Shrubs, Groundcovers & Vines

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Select shrubs based on needs:

- Should the plant be evergreen or deciduous?
- How large does it need to be to do the intended job in the landscape?
- What are the environmental limitations of the site?
- Does the plant have any serious pests?
- What special feature do I want such as flowers, berries, fall color, etc.
Evergreen Shrubs
The Hollies

- Evergreen trees and shrubs - over 300 species and thousands of cultivars
- Most are dioecious and require a male for pollination.
- Good for massing and screening.
**Foster Holly**

- *Ilex x attenuata* ‘Foster’
- Height - 35 feet
- Spread - 10 feet
- Growth rate - moderate
- Hardy zones 6 - 9
- Beautiful specimen plant; needs a male for pollination. Good for screening or hedging.
Foster Holly
Burford Chinese Holly

- *Ilex cornuta* ‘Burford’
  - Height - 20 ft.
  - Spread - 15 ft.
  - Growth rate - fast
  - Hardy zones 6 - 9
  - Big screening plant
Nellie R. Stevens Holly

a hybrid between the Chinese holly and the American holly. It is hardy through zone 6 and makes a nice upright screen planting or specimen. Plants mature at 15 feet tall and naturally maintain a pyramidal form.
Japanese Holly

- *Ilex crenata* ‘Compacta’
- Height - 5 to 6 feet
- Spread - 6 to 10 feet
- Growth rate - medium
- Hardy zones 6 to 8
- Need good drainage in order to flourish.
- Berries on this holly are black. Stands clipping well.
Compact Holly
*Ilex crenata 'Soft Touch'*
- *Ilex vomitoria*
- Height - to 20 feet
- Spread - 10 feet
- Growth rate - medium
- Hardy zones 6 - 9
- Native small evergreen tree that grows in wet or dry soils. Very well adapted.
Yaupon Holly versus boxwood
Dwarf Yaupon Holly
The perfect filler “meatball” shrub for wet soils.
Deciduous Hollies
Ilex verticillata and I. decidua
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Rhododendrons</strong></th>
<th><strong>Azaleas</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Often tree-like in habit</td>
<td>Shrub-like in habit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaves evergreen - up to 6 inches long</td>
<td>Leaves evergreen or deciduous -- to 3 inches long</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowers in trusses in late spring -- larger than azaleas</td>
<td>Flowers smaller and borne singly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native to cooler climates than azaleas</td>
<td>Widely distributed and more heat tolerant</td>
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Over 10,000 different azalea plants have been registered
To Grow Azaleas Successfully

- Plant hardy azalea classes such as the Kurumes, the Girrard’s and the Glenn Dale azaleas.
- Plant in acidic soil with a pH of 5 to 5.5
- Use a highly organic potting amendment such as peat moss or composted pine bark
- Raised beds improve drainage and keep plants alive
- Water before the plants become too stressed
- Fertilize after bloom on established plants. Young plants may be fertilized again 6 weeks later.
Flower Forms

single

Double

Hose in hose

Double hose in hose
Encore Azaleas

- Not all species are reliably hardy in the northern 1/3 of the state.
- Bloom well spring & fall, with scattered blossoms in summer.
Deciduous Azaleas

*R. austrinum*  

*R. canescens*
• Damage can be severe enough to kill plants
• Plants can turn white by late summer
• Scout for insects in May; if found spray to prevent population explosion with systemic insecticide such as Orthene.
• Or use prevention: Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insecticide or Merit
Yellowing of Old Leaves
• **Rhododendron catawbiensis**
  
  • Height - 12 feet
  • Spread - 10 feet
  • Growth rate - medium
  • Hardy zones 5 - 7
  • Considered more difficult to grow than azaleas. Drainage more critical so use bark for soil mix. Give afternoon shade.
Camellias

Camellia japonica

Camellia sasanqua
Care of camellias

- Fertilize once a year after bloom.
- Water when dry.
- Pick up fallen flowers
- Monitor for pests.
Purple Diamond®
Compact Loropetalum

Emerald Snow®
Loropetalum

Purple Pixie®
Weeping Loropetalum
Heavenly Bamboo

- *Nandina domestica*
- Height - 6 feet
- Spread - 3 feet
- Growth rate - slow
- Hardy zones 6 to 10
- Tough plant that will survive about anything.
Native to Japan but long planted in the southern landscape.
Nandina fruit cluster
Harbor Dwarf
Nandina
Mahonia

