

# Shrubs



## Prince Edward County

## Advice Sheet

### Shrubs for your Garden

We consider shrubs to be little trees with multiple woody stems or trunks. Usually they send up new stems each year when in flower or shortly after. They are chosen as a feature or as a background for other plants. What they have in common is that the stems and branches should survive all year. They may drop their leaves or not but in the spring new ones will emerge.

We grow them for colour and form. A Virginia Creeper (Boston Ivy) will climb a wall without taking up too much soil space or can be used as a ground cover under a forest of trees. Its colour is glossy green in summer and carmine red in the autumn. A Boxwood is a low-growing, shiny evergreen that can be pruned as a low

hedge or used near the front of a mixed border. Witch Hazel has pendant yellow flowers and fascinating curly stems and branches for winter interest. With so many cultivars to choose look around to see what neighbours grow and consult with a local nursery. Pick carefully since the plant will be with you for a long time.

Speaking of time, that is what you buy from the supplier-Time, Talent. Toil. The shrubs can grow from a seed or a stick shoved into the ground. However, it may take 5 or 10 years to become what you want. In the meantime it has been watered, pruned, washed. What price love?

The blooming period for most shrubs is 1 week to 4 weeks. A landscape nursery will help you

select plants to bloom in succession. There will always be something to admire and something to look forward to. Take measurements of the space. Your stride is sufficient. Use your car to count-measure car, count steps, write it down. Now how big is the garden space? Write it down. Every plant tag has a height and width on it. Believe it. Plant beyond the drip line of the eave of your roof. Plant beyond any building the eventual width of your shrub.

Remember these wonders of the plant world are supplying the oxygen you breathe. The cost is soon forgotten. The enjoyment is endless.

## **Shrubs**

### **Shrubs by Bloom Period**

**Spring:** Bearberry, Fruit trees, Dogwood, Forsythia, Goldenchain, Grapeholly, Kerria, Lilac, Magnolia, Mockorange, Peashrub, Pieris, Quince, Redbid, Rododendron, Serviceberry, Viburnum, Witchhazel

**Summer:** Blueberry, Butterfly Bush, Clematis, Cotoneaster, Deutzia, Honeysuckle, Hydrangea, Portentilla, Rose of Sharon, Serviceberry, Smokebush, Spirea, Trumpetvine, Weigelia, Wisteria, Yucca.

**Autumn:** Butterfly Bush, Euonymus, Fruit trees, Hydrangea, Portentilla, Rose of Sharon.

#### **WINTER INTEREST:**

Euonymus, Curly Witchhazel, All Evergreens, Hydrangea, Dogwood, Sand Cherry

There are many others in all seasons. See what the local nurseries have in stock.

For more gardening advice contact us at: [pecmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:pecmastergardeners@gmail.com)  
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