

Common Shrubs by Maximum Height and Sun Requirements

John Smigel, 3 June 2021

Shrub options will depend on the amount of sunlight, if you want evergreen or deciduous/flowering, and maximum size. The table below shows some common native and non-native shrubs sorted by maximum height and sun requirements. I tried to include native and smaller shrubs. Dwarf versions of shrubs tend to stay low and require less pruning. Native plants are recommended, but will be limited to what you can find. Flowering shrubs will usually have more flowers with more sun, even if they can tolerate part shade. The table entries have links to summary information.

This was not as useful as I hoped because most of the shrubs fall in the Full Sun to Part Shade group and can grow tall.

Deciduous Flowering

Maximum Height (ft.)	Shade to Part Shade	Full Sun to Part Shade	Full Sun
<=4	Hellebore , Hosta	Astilbe , Coral Bells , Dwarf Fothergilla , Montbretia , Shrubby Cinquefoil , St. John's Wort	Bluebeard , Crape Myrtle , Spirea , Weigela
5 to 7		Forsythia , Sweet Fern , Viburnum	
>7		Glossy Abelia , Bayberry , Carolina Allspice , Dogwood , Hydrangea , Ninebark , Flowering Quince , Serviceberry , Spicebush , Sweet Pepperbush , Winterberry	Honeysuckle , Common Lilac

Evergreen

Maximum Height (ft.)	Part Shade	Full Sun to Part Shade	Full Sun
<=4	Coastal Doghobble	Bearberry , Boxwood , Cliff Green , Winter Heath	Creeping Juniper
5 to 7		Hinoki Cypress	
>7	Flame Azalea , Mountain Laurel	Arborvitae , Inkberry , Japanese Pieris , Rhododendron , White Spruce	

Good General Reference on Native Shrubs:

Taylor, Sally L.; Dreyer, Glenn D.; and Niering, William A., "Bulletin No. 30: Native Shrubs for Landscaping" (1987). *Bulletins*. Paper 29.

<https://digitalcommons.conncoll.edu/arbulletins/29/>

1. Deciduous Flowering Shrubs

Abelia, Glossy



Botanical Name: *Linnaea x grandiflora*

Common Name: Glossy Abelia

Habit and Form: Deciduous rounded, spreading, multi-stemmed shrub

CT Native species: No

Size (at maturity): 2.5-8 ft. tall by 3-6 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: White/flushed pink in May to September

Foliage description: Dark green to 1.25" long turn purplish-bronze in fall

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Well-drained

Features: Tolerates erosion, showy fragrant flowers

Problems and drawbacks: Winter stem damage/die-back if below zero temp.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=j150>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/linnaea-x-grandiflora/>

Astilbe



Botanical Name: *Astilbe 'Federsee'*

Common Name: Astilbe

Habit and Form: Clump-forming herbaceous perennial

CT Native species: No

Size (at maturity): 2.5-3 ft. tall by 1.5-2 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Deep salmon pink in May to June

Foliage description: Graceful, fern-like mounds of compound leaves packed in arching plume-like flower panicles

Light: Part shade to full sun

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers

Problems and drawbacks: Soil must be kept moist, may get powdery mildew or wilt

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=265369&isprofile=0&>

Bayberry



Botanical Name: *Myrica pensylvanica*

Common Name: Bayberry

Habit and Form: Dense-branching and suckering deciduous shrub

CT Native Species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 5-10 ft. tall by 5-10 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Yellowish green in May

Foliage description: Aromatic, narrow, broadly oblanceolate, leathery, glossy, grayish-green, to ¼" long

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Prefers moist, peaty or sandy, acidic soils

Features: Fragrant leaves, attracts birds, tolerates many growing conditions

Problems and drawbacks: Separate male and female plants needed for fruit

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=e310>

Bluebeard



Botanical Name: *Caryopteris* × *clandonensis* 'Longwood Blue'

