

GREEN SPRING GARDENS 4603 GREEN SPRING RD • ALEXANDRIA • VA 22312 *PHONE:* 703-642-5173 • *TTY*: 703-803-3354 WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV/PARKS/GREENSPRING

NON-NATIVE SHRUBS FOR THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Non-native shrubs are treasured additions to gardens due to their beauty throughout the seasons and year-round structure. To maximize landscape interest, use both deciduous and evergreen shrubs in your landscape. Because the leaves of deciduous shrubs die and fall off in the autumn, they have changing interest throughout the year - they are valued for their colorful flowers, fruits, foliage, and twigs, and for their varied shapes and textures. Evergreen shrubs are valued for their relatively constant foliage year-round, as well as other attractive features such as showy flowers and fruit.

The following are useful definitions:

- Cultivar (cv.) a cultivated variety designated by single quotes, such as 'Venus'. A **variety** (var.) or **subspecies** (subsp.), in contrast, is found in nature and is a subdivision of a species.
- Full Shade the amount of light under a dense deciduous tree canopy or beneath evergreens.
- Full Sun 6 hours or more of sun daily.
- Part Shade the amount of light in an area shaded part of the day, among deciduous trees with high branches, among deciduous trees with foliage that is not heavy, or among thinned deciduous woods.

The following is a list of non-native, medium-sized and small shrubs that perform well in the Washington, D.C. area. Deciduous shrubs are listed first, then evergreen shrubs. Recommended cultivars are noted. Most of these shrubs prefer a moist, well-drained site. Light requirements and other cultural requirements or tolerances are noted in the comments column. Recommended cultivars are noted, including Gold Medal Award winners [Gold Medal Plant Awards are given annually by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to underused woody plants that perform especially well in gardens from New York City to Washington, D.C.].

When selecting non-native shrubs, purchase only non-invasive species.

Invasive non-native shrubs that are still sold in the nursery trade are listed in a section near the end of this information sheet.

NON-INATIVE MEDIUM-SIZED DECIDUOUS SHRUBS (5-12 FEET TALL)		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
Calycanthus chinensis	Chinese Sweetshrub	Light shade to part shade
Hybrids between the above & the Virginia native <i>C. floridus</i> : 'Richard Hartledge' & 'Venus'	Hybrid Sweetshrub	These cultivars have larger flowers than the parents. Not fragrant like the native <i>C. floridus</i> flowers can be.

NON-NATIVE MEDIUM-SIZED DECIDUOUS SHRUBS (5-12 FEET TALL)

Chaenomeles cultivars	Flowering Quince	Full sun to light shade; tolerant of
(C. speciosa & hybrids)		dry sites. Single & double flowered cultivars available.
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> 'Midwinter Fire' [Gold Medal Award] 'Winter Beauty' may be the same plant) – grown for colorful stems in the winter	Midwinter Fire Dogwood	Full sun to light shade; tolerant of wet soils. To ensure colorful winter stems - renewal prune yearly for best winter stem color (no more than 1/3 of the stems removed in a given year – prune out oldest stems)
Corylopsis pauciflora (the shortest species – 4 to 6 ft. tall) C. sinensis (var. calvescens)	Winterhazel	Light shade to part shade in moist sites best. Hard to find cultivars – need to buy when first come into nurseries or mail order early.
C. spicata & golden leaved forms		
'Winterthur' (<i>C. spicata</i> x <i>C. pauciflora;</i> hard to purchase)		
<i>C. glabrescens</i> (forma <i>gotoana</i> or var. <i>gotona</i>) - slightly less showy in the Concentric & Vista Gardens. 'Longwood Chimes' is a cultivar – hard to purchase		
 Hydrangea paniculata & cultivars. Many cultivars are now available & some are shorter than others. 'Tardiva' is an old favorite. Some newer cultivars have pink in the flowers. 'Limelight' [Gold Medal Award; very floriferous & double white flowers that transition to chartreuse lime then rose] 	Panicle Hydrangea	 Full sun to part shade in moist sites. Blooms on new wood so can be pruned in the spring. The largest selections can grow to be large shrubs – this makes them higher maintenance plants in drier sites during dry periods.
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> & hybrids: medium-sized cultivars such as Pink Velour ('Whit III')	Crape Myrtle (Medium-Sized Cultivars)	Full sun; tolerant of dry sites. Best in somewhat protected sites.
[Gold Medal Award] & 'Victor' Note: Cultivars range in size from small shrubs to trees (see trees in non-native trees plant information sheet).	Many new cultivars available in the nursery trade, including some with purple foliage.	Not all cultivars are fully hardy: 'Velma's Royal Delight' died back to the ground two years in a row but came back.
<i>Lespedeza thunbergii</i> cultivars including 'Gibraltar' & 'Pink Fountain'	Thunberg Lespedeza	Full sun; tolerant of dry sites; a subshrub - partially woody perennial plant

