



Department of
Horticultural Science

SHRUBS 4 TO 8 FEET HIGH FOR NORTH CAROLINA LANDSCAPES

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Shrubs in this category are useful in landscape situations as hedges, small screens, accent plants, large mass plantings, and large foundation shrubs. These plants can be pruned periodically and maintained at a reasonable size.

Mid-size hedges would utilize shrubs such as Abelia, Barberry, Inkberry and Yew. Informal screens could use the Hollies, Aucuba (in shade), Hibiscus or Rhododendrons. Pampas grass, Pieris, Viburnum

and Mahonia could be strong accent plants because of their individual form, texture and plume or berry features. Mass plantings are easily accomplished by using the flowering shrubs, Kalmia, Azaleas, Weigila and Rhododendron.

The plants listed below vary quite drastically in their individual characteristics, but the one common denominator is that they can all be kept in a size range of 4 to 8 feet in height or smaller.

| Botanical Name and COMMON NAME | Hardiness | | Growth Rate | Exposure | Texture | Form | Height | | Landscape Remarks |
|--|-----------|-------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|-------------------|
| | Zone | Group | | | | | Spread | | |
| Abelia grandiflora GLOSSY ABELIA | 6,7,8 | E | moderate | sun or shade | medium to fine | semi- global | 4-6' 3-5' | Tolerant of adverse conditions, good low hedge plant | |
| Aucuba japonica AUCUBA JAPONICA | 7,8 | E | moderate | shade | coarse | irregular upright | 4-5' 3-4' | 'Variegata' is a favorite for shaded areas | |
| Berberis julianae WINTERGREEN BARBERRY | 6,7,8 | E | slow | sun | fine to medium | rounded/ oval | 5-6' 3-5' | Thorns, glossy green foliage, hardiest of evergreen barberries | |
| Buxus sempervirens AMERICAN BOXWOOD | 6,7,8 | E | moderate | part shade shade | fine | global | 5-8' 6-8' | Used in formal designs - requires pruning to keep in bounds | |
| Cortaderia selloana PAMPAS GRASS | 7,8 | E | rapid | sun | fine | open grass-like | 6-8' 6-8' | Valued for fall plumes. Should be pruned in spring | |
| Euonymus kiautschovicus SPREADING EUONYMUS | 6,7,8 | E | rapid | sun or shade | medium to coarse | open broad spread | 5-8' 4-8' | Do not use near patios - Not as susceptible to scale as other E. species | |
| Fatsia japonica JAPANESE FATZIA | 7,8 | E | rapid | semi-shade shade | coarse | irregular | 4-6' 4-6' | Useful in eastern N.C. as specimen plant | |
| Forsythia intermedia BORDER FORSYTHIA | 6,7,8 | D | rapid | sun | medium | erect with arching branches | 6-8' 6-8' | Valued for early spring flowers, several cultivars available | |
| Gardenia jasminoides CAPE-JASMINE | 8 | E | moderate | sun, part shade | medium | rounded | 4-6' 4-5' | Fragrant white flowers Is not cold hardy | |
| Hibiscus syriacus SHRUB ALTHEA-ROSE OF SHARON | 6,7,8 | D | rapid | sun | medium | upright | 6-8' 7-8' | Showy summer flowers | |
| Ilex cornuta DWARF BURFORD HOLLY | 6,7,8 | E | moderate | sun | coarse | rounded | 4-6' 4-6' | 'Burfordi nana' | |
| Ilex crenata JAPANESE HOLLY | 6,7,8 | E | moderate | sun | medium to coarse | rounded | 4-6' 3-5' | 'Hetzi' 'Rotundifolia' | |
| Ilex glabra INKBERRY | 6,7,8 | E | moderate | sun | medium | rounded | 6-8' 6-8' | Excellent for foundation "naturalistic" planting | |
| Kalmia latifolia MOUNTAIN LAUREL | 6,7 | E | slow | semi- shade | medium | upright | 4-6' 3-5' | Native to many areas of N.C. Good for "naturalizing" | |
| Lonicera nitida BOX HONEYSUCKLE | 6,7,8 | E | moderate | sun- semi-shade | fine | oval rounded | 5-6' 3-4' | Beautiful foliage-Several cultivars have pendulating branches | |
| Mahonia bealei LEATHERLEAF MAHONIA | 6,7,8 | E | moderate | semi-shade | coarse | upright | 6-7' 2-3' | Good when used in contemporary designs | |
| Mahonia pinnata CALIFORNIA HOLLY GRAPE | 6,7,8 | E | slow to moderate | part shade | medium to coarse | upright branches | 4-6' 2-3' | Excellent specimen | |
| Nandina domestica NANDINA | 7,8 | E | moderate to fast | sun semi-shade | medium to fine | upright | 4-6' 2-3' | Produces beautiful clusters of berries in winter | |
| Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Variegatus' VARIGATED FALSE HOLLY | 6,7,8 | E | slow | semi-shade | fine | rounded | 4-6' 4-5' | Good shrub for color contrast | |
| Pieris floribunda MOUNTAIN ANDROMEDA | 6,7 | E | slow | shade | medium | oval habit | 4-6' 3-4' | Very cold hardy Nice specimen plant | |
| Pieris japonica JAPANESE ANDROMEDA | 6,7 | E | slow | shade to part shade | medium | upright, tight habit | 4-6' 4-6' | Several cultivars available | |
| Raphiolepis umbellata YEDDO-HAWTHORN | 7,8 | E | slow | sun | medium to coarse | upright open | 4-6' 5-6' | Rather open appearance-Good for coastal areas of N.C. | |

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| Rhododendron calendulaceum FLAME AZALEA | 6,7 | E | slow | semi-shade | coarse | upright | 4-8' 8-10' | | Excellent for naturalistic setting-Native to western N.C. |
| Rhododendron carolinianum CAROLINA RHODODENDRON | 6,7,8 | E | slow | semi-shade | coarse | rounded | 4-8' 5-8' | | Good for mass planting 'Album'-white flowers |
| Rhododendron catawbiense CATAWBA RHODODENDRON | 6,7,8 | E | slow | semi-shade | medium to coarse | upright branching | 6-8' 4-6' | | Often becomes leggy when grown in unfavorable locations. Many cultivars available. |
| Spirea cantoniensis REEVES SPIREA | 6,7,8 | D | rapid | sun, part shade | medium | upright branches pendulating foliage | 4-6' 3-5' | | Excellent spirea |
| Spirea thunbergii THUNBERG SPIREA | 6,7,8 | D | rapid | sun, part shade | fine | upright branches pendulating foliage | 3-5' 3-4' | | Very graceful in appearance |
| Taxus cuspidata JAPANESE YEW | 6,7 | E | slow | part shade | fine | vase- shaped | 4-6' 5-7' | | Tolerant of urban conditions. Very cold hardy. |
| Viburnum suspensum SANDANKWA VIBURNUM | 8 | E | moderate | sun or shade | coarse | erect with arching limbs | 4-6' 4-6' | | Excellent for coastal mass plantings |
| Viburnum x burkwoodii BURKWOOD VIBURNUM | 6,7,8 | E | slow | sun or semi shade | medium | upright multi-stem | 6-8' 5-6' | | Many cultivars available with fragrant flowers |
| Weigela florida WEIGILA | 6,7,8 | D | moderate | sun | coarse | erect with spreading branches | 6-8' 6-8' | | Good border plant with flowers |
| Yucca gloriosa MOUND-LILY YUCCA or SPANISH DAGGER | 7,8 | E | slow | sun | coarse | erect | 6-8' 6-8' | | Gray-green foliage spine-tipped leaves |