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G91-1014 Ornamental Shrubs for Nebraska

Don Steinegger

University of Nebraska--Lincoln, dsteinegger1@unl.edu

Amy J. Greving

University of Nebraska--Lincoln

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G91-1014-A
(Revised August 1998)

Ornamental Shrubs for Nebraska

Donald H. Steinegger, Extension Horticulturist
Amy J. Greving, Extension Assistant

This NebGuide outlines the characteristics of the ornamental shrubs that can be grown successfully in Nebraska.

Shrubs play an important role in landscaping. They can be used as hedge borders, focal points, along the foundation of a home to "tie" it to the ground, and to fill large areas. Unlike annual flowers, or even some perennials, shrubs are usually planted with permanence in mind.

When selecting shrubs to use in landscaping, it is important to consider each plant's ornamental characteristics. To obtain the right shrub for your landscape design consider plant height, width, and shape; foliage color and texture, including that in fall; and flowering and fruiting habits. Also note the plant's limitations as well as its possibilities.

Another important consideration is the plant's adaptability to the proposed planting site. For best results, find your climatic zone on the map in *Figure 1* and select plants adapted to it from the list provided.

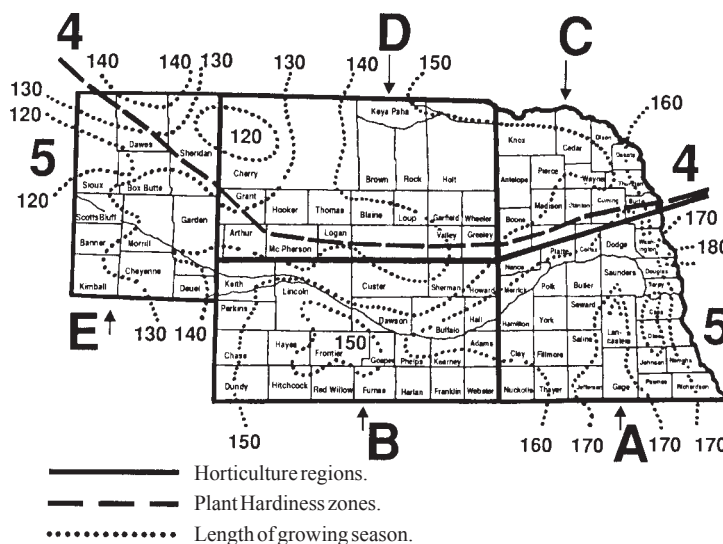


Figure 1. Nebraska climatic zones.

Shrub	Ht. ft.	Spread ft.	Shape	Site	Foliage Color		Flowers		Fruit	Possible Problems	Adaptability/ Remarks
					Summer	Fall	Color	Season			
Barberry, Japanese <i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	4-6	3-5	Dense, rounded	Sun; adaptable	Green	Orange, scarlet	Not ornamental		Bright red; October	Usually none	All zones; dwarf cultivar to 2' available
Beauty bush <i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	10-15	6	Vase shaped, leggy	Sun; adaptable	Dull green	Yellow	Pink	May, early June	Bristly capsule	None serious	To zone 5A
Bush cinquefoil <i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	2-4	2-4	Low, round	Sun; fertile, moist, well-drained soil	Bright to dark green	Yellow, green	Yellow, white, orange	June to frost	Not ornamental	Spider mites	All zones; many cultivars. Prune to ground every 3rd or 4th spring.
Cherry, Nanking <i>Prunus tomentosa</i>	6-10	10-12	Broad, spreading	Sun; part shade	Dark green	None	White	April	Scarlet; summer edible	Aphids, borers, canker, scale, tent caterpillars	All zones; can be injured by late spring freezes