Rhododendron – deciduous	Deciduous Azalea	Light shade to part shade;
hybrids with at least some non-	Hybrids	generally in moist sites
native parentage:		
Some cultivars are derived from		
native azalea species crossed		
with deciduous azalea hybrids that		
were developed in Europe.		
Examples include Dodd hybrids		
(Ga. to Miss. native		
<i>R. austrinum</i> crossed with an		
Exbury hybrid - 'Admiral Semmes'		
& 'Colonel Mosby') &		
Aromi hybrids (<i>R. austrinum</i>		
parent & a European-bred hybrid		
parent - 'Aromi Sunrise' &		
'Aromi Sunstruck').		
'Gibraltar' – Knap Hill hybrid		
(parentage is unknown).		
'Mount Saint Helens' – a Girard		
hybrid (Ohio Nursery)		
Note: Northern Lights Series –		
bred by the Minnesota Landscape		
Arboretum & the University of		
Minnesota, & generally short		
cultivars in our area.		
Cultivars that have performed well		
include 'Mandarin Lights' (one		
parent is the Virginia native R.		
calendulaceum),		
'Candy Lights' (native		
R. atlanticum parent & other		
parent is a Mollis Hybrid),		
'Lemon Lights' (Knap Hill azalea		
seedling x R. atlanticum), &		
'Northern Hi-Lights' (hybrid of an		
Exbury seedling & an unidentified		
azalea seedling).	Dridate was atta Orizoaria	Full aven to Bookt also be avenuel.
Spiraea prunifolia	Bridalwreath Spiraea	Full sun to light shade; an old
Ote etc	(Spirea)	fashioned shrub
Stachyurus praecox	Early Spiketail	Light shade to part shade in large,
('Issai')		protected sites – a striking oddity
		in flower. Best for plant collectors.

<i>Syringa meyeri</i> 'Palibin' [Gold Medal Award]	Lilac	Full sun to light shade; tolerate dry sites
Other shorter species & cultivars: Bloomerang Purple ('Penda')		Note: the beloved <i>S. vulgaris</i> (Common Lilac) performs better in cooler climates.
<i>S. pubescens</i> subsp. <i>patula</i> 'Miss Kim' Taller lilacs that have performed well: 'Lavender Lady' (does get powdery mildew in dry summers)		Other species & cultivars: <i>S. laciniata</i> (Cutleaf Lilac) - a beautiful shorter growing species but don't crowd it & it needs good drainage. It often has dieback here & there in summer but just cut off & it recovers.
		<i>S. oblata</i> (subsp. <i>dilatata</i>) has performed well but tall so flower hard to see & not as showy.
		Sugar Plum Fairy ('Bailsugar') - a compact cultivar that is a cross of 'Palabin' & <i>S. pubescens</i> subsp. <i>microphylla</i> 'Superba'. Small & lower vigor - needs good drainage to perform well.
Viburnum carlesii ('Aurora', 'Compactum', & 'Diana'). V. × juddii is similar but is no longer in the Green Spring collection.	Korean Spice Viburnum	Full sun to light shade; tolerate dry sites.Note: The flowers of Viburnum are generally self-incompatible &
 V. × burkwoodii backcrossed with V. carlesii (deciduous to semi-evergreen): 'Anne Russell', 'Fulbrook' 'Mohawk' [Gold Medal Award] 	Burkwood Viburnum	need two plants of the same species with different genetic backgrounds to produce fruit – growing only one cultivar is a good way to keep non-natives from fruiting (none of the plants listed here are grown for their fruit).
(the species type of <i>V.</i> x <i>burkwoodii</i> is semi-evergreen to evergreen in our area: see evergreen section)		
<i>V. macrocephalum</i> (single- flowered form – also sold as forma <i>keteleeri</i> or 'Keteleeri'; double- flowered snowball type also available)	Large-Flowered Chinese Viburnum, Chinese Snowball Viburnum (the double- flowered form)	
<i>V. plicatum</i> & cultivars: 'Kern's Pink' ('Roseace') & 'Shasta' [Gold Medal Award]	Doublefile Viburnum	Light shade to part shade in consistently moist sites.