Common Name: Bluebeard, Blue Spirea, or Blue Mist

Habit and Form: Low-mounded deciduous shrub

CT Native species: No

Size (at maturity): 2-4 ft. tall by 2-4 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Sky-blue in July to September

Foliage description: Ovate to lance-shaped, silvery-gray to 1.5”

Light: Full sun

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Attractive to bees and butterflies, aromatic foliage when brushed, showy & fragrant flowers

Problems and drawbacks: Crowns may rot in wet, poorly-drained soils

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b900>

Carolina Allspice



Botanical Name: *Calycanthus floridus*

Common Name: Carolina Allspice, Sweetshrub, and Strawberry Bush

Habit and Form: Dense, rounded, deciduous shrub

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 6-10 ft. tall by 6-12 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Brown in April to July

Foliage description: Lustrous, dark green, elliptic to 6", golden yellow in fall

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Tolerates deer, wet soil, and clay soil. Fragrant flower

Problems and drawbacks: No serious insect or disease problems. Tends to sucker.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=278791>

Coral Bells



Botanical Name: *Heuchera* 'Cathedral Windows'

Common Name: Coral Bells or Alumroot

Habit and Form: Herbaceous perennial

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 1-2 ft. tall by 1-1.5 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Greenish white in June to July

Foliage description: Showy leaves with a variety of colors.

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy leaves

Problems and drawbacks: Frost heave of roots. Potential powdery mildew, rust, and bacterial leaf spot. Potential weevils and foliar nematodes. Spreads like a weed.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=248524&isprofile=1&basic=heuchera>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/heuchera/>

Crape Myrtle



Botanical Name: *Lagerstroemia* 'Bicolor'

Common Name: Crape Myrtle

Habit and Form: Deciduous shrub

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 2-4 ft. tall by 2-4 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Reddish pink and white in June to September

Foliage description: Dark green

Light: Full sun

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers when in full sun. Tolerates drought, clay soil, pollution.

Problems and drawbacks: Potential fungal leaf spot and powdery mildew.

Foliage may yellow in alkaline soil. Watch for aphids and scale insects. Top winter injury may occur in zones 6 and colder.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=249348&isprofile=1&basic=lagerstroemia>

Dogwood



Botanical Name: *Cornus sericea*

Common Name: Red Twig Dogwood or Red Osier Dogwood

Habit and Form: Upright-spreading, suckering shrub

CT native species: *Cornus sericea*, *C. amomum*, *C. racemosa*

Size (at maturity): 6-9 ft. tall by 8-12 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: White in May to June

Foliage description: Ovate to lanceolate, medium to dark green, 2-5" long

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Organically rich, consistently moist

Features: Reddish stems turn bright red in winter. Attracts birds and butterflies.

Problems and drawbacks: Susceptible to leaf and twig blights, canker and leaf spots. Scale, leaf miners and bagworms are occasional insect pests.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c300>

Forsythia



Botanical Name: *Forsythia* × *intermedia* 'Gold Leaf'

Common Name: Forsythia or Border Forsythia

Habit and Form: Upright arching deciduous hybrid shrub

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 3-5 ft. tall by 3-5 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Yellow in March to April

Foliage description: Ovate to lanceolate, dark to medium green, 3-5" long by 1" wide

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Loose, medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers are best in full sun and are one of earliest to bloom. Deer resistant.