Shrub	Ht. ft.	Spread ft.	Shape	Site	Foliage Color		Flowers		Fruit	Possible Problems	Adaptability/ Remarks
					Summer	Fall	Color	Season			
Cherry, purple-leaf sand <i>Prunus x cistena</i>	7-10	6-8	Oval	Sun; part shade	Reddish purple	Reddish purple	Pink, fragrant	Spring	Blackish purple; edible	Aphids, borers, scale, tent caterpillars	Allzones; may suffer some winter injury in 4D, but not serious
Cherry, western sand <i>Prunus besseyi</i>	4-6	4-6	Suckering spreader	Sun; well-drained soil	Gray-green	Red-yellow	White	Spring	Purplish-black; summer, edible	Viruses	Allzones
Chokeberry, red <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> 'Brilliantissima'	6-10	3-5	Upright, spreading	Sun; shade	Dark green, lustrous	Bright red	Pinkish white	May	Red; fall	Rabbits	All zones
Coralberry, chenault <i>Symphoricarpos x chenaultii</i>	3-5	4-8	Spreading, arching shrub	Sun; shade	Gray-green	Blue-green	Pink	June	Pink or white	Anthrachnose, leaf spot, aphids	To zone 5A,B,E; strongly attracts bees and wasps
Cotoneaster, spreading <i>Cotoneaster divaricatus</i>	5-6	6-8	Rounded, spreading	Sun; light shade	Glossy green	Yellow, red-purple	Rose	Late May	Pome, red; Sept.-Nov.	More trouble-free than others	To zone 5A,B, possibly E; birds eat fruit
Currant, alpine <i>Ribes alpinum</i>	4-6	4-6	Dense, rounded	Sun; shade	Bright green	Poor, yellow	Not ornamental		Usually not present	Leaf spot, anthracnose	All zones; useful, takes shearing; hedge
Currant, clove <i>Ribes odoratum</i>	6-8	6	Irregular, arching stems	Sun; shade	Blue-green	Briefly yellow	Yellow; very fragrant	Mid-April	Berry, black; June	White pine blister, rust, leaf spot	All zones
Dogwood, gray <i>Cornus racemosa</i>	8-12	8-12	Erect, suckering	Sun; shade	Gray-green	Dull red	White	May	Drupe, white; late summer	None serious	All zones
Dogwood, redosier <i>Cornus sericea</i>	8	8-10	Rounded, broad spreading	Sun; shade moist soils	Green	Red-bronze	White	May	Drupe, white; late summer	Canker, scale, bagworms	All zones; colorful winter bark
Elder, golden <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> 'Aurea'	12	10-12	Broad, rounded suckers	Sun; moist soil	Gold	Gold	White	June	Black; August	Borers, cankers, leaf spot, sunscald in high elevations	All zones; very coarse textures; takes snow load
Enonymus, sarcoxie <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Sarcoxie'	4	4	Upright, variable	Sun	Dark green	None	Not showy		Usually none	Crowngall, scale	To zone 5A,B; can be trained on wall, post or trellis
Euonymus, winged <i>Euonymus alatus</i>	15-20	15-20	Rounded to horizontal	Sun; shade; not drought resistant	Green	Bright red	Not ornamental		Red capsule, often hidden	None serious	All zones; compact variety to 5'; takes shearing
Forsythia, border <i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	6-8	6-8	Upright growth habit	Sun; adaptable	Green	Yellow green	Yellow	April	Not ornamental	None serious	To zone 5A; flower buds often injured in late spring freezes; improved hardier cultivars: 'Meadowlark', 'Minigold Fiesta'.
Honeysuckle, tatarian <i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	10-12	8	Upright	Sun; part shade adaptable	Blue-green	None	White to red	May	Berry; red, yellow, orange	Aphids; may become weedy	All zones; extremely hardy
Hydrangea, Annabelle <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Annabelle'	3-5	3-5	Broadly spreading	Part shade; moist soil	Dark green	None	Dull white	Summer	Not ornamental	Leaf spot, mildew scale mites, aphids	All zones; prune close to ground each spring