NON-NATIVE SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED DECIDUOUS SHRUBS THAT ARE REPORTED TO HAVE -CULTIVARS AVAILABLE WITH LOW SEED VIABILITY OR NO SEEDS -

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Buddleja davidii (Buddleia),	Miss Ruby & Miss Violet	Full sun.	
cultivars, & hybrids – observe	Butterfly Bush		
carefully & remove if reseeding		The species has naturalized in a	
excessively.		few counties in Va. & is on the	
		invasive list in N.C. Only grow one	
Green Spring is growing some		cultivar in general if you want to	
sterile or nearly sterile cultivars		reduce the number of seedlings.	
from a breeding program at North			
Carolina State University & the		Some plants reseed excessively.	
J.C. Raulston Arboretum including		'Lochinch' is a lavender flowered	
Buddleja 'Miss Ruby' (shorter) &		cultivar that reseeded readily &	
'Miss Violet' (taller). Groundcover		should not be grown in our region.	
types are available as well.			
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> – most older	Azurri Blue Satin Rose Of	Full sun.	
cultivars seed excessively. Azurri	Sharon		
Blue Satin ('DVPazurri') is		Some doubles were initially	
reported not to set seed but it has	(It is not recommended to	thought to be sterile, but some	
not been tested at Green Spring.	grow older cultivars &	gardeners reported that the	
Breeders are working on	seedlings in gardens due	double 'Danica' produces seed.	
developing seedless cultivars.	to their invasive potential)		

Note: Disease resistant cultivars of roses (Rosa) are beautiful & include Carefree Beauty ('Beubi'), 'Ballerina', Knock Out Roses, Home Run ('WEKcisbako'), & 'William Baffin'. Roses like full sun, but often they perform well with morning sun & afternoon shade. However, rose rosette disease is caused by a virus that is very destructive to roses & infected plants need to be removed - sterilize the blade of any tools used to cut down these plants with rubbing alcohol to avoid spreading the virus to other roses. This disease is spread by a tiny mite that was introduced to provide biological control of multiflora rose, an invasive species. Green Spring has removed numerous roses with this disease. See the Virginia Cooperative Extension website for further details (http://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/450/450-620/450-620.html).

Non-Native Small Deciduous Shrubs (2-5 feet tall)		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
Forsythia Gold Tide ('Courtasol') –	Gold Tide Forsythia	Full sun; tolerant of dry sites
a short cultivar compared to most		
Hydrangea macrophylla & cultivars with parentage of this species - 'Blue Wave', 'Coerulea' ('Coerulea Lace'), & 'Tokyo Delight' are a few cultivars that have performed well at Green Spring. The shortest older cultivar is 'Pia' (2-3 ft. tall).	Bigleaf Hydrangea (some cultivars have lacecap flowers & others have double flowers)	Light shade to part shade in consistently moist sites. Older cultivars bloom on old wood & flower buds can be destroyed in very cold winters (prune after flowering unless the stems died in a very cold winter).
New reblooming cultivars look promising because they bloom on both old & new wood – many are available. Green Spring is growing testing some.		