Problems and drawbacks: Some susceptibility to leaf spot, crown gall and dieback. Watch for spider mites, aphids, four-lined plant bug, Japanese weevil and northern root-knot nematode.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=263138&isprofile=1&gen=Forsythia>

<https://extension.umn.edu/trees-and-shrubs/forsythia>

Fothergilla, Dwarf



Botanical Name: *Fothergilla gardenii*

Common Name: Dwarf Fothergilla or Coastal Fothergilla

Habit and Form: Slow-growing, compact rounded ornamental shrub

CT native species: *Fothergilla gardenii*, *Fothergilla monticola*

Size (at maturity): 1.5-3 ft. tall by 2-4 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: White in April to May

Foliage description: Thick, pubescent, oblong to ovate, blue-green to 2.5" long

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, acidic, organically rich, well-drained

Features: Good fall leaf color and Showy, fragrant flowers

Problems and drawbacks: Spreads by root suckers

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a430>

Hellebore or Lenten Rose



Botanical Name: *Helleborus* × *hybridus* (Ballard's Group)

Common Name: Hellebore, Hybrid Lenten Rose, or Hybrid Winter Rose

Habit and Form: Bushy clump-forming herbaceous perennial

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 1-1.5 ft. tall by 1-1.5 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Yellow/pink/red/maroon/blackish purple in February to April

Foliage description: Medium to large dark evergreen leaves divided into glossy elliptic segments.

Light: Part shade to full shade

Soil: Organically rich, alkaline, medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers. Tolerates deer and heavy shade.

Problems and drawbacks: Leaves, stems and roots are poisonous. Occasional crown rot and leaf spot.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=260409&isprofile=1&gen=Helleborus>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderProfileResults.aspx?gen=Helleborus>

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/lenten-rose-helleborus-xhybridus/>

<https://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo/hellebores>

Hosta



Botanical Name: *Hosta*

Common Name: Hosta

Habit and Form: Clump-forming herbaceous perennial

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 1-1.5 ft. tall by 1.5-2 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: White in July

Foliage description: Stalked, veined, dense leaves in a variety of shapes and colors, depending on the variety.

Light: Part shade to full shade

Soil: Evenly moist, organically rich, well-drained

Features: Tolerates heavy shade and black walnut. Attracts hummingbirds.

Problems and drawbacks: Leaf spots, crown rot, Hosta Virus X, tobacco rattle virus or tomato ring virus. Leaves are a favorite of and commonly eaten by deer.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=248606&isprofile=1&gen=Hosta>

Hydrangea



Botanical Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla*

Common Name: Bigleaf Hydrangea

Habit and Form: Rounded habit deciduous shrub

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 6-10 ft. tall by 6-10 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Blue to pinks to white depending on soil acidity in early to mid-summer. Blue in acidic soil and pinks to white in alkaline.

Foliage description: Ovate to elliptic dark green leaves 4-8" long

Light: Part shade to full sun

Soil: Rich, medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Large showy flowers and grows well in shade

Problems and drawbacks: Some susceptibility to bud blight, bacterial wilt, leaf spot, and mildew.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=265518>

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/hydrangea/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/when-prune-hydrangeas-best-bloom>

Honeysuckle (Native)



Botanical Name: *Lonicera sempervirens*

Common Name: Trumpet Honeysuckle

Habit and Form: Vigorous, deciduous, twining vine

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 8-15 ft. tall by 3-6 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Scarlet/orange in May to June

Foliage description: Oval bluish green leaves are glaucous beneath.

Light: Full sun

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers attract birds, hummingbirds, butterflies. Tolerates deer, clay soil, and black walnut.

Problems and drawbacks: Powdery mildew and leaf spots may occur.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=d990>

<https://www.ct-botanical-society.org/Plants/view/345>

<https://www.carleton.edu/arboretum/about/habitats/management/garden/native/dwarf-bush-honeysuckle/>, https://arboretum.wisc.edu/content/uploads/2015/03/PI_Dwarf-Bushhoneysuckle.pdf

Lilac, Common



Botanical Name: *Syringa vulgaris*

Common Name: Common Lilac

Habit and Form: Upright, multi-stemmed, suckering, deciduous shrub

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 12-16 ft. tall by 8-12 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Lilac-purple in May

Foliage description: Glaucous, opposite, pointed-ovate to heart-shaped, dark gray-green to blue-green to $\frac{3}{4}$ " long

Light: Full sun

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy fragrant flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Tolerates deer, rabbits, and clay soil.