Shrub	Ht. ft.	Spread ft.	Shape	Site	Foliage Color		Flowers		Fruit	Possible Problems	Adaptability/ Remarks
					Summer	Fall	Color	Season			
Lilac, common <i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	8-15	6-15	Upright, leggy	Sun; neutral pH, high organic matter	Green	None	White to pink to violet	May	Not ornamental	Mildew, borers, scale	All zones; very hardy
Lilac, (Meyer) <i>Syringa meyeri</i>	4-8	8-12	Broad, rounded	Sun; adaptable	Dark green	None	Violet purple	May	Not ornamental	None serious	All zones. Often confused with 'Little Leaf' or 'Manchurian'
Maple, amur <i>Acer ginnala</i>	20	10	Rounded outline	Sun; light shade	Green	Yellow to scarlet	Yellow, fragrant	Spring	Red; summer	Relatively free	All zones; compact form to 10'
Ninebark, dwarf <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Nana'	3-4	3-4	Upright, rounded and dense	Sun; part shade adaptable	Green	Yellow to bronze	White, pink	May, June	Reddish; Sept.-Oct.	None serious	All zones
Olive, Russian <i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	14-16	15-17	Rounded, often open	Sun; adaptable	Gray, green	None	Silvery and yellow	May; fragrant	Yellow with silver; late summer	Verticillium wilt, cankers	All zones; wildlife eat fruit
Privet, amur <i>Ligustrum amurense</i>	10-12	6	Dense, upright	Sun; partial shade	Dark green	None	Usually not effective		Not ornamental	Anthraco-nose; tolerant of most problems	Maybe winter injured in 4D; shear into hedge
Quince, common flowering <i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	6-10	10	Rounded, variable	Sun; dry location	Bronzy, red to dark green	None	Scarlet, pink, white	April	Pome, yellow green; preserves	Leaf spot	All zones; may not flower after some winters
Rhododendron 'Northern Lights' <i>Rhododendron</i> hybrid	6-7	6-7	Rounded	Part shade; acid soil	Dark green	None	Light to dark pink	May	Not ornamental	Chlorosis on alkaline soils	All zones, if soil modified with acid peat
Rose-of-Sharon <i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	8-12	6-10	Erect	Sun; part shade, pH adaptable	Green	Poor, yellow	White, red to violet	Late summer	Gray capsule	Leaf spots, cankers, aphids, white fly	To zone 5A, short lived
Shrub, Siberian pea <i>Caragana arborescens</i>	15-20	12-15	Erect, oval	Sun; adaptable	Green	Yellow green	Bright yellow	May	Green pod	Leaf-hoppers	All zones; best for 4D, 5E and western 5B
Snowberry <i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	4-6	4-6	Bushy, fine, twiggy	Sun; shade	Blue-green	Blue-green	Pinkish	June	White;	Anthraco-nose, leaf spot, aphids	All zones
Snowflake, Minnesota <i>Philadelphus x virginalis</i>	8	6	Upright,	Sun; light rounded	Green shade	None	White, fragrant	Summer	Not ornamental	None serious	5A, B, E, and 4C; dwarf cultivar to 4'
Spirea, Anthony Waterer 'Anthony Waterer' <i>Spiraea x bumalda</i>	2-3	2-3	Broad, flat-topped	Sun; adaptable	Green	Red and green	Crimson	Summer	Not ornamental	Generally not serious	All zones
Spirea, bridal-wreath <i>Spiraea prunifolia</i>	7-9	8-10	Open, coarse, scraggly	Sun	Green	Yellow, orange	White	Spring	Not ornamental	Generally not serious	To zones 5A, B, E
Spirea, Vanhoutte <i>Spiraea x vanhouttei</i>	6-8	8-10	Wide, spreading mound, fountain-like	Sun	Dull blue-green	Yellow-orange	White	Spring	Not ornamental	Many, but generally not serious	All zones
Sumac, staghorn <i>Rhus typhina</i>	15-20	20 or more	Loose, open spreading	Sun; well-drained soils	Bright green	Yellow, orange, and scarlet	Greenish-yellow	Summer	Drupe; crimson in late August	Verticillium wilt	All zones; Will sucker from roots

Shrub	Ht. ft.	Spread ft.	Shape	Site	Foliage Color		Flowers		Fruit	Possible Problems	Adaptability/ Remarks
					Summer	Fall	Color	Season			
Tamarix, five-stamen <i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	10-15	8-10	Loose, open	Sun; prefers well-drained, acid soil	Light	None green, scale-like	Rose pink	Summer	Not ornamental	Canker, powdery mildew, scale	All zones; very fine texture
Viburnum, arrowwood <i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	8-10	10-12	Rounded	Sun; partial shade, well- drained soil	Green	Red,	White bronze	Summer	Blue, black; August	None serious	All zones
Viburnum, European cranberry bush <i>Viburnum opulus</i>	8-12	10-12	Rounded	Sun; part shade	Dark green	Yellow, red	White	May	Bright red	Aphids, borers, leaf spot	All zones; dwarf cultivar to 3 ft
Viburnum, wayfaring tree <i>Viburnum lantana</i>	10-12	10-12	Rounded	Sun; part shade; well- drained soil	Dull, dark green	Purplish red	White, no fragrance	May	Yellow to red to black; Fall	None serious	All zones; wildlife food
Willow, dwarf arctic blue <i>Salix purpurea</i> 'Nana'	3-4	3-4	Rounded, dense	Sun; part shade; wet soil	Silver blue	Silver- blue	Gray	March	Not ornamental	Many cankers	All zones; wind tolerant; takes shearing
Willow, pussy <i>Salix discolor</i> (often <i>Salix caprea</i> , goat willow)	10-12	12	Upright	Sun; part shade; moist soils	Green	Yellow green	Pink or gray	Spring	Not ornamental	Canker	All zones; fast growing, control with pruning

**File under: HORTICULTURE
A-35, Ornamentals**

Revised August 1998, 10,000

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Kenneth R. Bolen, Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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