



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	<u>4-8'</u> 8-10'	Excellent for naturalistic setting-Native to western N.C.
Rhododendron carolinianum CAROLINA RHODODENDRON	6,7,8	E	slow	semi-shade	coarse	rounded	<u>4-8'</u> 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	<u>6-8'</u> 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	<u>4-6'</u> 3-5'	Excellent spirea
Spirea thunbergii THUNBERG SPIREA	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun, part shade	fine	upright branches pendulating foliage	<u>3-5'</u> 3-4'	Very graceful in appearance
Taxus cuspidata JAPANESE YEW	6,7	E	slow	part shade	fine	vase- shaped	<u>4-6'</u> 5-7'	Tolerant of urban conditions. Very cold hardy.
Viburnum suspensum SANDANKWA VIBURNUM	8	E	moderate	sun or shade	coarse	erect with arching limbs	<u>4-6'</u> 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	<u>6-8'</u> 5-6	Many cultivars available with fragrant flowers
Weigela florida WEIGILA	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun	coarse	erect with spreading branches	<u>6-8'</u> 6-8'	Good border plant with flowers
Yucca gloriosa MOUND-LILY YUCCA or SPANISH DAGGER	7,8	E	slow	sun	coarse	erect	<u>6-8'</u> 6-8'	Gray-green foliage spine-tipped leaves