Problems and drawbacks: Invasive species

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderProfileResults.aspx?basic=Syringa+vulgaris>

Montbretia



Botanical Name: *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer'

Common Name: Montbretia

Habit and Form: Clump-forming bulb/perennial

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 2-4 ft. tall by 1-2 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Scarlet red in June to August

Foliage description: Narrow sword-shaped basal leaves

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, moderately fertile, well-drained

Features: Showy red flowers

Problems and drawbacks: Watch for spider mites

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=h680>

Ninebark



Botanical Name: *Physocarpus opulifolius*

Common Name: Ninebark

Habit and Form: Upright, spreading, deciduous shrub

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 5-8 ft. tall by 4-6 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: White or pink in May to June

Foliage description: Ovate to rounded, dull green to purple varieties to 4" long

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil:

Features: Showy exfoliating bark, but is hidden by foliage in growing season. Showy flowers.

Problems and drawbacks: Need pruning immediately after bloom and no later than mid-August. Grows quickly. Fireblight, powdery mildew, and leaf spot may occur. Watch for aphids.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=g840>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/physocarpus-opulifolius/>

<https://mortonarb.org/plant-and-protect/trees-and-plants/common-ninebark/>

Quince, Flowering



Botanical Name: *Chaenomeles speciosa*

Common Name: Flowering Quince

Habit and Form: Dense, broad-rounded, deciduous shrub

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 6-10 ft. tall by 6-10 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Scarlet to red in March to April

Foliage description: Finely toothed, oval to oblong, glossy dark green to 3.5" long

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers and edible fruit

Problems and drawbacks: Susceptible to fungal leaf spot. Flower buds can be damaged by early spring frosts.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=286547>

Serviceberry



Botanical Name: *Amelanchier arborea* and *A. canadensis*

Common Name: Serviceberry and Shadbush Serviceberry

Habit and Form: Deciduous large shrub or small tree

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 15-25 ft. tall by 15-25 ft. wide (*arborea*) 25-30 ft. tall by 15-20 ft. wide (*canadensis*)

Flower description & flowering period: White in March to April

Foliage description: Finely toothed, obovate with good fall color

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil:

Features: Showy flowers and edible berries attract birds. Tolerates clay soil and air pollution.

Problems and drawbacks: Rust, leaf spot, fire blight and powdery mildew are occasional problems. Sawfly, leaf miner, borers and scale are occasional insect pests. Root suckers are common and result in shrubby growth if not removed.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=286375>

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=j290>

Shrubby Cinquefoil



Botanical Name: *Potentilla fruticosa*

Common Name: Shrubby Cinquefoil

Habit and Form: Vigorous, many-branched, compact, deciduous shrub

CT native species: *Potentilla fruticosa*, *P. tridentata*

Size (at maturity): 2-4 ft. tall by 3-5 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Yellow in June to September

Foliage description: Compound-pinnate, medium to blue-green with 5 narrow leaflets

Light: Part shade to full sun

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers attract butterflies

Problems and drawbacks: Mildew in humid conditions and fungal leaf spots may occur.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c332>

<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/potentilla-fruticosa>

<https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/trees/handbook/th-3-41.pdf>

Spicebush



Botanical Name: *Lindera benzoin*

Common Name: Spicebush

Habit and Form: Broad, rounded deciduous shrub

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 5-10 ft. tall by 5-10 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Greenish yellow in March

Foliage description: Thick, oblong-obovate, light green to 5" turn yellow in fall

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium to moist, well-drained

Features: Showy/fragrant flowers and fruit attract birds and butterflies

Problems and drawbacks: Female plants need a male pollinator to set fruit.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=d890>

Spiraea, Japanese Magic Carpet



Botanical Name: *Spiraea japonica* 'Walbuma' MAGIC CARPET

Common Name: Japanese Spirea or Japanese Meadowsweet

Habit and Form: Dense, upright, mounded, deciduous shrub

CT native species: *Spiraea latifolia*, *Spiraea tomentosa*

Size (at maturity): 1-2 ft. tall by 2-3 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Bright pink in June to October

Foliage description: Oval and sharply toothed to 3" long

Light: Full sun

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers are attractive to butterflies

Problems and drawbacks: Classified as invasive in some states. Grows fast so may need frequent pruning.