- *Mahonia bealei*
- Height - 7 feet
- Spread - 8 feet
- Growth rate - slow
- Hardy zones 6 - 9
- Strong structural element in the shade garden.
- Blooms in February with gray fruit in July.
Glossy Abelia

- *Abelia grandiflora*
- Height - 6 feet
- Spread - 6 feet
- Growth rate - fast
- Hardy zones 6 - 9
- Summer flowering semi-evergreen shrub which gives an impression of red in the landscape. Blooms most of the summer if watered.
Glossy Abelia

Kaleidescope

Edward Goucher
Cephalotaxus – Plum Yew
‘Yewtopia’
Cleyera

Bigfoot™ Cleyera

LeAnn™ Cleyera

Bronze Beauty™ Cleyera
Illicium – Florida Anise

Woodland’s Ruby
Chinese Junipers

- *Juniperus chinensis*
- Height - 5 feet
- Spread - 10 feet
- Growth rate - medium
- Hardy zones 4 - 8
- Drought tolerant shrub. Susceptible to bagworms but usually a landscape survivor.
Blue Rug Juniper

Juniperus horizontalis
Deciduous shrubs lose their leaves ut:

- Give the landscape a seasonal rhythm
- Have interesting forms and textures
- Often have multiple seasons of interest
  - good bloom display
  - colorful foliage
  - good fall color
  - berries or habitat for wildlife
Forsythia intermedia

- Height - 7 feet
- Spread - 12 feet
- Growth rate - fast
- Hardy zones 4 - 8
- Easily grown but needs plenty of room to spread.

Give full sun. Prune hard every other year.
- *Kerria japonica*
- Height - 6 ft.
- Spread - 6 ft.
- Growth rate - fast
- Hardy zones
- 4 - 8
- Flowers well in the shade.
- Open form plant that is good filler shrub.
• *Spiraea prunifolia*
• Height - 6 feet
• Spread - 6 feet
• Growth rate - medium
• Hardy zone 4 - 8
Bridalwreath
Spirea
Van Houtte Spirea
Summer Blooming spireas

Anthony Waterer  Little Princess
Goldflame Spirea

Gold Flame

Magic Carpet
Doublefile Viburnum

- *V. plicatum* ‘Mariesii’
- Height - 12 ft.
- Spread - 12 ft.
- Growth rate - medium
- Hardy zone 4 - 9
- Spring flowering with masses of blooms. Best in full sun.
Burkwood viburnum
Hydrangea macrophylla

- Height - 5 feet
- Spread - 6 feet
- Growth rate - medium
- Hardy zone 5 - 9
- Blooms in the summer. Best in moist shade. In acid soil flowers are blue; alkaline they turn pink.
Oakleaf Hydrangea

- Hydrangea quercifolia
- Height - 8 feet
- Spread - 10 feet
- Growth rate - medium
- Hardy zones 5 - 9
- Summer flowers on this large, coarse textured shrub with great fall color and nice bark in the winter.
Althea – Rose –of-Sharon
• *Berberis thunbergii*
• Height - 5 feet
• Spread - 5 feet
• Growth rate - slow
• Hardy zone 4 - 9
• Colors most vivid in full sun. Tolerate drought well; tough plant.
• Green, purple and yellow foliage forms available.
barberry
Why use groundcovers?

- Hard to grow grass—too much shade
- Steep slope
- Rocky soil or exposed roots
- Living mulch
- Don’t want to mow!
What is the purpose of the groundcover?
Cover large areas or accent plants
Living Mulch or soften pathways
Aegopodium - Bishop’s Weed
Ajuga - Bugleweed
Ajuga ‘Toffee Chip’ & ‘Chocolate Chip’
Ardesia
Chrysogonum virginianum
Green and Gold
Hypericum
Ivy
Liriope – Monkey grass
Mondo grass - Ophiopogon
Lysimachia nummularia – Creeping Jenny
Moss
Pachysandra – Japanese Spurge
Creeping phlox – Phlox stolonifera
Phlox drummondii
Pratia angulata
Sedums
Carolina Jasmine –
Gelsemium sempervirens
Butterscotch
Confederate Jasmine
Trachelospermum jasminoides
Clematis
Crossvine - Bignonia capreolata
Crossvine
Trumpet Creeper – Campsis radicans

Madame Galan
Cypress vine
Passionflower
Porcelain berry vine
*Ampelopis brevipedunculata*
Trumpet honeysuckle
Vinca major and minor
Wisteria