



Summer-Blooming Shrubs

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Long-blooming summer shrubs can give a dependable backdrop to your garden. Many require almost no maintenance and thrive in high temperatures and humidity. Most are fragrant, long-bloomers and should be sited near your sitting area. Because they tend to be fast growers they will also provide privacy...another easy way to reduce maintenance!

Try some of these:

Abelia (Glossy Leaf Abelia)

Grows 3' - 5' tall

Full sun

Drought-tolerant

Pink flowers from July to frost on the tips of new growth. Prune back in spring to keep bush from getting stringy. Insect problems are rare. Arching branches give the bush a graceful effect

Aesculus parviflora (Bottlebrush Buckeye)

Grows up to 10' tall.

Full sun to shade

Moist, well-drained soil

An enthusiastic grower, Bottlebrush showcases early summer spikes of creamy white flowers. Especially useful on banks, slopes and in woodland borders.

Buddleia davidii (Butterfly Bush)

Can reach 6' – 8'

Full sun to partial shade

Wide color range

Constant summer blooms attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Should be cut to 18" in late spring but blooms on new wood. Untouched by disease and extremely pest resistant.

Callicarpa dichotama (Purple Beautyberry)

May reach 3' – 4'

Sun to light shade

Well-drained soil

Covered in late summer with pink flowers, followed by purple berries lasting through the winter. Flowers and fruits on new growth so cut to 18" in spring. Attracts cardinals. Most graceful of the species. Spectacular "en masse".

Caryopteris (Blue-Mist Shrub)

2' – 3' tall

Full sun-part shade.

Not fussy about soil

Aromatic, this shrub is perfect for the sunny edge of a woodland garden. Heat and drought tolerant, it blooms from summer through fall. Plant “en masse” for dramatic effect. Deer-resistant but a magnet to butterflies and bees. Colors range from light to dark blue.

Clethra alnifolia (Summersweet)

4' – 6'

Full sun to partial shade

Moist soil

Heavily fragrant, bloom begins in late spring and continues into early fall. Pest and disease free, it will even tolerate shade.

Avoid hot, dry sites. Looks well near ponds and streams. Colors range from white to pink with some compact (3' – 4') forms in white.

Cotinus (Smoke Bush)

Can reach 12'-15'

Sun to shade

Well-drained soil

Fast growing, deer resistant and disease free. Not bothered by mildew. Foliage ranges from early burgundy in spring to bright orange in the fall.

Daphne Carol Mackie

2' – 3'

Full to partial sun

Well-drained soil

Highly fragrant white/pink flowers bloom from late spring to early summer. Soil needs to be loose and moist. Variegated foliage makes this an outstanding specimen in a small shrub border.

Hibiscus (Rose of Sharon)

Grows 8' – 12'

Full sun

Well-drained soil

Leaves out very late. Large flowers, in many colors, bloom in August. Likes heat. Attracts hummingbirds and bees.

Hydrangea quercifolia (Oakleaf Hydrangea)

5' – 9'

Will take deep shade

Well-drained soil

Stunning, huge white flowers in June surrounded by deep green, bold leaves. Some bloom as the summer continues. Fall foliage is burgundy-colored. Shrub forms a naturally graceful shape and is well-suited to the edge of woods.

Ilex verticillata (Winterberry)

8' – 10'

Tolerates shade

Handles wet soil

Native to the eastern U.S., this deciduous wetland holly has small white flowers in early summer which give way to masses of red berries in late summer. Plant “en masse” for impact. Few diseases or pests. Prune for shaping.

Itea virginiana (Virginia Sweetspire)

3' – 5'

Sun

Well-drained soil

Small white flowers bloom in early summer on arching branches. Fall foliage ranges from yellow, orange, crimson to maroon.. Tolerates both dry and wet areas and is drought resistant. Highly effective used in shrub borders, woodland gardens, naturalistic plantings and the edges of ponds.

Leucothoe axillaris (Coast Leucothoe)

2' – 4'

Part to full shade

Well-drained soil

Slow-growing evergreen native to the eastern U.S. Thrives on slopes near water. White flowers from spring to early summer. Cut back hard after flowering to maintain shape. Does not tolerate drought. Deer resistant. Beautiful burgundy fall foliage.

Lonicera sempervirens (Trumpet Honeysuckle)

5' – 8'

Sun to partial shade

Well-drained soil

Native to the eastern U.S. and very hardy. Once established, withstands drought. Will bloom profusely from June to September if deadheaded. Color ranges from yellow to scarlet. Attracts hummingbirds.

Philadelphus (Mock Orange)

6' – 8'

Full sun

Moist, well-drained soil

Highly fragrant with white flowers in May and early June. Prune after flowering to shape and remove unproductive branches. Durable once established.

Rhododendron viscosum (Swamp Azalea)

8'

Full sun

Well-drained soil

Early summer flowers have a strong clove scent.. Orange-bronze fall foliage. Native to the Northeast, this salt-tolerant shrub can handle swampy areas. Effective planted en masse. Not completely deer-resistant.

Sorbaria sorbifolia (False Spirea)

5' – 10'

Sun to partial shade

Well-drained soil

Forms large masses of arching branches with white sprays of very showy flowers in June and July.. Not fussy about soil. Mature plants will spread and need to be controlled. Very hardy (to zone 2). Excellent in the shrub border and a good spreader for banks.

Viburnum (Summer Snowflake)

4' – 6'

Sun to part shade

Well-drained soil

White flowers bloom from late spring to early October. Excellent for naturalizing. Fall orange-red berries attract birds. Tolerates a wide range of soils and is drought resistant. Shrub will develop a spreading shape. Extremely hardy.

Weigela florida

5' - 6'

Sun to part shade

Well-drained soil

Deep rose-pink flowers from May through June attract hummingbirds. Its spreading habit makes it ideal for shrub borders. Branches may arch to the ground. Prune, as needed, after flowering. Transplants easily. No fall color.

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