References: Susceptible to rose family problems, including leaf spot, fire blight, powdery mildew, root rot, aphids, leaf roller, and scale.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=270499>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/spiraea-japonica/>

<https://landscapeplants.oregonstate.edu/plants/spiraea-japonica>

St. John's Wort



Botanical Name: *Hypericum calycinum*

Common Name: St. John's Wort

Habit and Form: Stoloniferous shrublet typically used for ground cover

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 1 to 1.5 ft. tall by 1.5-2 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Bright yellow from July to August

Foliage description: Oval to oblong, distinctively net-veined below to 4" are rich green in sun, but lighter in shade.

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained soil

Features: Spreads rapidly by underground stems. Tolerates drought and a wide range of soil, but prefers sandy soil.

Problems and drawbacks: Spreads rapidly by underground stems. Showy flowers in full sun. Reported as invasive in some west coast locations.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=a520>

Sweet Fern



Botanical Name: *Comptonia peregrina*

Common Name: Sweet Fern

Habit and Form: Upright, deciduous shrub

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 2-5 ft. tall by 4-8 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Yellowish green in April to May

Foliage description: Narrow, pinnatifid, deeply notched, olive to dark green to 4” long

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained soil

Features: Fragrant and attractive leaf. Tolerates drought and poor soil. Fixes its own nitrogen.

Problems and drawbacks: Does not transplant well. Can spread rapidly to form colonies when established.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c240>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/comptonia-peregrina/>

Sweet Pepperbush



Botanical Name: *Clethra alnifolia*

Common Name: Sweet Pepperbush

Habit and Form: Rounded, suckering, densely branched, deciduous shrub

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 3-8 ft. tall by 4-6 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: White in July to August

Foliage description: Serrate, obovate to oblong, glossy, dark green to 3-4" long and turn yellow to golden brown in fall

Light: Full sun to part shade (prefers part shade)

Soil: Medium to wet soil

Features: Attracts birds and butterflies. Tolerates heavy shade, erosion, clay soil, and wet soil. Can bloom in relatively shady locations.

Problems and drawbacks: Spreads widely by suckers from the roots. Promptly remove suckers unless a naturalized look is desired.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c230>

Viburnum, Arrowwood



Botanical Name: *Viburnum dentatum* 'Christom' BLUE MUFFIN

Common Name: Arrowwood Viburnum

Habit and Form: Upright, rounded, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 3-5 ft. tall by 3-4 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Non-fragrant white in May to June

Foliage description: Ovate, toothed, glossy, dark green to 4" long

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained (prefers moist loams, but tolerates wide range of soils)

Features: Good fall color. Attracts birds and butterflies. Tolerates clay soil and black walnut.

Problems and drawbacks: Watch for whiteflies

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/gardens-gardening/our-garden/notable-plant-collections/viburnums.aspx>

Weigela



Botanical Name: *Weigela* 'Minuet'

Common Name: Weigela

Habit and Form: Dense, rounded, deciduous shrub

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 2-3 ft. tall by 3-4 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Purplish-red with yellow throat in May to June

Foliage description: Purple-tinged, elliptic to obovate with insignificant fall color

Light: Full sun

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained

Features: Colorful leaf and showy, slightly fragrant flowers. Attracts hummingbirds. Tolerates clay soil.

