known as Japanese Andromeda. Beautiful evergreen with white droops of bell-shaped flowers in spring. Every variety is uniquely interesting.

Mountain Laurel – Hardy shrub with great bloom in late spring. Treat like Azalea.

Daphne – Rounded shrub with small leaves and fragrant blooms. Needs well drained organic, acid, soil in part shade.

Japanese Laurel – Otto Luken is the hardiest variety for our area, and only then marginally hardy. Treat like other broadleaves.



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Native shrubs of Ohio and Their Use in the Landscape

Using native plants is a great way to enhance the natural environment of your property. Native shrubs contribute to the health of our living world by providing habitat for the insects, birds, animals and other organisms. Every house built, every driveway paved and every plain lawn mowed again and again takes something away from our natural world. Planting natives back in your yard can ‘pay back’ habitat lost by making it a richer place for wildlife to feed, hide, bed, or roost.

The plants listed below all occur naturally in some or all areas of Ohio, and provide food, cover or nesting for insects or animals. Just putting them in your yard is a plus. However, using shrubs effectively will multiply the opportunities to attract a wide variety of creatures.

The massing of several of each kind of plant helps with a plants fruit production by increasing flower pollination and increasing the density of the planting. Also, “layering” of vegetation provides a successive layers of branching and foliage from the ground up increasing the density of foliage and more hiding areas. A mixture of deciduous, and evergreen shrubs of various mature heights, trees, and perennials will provide yearlong landscape interest and valuable habitat to an amazing array of creatures. Don’t forget to work in a small pond or bird bath into the plan. There are many publications and websites out there to help you refine your planning and provide more in-depth information.

Shrubs and Small Trees Native to Ohio (T) = Tree, (S) = Shrub spp. = many species

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mountain Maple (T) | Downy Serviceberry (T,S) | Paw Paw (T) |
| Alleghany Serviceberry (T,S) | Redbud (T) | Fringe Tree (T,S) |
| Pagoda Dogwood (T) | Roughleaf Dogwood (T) | Flowering Dogwood (T) |
| Hawthorn spp. (T,S) | Witchazel (S) | Umbrella Magnolia (T) |
| American Crabapple (T) | Sumac spp. (S) | Pussywillow (S) |
| Common Elderberry (S) | Viburnum spp. | Spicebush (S) |
| Common Chokeberry (S) | Carolina Allspice (S) | |

Evergreens

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Eastern Red Cedar (S) | Common Juniper (S) | White Pine (T) |
| Eastern Hemlock (T) | | |

Vines

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Virginia Creeper (V) | Trumpet Creeper (V) | Trumpet Honeysuckle (V) |
| Creeping Wintergreen (V) | | |