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Jasminum nudiflorum	Winter Jasmine	Full sun to light shade; tolerates dry sites; hard to grow other plants close to it without regular maintenance: it tends to crowd out other plants (a functional plant for tough sites)
Lagerstroemia: Short cultivars that have been hardy include 'Pocomoke' & Cherry Dazzle ('GAMAD I')	Dwarf Crape Myrtle Cultivars	Full sun; tolerant of dry sites. Unusual look compared to the taller forms –stiff look compared to herbaceous plants. Note: 'Coral Filli' mostly winter killed in 2013/2014 winter but came back.

NON-NATIVE MEDIUM-SIZED EVERGREEN SHRUBS (5-12 FEET TALL)		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
Aucuba japonica	Aucuba	Light shade to full shade; tolerates dry
('Rozannie', 'Variegata')		sites but not extreme drought
Camellia cultivars that are winter hardy: Fall into early winter bloom: 'Ashton's Pride', 'Winter's Beauty', 'Winter's Charm', & 'Winter's Star' are some of the cultivars with <i>C. oleifera</i> parentage (large shrub - on non-native trees & large shrubs information sheet).	Winter Hardy Camellias	Light shade to part shade; tolerate dry sites; best to plant in the spring so well established before winter (even hardy camellias can be killed to the ground in very cold winters, although they usually resprout)
Spring bloom: some of the hardiest <i>C. japonica</i> cultivars have performed well at Green Spring – 'Bernice Boddy' ('Berenice Boddy'), 'Jerry Hill', & 'Pink Perfection' ('Faith' is a large shrub, & some other cultivars grow to be large as well).		<i>C. japonica</i> cultivars tend to have a more formal growth habit than <i>C. oleifera</i> hybrids, & their flowers are more susceptible to cold damage since they bloom in the spring.
<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i> dwarf & slow-growing cultivars including 'Filicoides', 'Nana', 'Nana Gracilis', & 'Nana Lutea'	Dwarf Hinoki Falsecypress (Cypress)	Full sun to light shade; moist sites preferred, especially when young
<i>C. pisifera</i> dwarf & slow growing cultivars including 'Filifera Aurea Nana', 'Golden Mop', & 'Lemon Thread' (over time some of them get to be large shrubs)	Dwarf Sawara Falsecypress (Cypress)	

NON-NATIVE MEDIUM-SIZED EVERGREEN SHRUBS (5-12 FEET TALL)

<i>llex cornuta</i> 'Dwarf Burford' ('Burfordii' looks similar but a large shrub)	Dwarf Burford Holly	Full sun to part shade; need male & female plants for fruit set; tolerate dry sites in shady areas. Some fruit set
 <i>I.</i> × meserveae: Females – Blue Princess ('Conapry') & Blue Maid ('Mesid') [Gold Medal Award] Males – Blue Prince ('Conablu') & Blue Stallion ('Mesan'). Green Spring is testing Castle Spire ('Hachfee'; female). Castle Wall ('Heckenstar') is the male. <i>I.</i> Red Beauty ('Rutzan') [Gold Medal Award] - beautiful, slow growing plant that is pollinated by male Blue Hollies. 	Blue Holly (not all cultivars are bluish; a short cultivar is in the next section) Red Beauty Holly	 without a male <i>I. cornuta</i> for pollination (most female hollies need a male pollinator to set fruit) Blue holly cultivars generally like some shade. Note: evaluating 'Cherry Bomb' - a nearly spineless, low growing holly with large red berries – hybrid of 'Nellie R. Stevens' & <i>I. integra</i> – has held up well in a cold, windy area. Low growing still. <i>I.</i> China Boy ('Mesdob') & China Girl ('Mesog') are tough medium-sized shrubs but more functional than exciting The low growing <i>I. cornuta</i> 'Carissa' is not a great performer in our area – not as cold hardy & looks bad after cold
		winters & dry summers.
<i>Picea pungens</i> 'Iseli Foxtail' or 'Iseli Fastigate' (columnar blue form of Colorado spruce – can grow to 15 ft. tall eventually)	Iseli Foxtail Spruce, Iseli Fastigate Spruce	Full sun in moist, well-drained sites. 'Iseli Foxtail' is more tolerant of hot, humid conditions in the southeastern U.S. than the average Colorado blue
<i>P. abies</i> 'Nidiformis' (broad form with dark green needles)	Bird's Nest Spruce	spruce.
Prunus laurocerasus cultivars: most have green foliage including 'Mt. Vernon' (the shortest form: a small shrub for a long time). 'Marbled White' ('Castlewellan') has variegated foliage: it is not a natural look so removed from the collection at Green Spring.	Cherry Laurel Cultivars	Full sun (moist sites) to part shade. Functional plants – not exciting.
Rhododendron hybrids & cultivars (Encore, Gable, Girard, Glenn Dale, Kurume, & Robin Hill are some hybrid groups. Some cultivars are not in hybrid groups like the small shrub <i>R. kiusianum</i> 'Komo Kulsan'.)	Hybrid Evergreen Azaleas	Light shade to part shade. For further information the American Rhododendron Society is a resource for good azalea cultivars for our region. The Azalea Society of America (<u>http://azaleas.org</u>) has information about specific cultivars.