Problems and drawbacks: Needs full sun for best flowering and foliage color, but tolerates very light shade.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=255793&isprofile=0&>

Winterberry



Botanical Name: *Ilex verticillata*

Common Name: Winterberry

Habit and Form: Slow-growing, deciduous holly shrub with upright-rounded habit

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 3-12 ft. tall by 3-12 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Greenish-white in June to July (insignificant)

Foliage description: Elliptic to obovate, toothed, dark green to 2-3" long

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Acidic, medium to wet, prefers organic loams

Features: Showy berries attract birds and persist throughout the winter. Tolerates erosion, clay soil, wet soil, and air pollution.

Problems and drawbacks: One male required to pollinate 6-10 female plants

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=d440>

2. Evergreen Shrubs

American Arborvitae



Botanical Name: *Thuja occidentalis*

Common Name: American Arborvitae

Habit and Form: Dense, conical to narrow-pyramidal, needled evergreen tree

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 20-30 ft. tall by 10-15 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Non-flowering

Foliage description: Scale-like, aromatic, yellow-green to green in flattened sprays

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained. Prefers moist, neutral to alkaline soil.

Features: Winter interest and exfoliating red-brown bark

Problems and drawbacks: Intolerant of dry conditions. Leaf blight, canker, leaf miner, bagworms, mealybug, scales, and spider mites may be problems. Winter burn and stem damage/breakage from snow and ice.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderListResults.aspx?basic=thuja>

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=279599&isprofile=0&basic=thuja>

Azalea



Botanical Name: *Rhododendron calendulaceum*

Common Name: Flame Azalea

Habit and Form: Upright, loosely branched, deciduous shrub

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 4-8 ft. tall by 8-10 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Yellow to orange to red in May to June

Foliage description: Medium green, elliptic to obovate, 1-3” long with yellow-red fall color

Light: Part shade

Soil: Acidic, light, sandy, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers, attracts butterflies. Tolerates rabbits.

Problems and drawbacks: Foliage may scorch in full sun unless soil is kept moist. Canker, crown rot, root rot, leaf spot, rust, powdery mildew, aphids, borers, lacebugs, leafhoppers, mealybugs, mites, nematodes, scale, thrips and whitefly

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/Portals/0/Gardening/Gardening%20Help/Factsheets/Rhododendrons%20and%20Azaleas38.pdf>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=279977>

Bearberry



Botanical Name: *Cotoneaster dammeri* 'Coral Beauty'

Common Name: Bearberry or Bearberry Cotoneaster

Habit and Form: Dense, fast-growing, prostrate, broadleaf evergreen

CT native species: *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*

Size (at maturity): 0.75-1.0 ft. tall by 4-6 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: White with purple anthers in May to June

Foliage description: Alternate, leathery, elliptic to oblong, mostly evergreen to 1 1/4" long and 5/8" wide, glossy deep green above and gray-green below. Leaves turn redish-bronze to purple in winter.

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, loamy, sharply-drained

Features: Winter interest. Attracts butterflies. Tolerates drought and erosion.

Problems and drawbacks: Spreads and becomes ragged without pruning. Susceptible to fireblight, leaf spots, and canker. Watch for aphids, cotoneaster webworm, and lacebugs. Dense foliage can be difficult to maintain.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=244024>

Boxwood



Botanical Name: *Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta'

Common Name: Littleleaf Boxwood

Habit and Form: Slow-growing, densely-branched, broadleaf evergreen

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 0.5-1 ft. tall by 0.5-1 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Greenish-white in April to May

Foliage description:

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained loam (sand-clay mixture). Prefers slightly acidic to slightly alkaline soil.

Features: Winter interest. Slow-growing. Tolerates rabbits and deer.

Problems and drawbacks: Boxwoods are susceptible to many insects and diseases including boxwood leaf miner, boxwood psyllid, boxwood mite, foliage and twig blights, and Phytophthora root rot.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b504>

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/boxwood/>

Cliff Green



Botanical Name: *Paxistima canbyi*

Common Name: Cliff Green

Habit and Form: Dense, dwarf, broadleaf evergreen shrub

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 0.5-1 ft. tall by 3-5 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Small green in May

Foliage description: Simple, opposite, short-petioled, leathery, lustrous, dark green

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Organically rich, well-drained

Features: Evergreen for winter interest. Tolerates deer and erosion.

Problems and drawbacks: Susceptible to fungal leaf spot and root rot

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=279125&isprofile=0&>

Coastal Doghobble



Botanical Name: *Leucothoe axillaris*

Common Name: Coastal Doghobble or Coastal Leucothoe

Habit and Form: Low-growing broadleaf evergreen with vase-like shape

CT native species: *Leucothoe axillaris*, *Leucothoe fontanesiana*

Size (at maturity): 2-4 ft. tall by 3-5 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Slightly fragrant, white in May

Foliage description: Thick, shiny, dark green

Light: Part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained, prefers acidic, organic

Features: Showy, fragrant flowers and evergreen leaves

Problems and drawbacks: **Warning:** Highly flammable and highly toxic (both leaves and flowers). Do not plant near your home. Does not tolerate drought or windy conditions. Root rot and leaf spot are occasional problems.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=q850>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/leucothoe-axillaris/>

Cypress, Dwarf Spreading Hinoki



Botanical Name: *Chamaecyparis obtusa* 'Nana Gracilis'

Common Name: Hinoki Cypress or Hinoki Falsecypress

Habit and Form: Needled evergreen conifer with pyramidal shape

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 3-6 ft. tall by 2-4 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Non-flowering

Foliage description: Dark green, scale-like in two sizes have white marking beneath

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained. Prefers moist, fertile soils.

Features: Compact and dwarf cultivars are popular for winter interest.

Problems and drawbacks: Non-dwarf grows 50-75 ft. tall. Some susceptibility to juniper blight, root rot, and bagworms.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=250059>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/chamaecyparis-obtusa/>

Inkberry



Botanical Name: *Ilex glabra*

Common Name: Inkberry

Habit and Form: Slow-growing upright-rounded, broadleaf evergreen in the holly family

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 5-8 ft. tall by 5-8 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Greenish white in May to June

Foliage description: Spineless, flat, ovate to elliptic, glossy, dark green to 1.5” long have smooth margins

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium to wet, prefers rich, consistently moist, acidic soil

Features: Attracts birds. Evergreen for winter interest. Tolerates rabbits, deer, erosion, wet soil, and air pollution

Problems and drawbacks: Female plants need a male pollinator to produce berry-like drupes. Produces root suckers. Leaf spot is occasional problem. Susceptible to chlorosis (leaf yellowing) in alkaline soils.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=d553>

Japanese Pieris



Botanical Name: *Pieris japonica* or *Andromeda japonica*

Common Name: Japanese Pieris or Japanese Andromeda

Habit and Form: Dense, upright broadleaf evergreen

CT native species: *Pieris floribunda*

Size (at maturity): 9-12 ft. tall by 6-8 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Drooping clusters of lily-of-the-valley-like white, pink or deep rose flowers in April

Foliage description: Serrulate, oblanceolate to obovate-oblong to 3.5" long mature to glossy dark green

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Medium moisture, organically rich, slightly acidic, well-drained

Features: Showy flowers, evergreen winter interest. Tolerates deer and heavy shade

Problems and drawbacks: Needs much pruning to keep small

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=e680>

Juniper, Creeping



Botanical Name: *Juniperus horizontalis* 'Wiltonii'

Common Name: Creeping Juniper

Habit and Form: Evergreen shrub

CT native species: *Juniperus communis*, *J. horizontalis*

Size (at maturity): 0.25-0.5 ft. tall by 6-8 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Non-flowering

Foliage description: Scale-like (adult) with some awl/needle-like (juvenile) needles, usually in opposite pairs. Typically green to blue-green.