<i>Rhododendron</i> cultivars that are adapted to our area such as 'Roseum Elegans'	Heat Tolerant Rhododendron Cultivars	Light shade to part shade in moist sites with good drainage. The American Rhododendron Society is a resource for good rhododendron cultivars for our region. They are harder to grow than azaleas in our area (connoisseur plants here).
Viburnum × burkwoodii (tends to be semi-evergreen; fragrant flowers) ['Mohawk' is deciduous with fragrant flowers - Gold Medal Award]	Burkwood Viburnum	 Full sun to part shade; tolerate dry sites. Note: 'Conoy' is evergreen but inferior to the species – flowers not fragrant & more disease prone.
V. 'Chesapeake'	Chesapeake Viburnum	
V. 'Pragense' – largest plant in this group	Prague Viburnum	

NON-NATIVE SMALL EVERGREEN SHRUBS (2-5 FEET TALL)

NON-NATIVE SMALL EVERGREEN SHRUBS (2-5 FEET TALL)			
Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments	
Abelia cultivars: A. grandiflora (A. × grandiflora) & cultivars with other parentage like 'Canyon Creek' (<i>A. chinensis</i> or a hybrid)	Glossy Abelia	Full sun to light shade; semi- evergreen to evergreen; tolerates dry sites	
 Buxus: 1. Species & cultivars with Asian parentage: B. harlandii B. sinica 'Wintergreen' B. 'Winter Gem' 2. B. sempervirens 'Vardar Valley' [Gold Medal Award] – species is native to Europe, North Africa, & Western Asia 	Boxwood	 Full sun to light shade; tolerate dry sites Tend to like soils with a pH of 6 or higher (more alkaline) Note: Boxwood blight has now been found in Fairfax County – if it spreads boxwood will no longer be planted as a landscape plant. 	
 3. Hybrids of <i>B. sempervirens</i> & Asian species: 'Green Gem' & 'Green Velvet' [Gold Medal Award] 			
Cephalotaxus harringtonia 'Duke Gardens' & 'Prostrata' [both received a Gold Medal Award].	Japanese Plum Yew	Full sun to full shade; tolerate dry sites. Not eaten by deer like true yew (<i>Taxus</i>), & true yew is less heat tolerant.	
Other species like <i>C. sinensis</i> (Chinese Plum Yew) are hard to purchase.			

<i>llex</i> x meserveae Little Rascal ('Mondo')	Little Rascal Holly	Light shade to part shade; prefers moist sites to increase vigor. 'Serendipity' is very small & has low vigor.
Sarcococca hookeriana – short form (sold as var. humilis- Gold Medal Award; dense spreading habit – excellent groundcover]	Sarcococca, Sweet Box	Light shade to full shade; fragrant spring flowers. A taller, more shrub-like form is less cold hardy.

Invasive Non-Native Deciduous Trees And Large Shrubs Still In The Nursery Trade:

A. <u>Non-Native Deciduous Shrubs to Grow with Caution Due to Invasive Potential (Possibly Too Much</u> <u>Reseeding)</u>:

**Spiraea japonica* cultivars such as 'Goldflame', 'Goldmound', 'Limemound', 'Magic Carpet', & 'Shirobana' (Japanese Spiraea or Spirea). The species is on the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List

& has naturalized in several counties in Va. Have seen a few seedlings in the Washington, D.C. area. **Vitex agnus-castus* (Chaste Tree) - reseeding excessively in some locations in our area & has naturalized in a few counties in Va.

B. <u>Non-Native Evergreen Shrubs With Invasive Potential (heavy reseeding in some situations & some reseeding in natural areas)</u>:

*Mahonia bealei (Leatherleaf Mahonia) - The U.S. Forest Service reports that it has been found as scattered plants, with infestations in AL, GA, FL, SC, NC, & Va. Invasive in Alexandria City & reseeding at Green Spring. *Nandina domestica (Nandina) - reseeding in woodland areas at Green Spring & very weedy in some local gardens. The U.S.. Forest Service reports that it is naturalized in Va. & TN, & down to Texas. The small, non-showy cultivar 'Moon Bay' has not set fruit at Green Spring.

C. <u>Non-Native Deciduous Shrubs to Avoid Because Invasive</u> (heavy reseeding) – remove whenever possible; marked with (VA List) if on the Virginia Invasive Plant Species List

(http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invsppdflist). If not on the official list then other information is given:

*Berberis thunbergii (Japanese Barberry) (VA List)

**Callicarpa dichotoma* & *C. japonica* (Asian Beautyberry) - reseeded readily at Green Spring – they may become invasive plants, especially in moist sites. The USDA reports that *C. dichotoma* has naturalized in several states including Va., Tenn., & N.C., while *C. japonica* has naturalized in N.C.

*Cercis chinensis (Chinese Redbud) - reseeded excessively in gardens at Green Spring

*Euonymus alatus (Burning Bush) (VA List)

*Viburnum dilatatum (Linden Viburnum) (VA List).

*Viburnum rhytidophylloides (Lantanaphyllum Viburnum) - was reseeding excessively at Green Spring when two cultivars were grown close together ('Alleghany' & 'Willowwood'; two forms needed for fruiting because individual plants self–sterile). All cultivars were removed from the Concentric Garden.

*Viburnum setigerum (Tea Viburnum) – heavy reseeding in moist woodland areas at Green Spring. *Vitex rotundifolia (Vitex) (VA List - problem in coastal areas)

Scientific Names Of Plants - Current Names Are From:

- Encyclopedia of Life (<u>http://eol.org/</u>) institutional partners include Harvard University, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Smithsonian Institution, and The Field Museum.
- **Tropicos** from the Missouri Botanical Garden (<u>http://tropicos.org</u>/)

If a second scientific name is given, it is usually an old name that is still seen in some references or used by some nurseries. However, the above databases do not always agree on names.

Other References: -

Flora of Virginia. Alan Weakley, J. Christopher Ludwig, and John Townsend. 2012. BRIT Press. Botanical Research Institute of Texas.

The **Kemper Center for Home Gardening Plantfinder** at the Missouri Botanical Garden is an excellent reference for plant names, gardening information, and photographs

(http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx).

It features plants in their Kemper Center display gardens and is an excellent website about ornamental plants.

The Lady Bird Wildflower Center at the University of Texas in Austin has developed the **Native Plant Information Network** for native plants (<u>http://www.wildflower.org/explore/</u>).

USDA PLANTS Database (<u>http://plants.usda.gov/java/</u>) - this database focuses on plants native to the U.S. and to U.S. Territories and Protectorates, as well as naturalized non-natives and invasives. It is also used to determine distribution within Virginia by county.

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