Light: Full sun

Soil: Medium moisture, well-drained. Prefers relatively dry, sandy soil.

Features: Winter interest and low height. Tolerates deer, drought/dry soil, erosion, air pollution.

Problems and drawbacks: Root rot in poorly drained soils, blights and occasional insect pests.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=249878>

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/juniper-groundcovers/>

Mountain Laurel



Botanical Name: *Kalmia latifolia*

Common Name: Mountain Laurel

Habit and Form: Gnarled, multi-stemmed, broadleaf evergreen shrub or small tree

CT native species: Yes

Size (at maturity): 5-15 ft. tall by 5-15 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Rose to white with purple in May

Foliage description: Dark green above and yellow green below, elliptic, alternate, leathery, glossy, evergreen to 5" long

Light: Part shade, but tolerates full sun to full shade

Soil: Cool, moist, rich, acidic, well-drained

Features: State flower of CT, tolerates rabbits and deer, and tolerates wide range of light conditions

Problems and drawbacks: Susceptible to leaf spots and blights, particularly when in less sun. Also susceptible to borers, scale, white fly and lace bugs. All parts of plant are toxic if ingested.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=279967>

Rhododendron



Botanical Name: *Rhododendron catawbiense*

Common Name: Catawba Rhododendron

Habit and Form: Large, rounded, spreading, multi-stemmed, broadleaf evergreen shrub

CT native species: *Rhododendron maximum* (Rosebay), *R. carolinianum* (Carolina), and *R. catawbiense* (Catawba)

Size (at maturity): 6-10 ft. tall by 8-12 ft. wide (Catawba)

Flower description & flowering period: Lavender-pink in April to June

Foliage description: Alternate, elliptic to oblong, glossy, dark green to 3-6" long

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Acidic, organically rich, and evenly moist

Features: Showy flowers and winter interest

Problems and drawbacks: Canker, crown rot, root rot, leaf spot, rust, powdery mildew, aphids, borers, lacebugs, leafhoppers, mealybugs, scale, thrips, and whiteflies may be problems for unhealthy plants. All parts of plant are highly toxic if ingested.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=279982>

Spruce, White



Botanical Name: *Picea glauca* JEAN'S DILLY

Common Name: White Spruce

Habit and Form: Evergreen conifer

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 2-5 ft. tall by 1-2.5 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Non-flowering

Foliage description: Blue-green needles to $\frac{3}{4}$ " on small woody pegs have sharp tips and white, waxy coating

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Moist, well-drained

Features: Winter interest, showy fruit

Problems and drawbacks: Note only dwarf versions are small. Does not tolerate heat greater than zone 6. Susceptible to needle and stem rust, trunk and root rot. Does not tolerate pollution and salt spray. Mites and other spruce pests (yellow-headed spruce sawfly, spruce budworm, and eastern spruce beetle) are sometimes problems.

References:

<https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=260512&isprofile=0&>

Winter Heath



Botanical Name: *Erica carnea* 'Springwood Pink'

Common Name: Winter Heath or Heath

Habit and Form: Low-growing broadleaf evergreen

CT native species: No

Size (at maturity): 0.5-1 ft. tall by 0.5-1.5 ft. wide

Flower description & flowering period: Pink in January to March

Foliage description: Needle-like medium green leaves to ¼" long in whorls of 4

Light: Full sun to part shade

Soil: Sandy, acidic, medium moisture, well-drained loams enriched with peat

Features: Showy flowers and can form a dense ground cover

Problems and drawbacks: No fall color. Root rot may occur in poorly drained soils. Powdery mildew, rust, and wilt are possible.

References:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=263252>

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/erica-carnea/>

Template for Summary Information

Botanical Name:

Common Name:

Habit and Form:

CT Native species:

Size (at maturity):

Flower description & flowering period:

Foliage description:

Light:

Soil:

Features:

Problems and drawbacks:

References: