

Hamilton County Master Gardeners Association of Indiana

Recommended Shrubs & Vines

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Mature</u>		<u>Form</u>	Growth	<u>Comments</u>
		<u>Height</u>	<u>Width</u>			
Large Deciduous Shrubs						
Calycanthus floridus	Carolina allspice, sweetshrub	6-10'	5-10'	Upright, multi stemmed	M	Full sun to part shade; medium soil; spectacular fragrant chocolate brown to maroonish blooms in May; brownish urn shaped fruits in Fall often persist into winter; Lustrous dark green leaves are 6" long turning golden yellow in Fall; leaves are aromatic when bruised. Requires occasional pruning after blooming and removal of suckers but will tolerate rejuvenation by cutting to ground level.
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Buttonbush	5-12'	4-8'	Upright multi stemmed rounded	M	Full sun to part shade. Grows well in moist to wet soil and tolerates standing water. Distinctive pin cushion like fragrant white blossoms in June. Attracts butterflies & bees. Slow to leaf out in spring. Prune to ground every 2-3 years in early spring to rejuvenate. Berries inedible.
Cornus sericia	Red twig dogwood	6-10'	7-10'	Multi stemmed rounded spreading	F	Best grown in fertile moist soil full sun to part shade but tolerant of wide range of soil conditions. To best display red twigs prune 1/4 of older twigs annually or cut back entire plant to 8" every 3 years. Very showy against snow. Tiny fragrant white flowers in late spring attract birds and butterflies.
Hamamelis vernalis	Vernal witchhazel	6-10'	10-15'	Rounded to spreading	M	Full sun to dense shade; well drained soil; pH adaptable; highly fragrant yellow bronze flowers in late February. Control size by pinching back & remove suckers to prevent colonial spread. Tolerates clay. Tough, durable & problem free. Leaves turn showy golden yellow in Fall and are retained through winter.
Hamamelis virginiana	Common witchhazel	15-20'	15'	Upright, multi stemmed	M	Full sun to part shade; medium soil; tolerates heavy clay; fragrant yellowish orange blooms in late Fall (better in full sun); needs pollination to form fruit which persists into winter; excellent yellow Fall foliage; water during drought; prune in spring after flowering; remove suckers to control spread; relatively trouble free.
Kolkwitzia amabilis 'Dream Catcher'	Dream catcher beauty bush	6-15'	5-10'	Upright, multi stemmed	F	Sun to part shade; tolerates drought; attractive pink flowers; exfoliating bark on older canes; stunning golden orange Fall foliage; attracts humming birds. Prune after flowering by removing 1/3 of old growth annually to prevent leggy look.

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Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	6-12'	6-8'	Upright, multi stemmed	S	Prefers full sun & tolerates part shade; medium to moist soil; blooms radiant yellow in March; need male and female to produce red berries in Fall; attracts birds especially thrushes; larval host to spicebush swallowtail; yellow Fall foliage. Leaves, stems & oval shaped berries have wonderful spicy fragrance. Oval berries differentiate spice bush from honeysuckle.
Myrica pensylvanica	Northern bayberry	6-10'	6-10'	Upright, multi stemmed	M	Sun to part shade; prefers acidic soils but tolerant of dry soils; semi evergreen fragrant leathery foliage, gray waxy fruit on female plants last till spring, salt tolerant. 1 of 5 plants should be male to ensure good fruit set on females. Requires little pruning but can be cut to ground to rejuvenate in spring after blooming.
Sambucus canadensis	Elderberry	5-12'	5-10'	Upright, multi stemmed	F	Full sun to part shade; medium to wet soil; fragrant white flowers in spring followed by black berries in late summer which attract wildlife; graceful arching branches; prune in early spring; remove suckers; ripened fruit may be used to make preserves, pies & wine. Unripened berries are toxic.
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood	6-10'	6-8'	Upright, multi stemmed	F	Full sun to part shade, average soil; June; blue/black berries in July; red Fall foliage; hardy; good for borders, hedge or screen; prune after flowering; native Americans used stems for arrow shafts.
Viburnum lantana 'Mohican'	Wayfaringtree viburnum	7-10'	6-9'	Upright, multi stemmed	M	USDA selection; non-fragrant white flowers in May; better form & showier orange red fruit, but needs cross pollination; plant in mass for good fruit set; attracts birds; dependable shrub for difficult areas.
Viburnum lentago	Nannyberry	14-16'	6-10'	Upright, multi stemmed	M	Full sun to part shade; medium soil; blooms white in May; attractive red Fall foliage; blue/black edible berries in Fall persist into winter; attracts birds; prune after flowering; prune suckers to control spread; flower buds form in summer for following year.
Viburnum prunifolium	Blackhaw	12-15'	6-10'	Upright, multi stemmed	S	Full sun to part shade; dry to medium soil; showy clusters of creamy white flowers in May/June; edible blue/black berries often persist into winter; glossy dark green leaves turn reddish purple in Fall; attracts birds & wildlife but not deer; prune after flowering; do not plant near ponds as wet rotting leaves smell.

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Viburnum trilobum	American cranberry bush	8-12'	6-8'	Upright, multi stemmed	M	Full sun to part shade; medium soil but does not like drought; white lace cap blooms in April - May followed by red cranberry like edible berries in late summer; attracts birds especially robins, catbirds & thrushes; purplish red Fall foliage; plant 3' apart for dense hedge. Prune after flowering.

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Intermediate Size Deciduous Shrubs						
Aronia arbutifolia 'Brilliantissima'	Brilliantissima red chokeberry	6-8'	3-5'	Upright	S	Glossy green leaves turn brilliant scarlet in Fall; white flowers in spring; abundant inedible red fruit in Fall last till December; remove suckers in late winter & prune back by 1/3 to prevent leggy look; best in full sun. Excellent alternative to burning bush.
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet, Sweet pepperbush	5-6'	5'	Upright, multi stemmed, oval	S	Full sun to part shade; prefers moist acidic soils; long lasting whitish pink bottle brush shaped fragrant blooms on current season growth in midsummer; foliage turns lustrous harvest gold in Fall; very attractive to birds, butterflies & bees; dark brown seed capsules provide winter interest; produces good blooms in shade. Control colonization by removing suckers.
Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird'	Hummingbird summersweet	3'	4'	Compact	S/M	Abundant long lasting whitish pink bottle brush shaped fragrant blooms on current season growth in midsummer; foliage is lustrous deep green turning lustrous harvest gold in Fall; full sun to partial shade; prefers moist acidic soils.
Clethra alnifolia 'Ruby Spice'	Ruby spice summersweet, Sweet pepper bush	5'	5'	Upright, multi stemmed, rounded	S/M	Grown in full sun to partial shade; prefers acidic soils; highly sweetly scented rosy pink flowers retain color; glossy leaves turn harvest gold in Fall; attracts butterflies & bees; may require occasional late winter pruning. Mulch the root zone.
Fothergilla x intermedia 'Blue Shadow'	Blue shadow fothergilla, Witch alder, Large fothergilla	5-6'	5-6'	Dense multi stemmed rounded	S	Larger & more vigorous than the species; dark green foliage needs partial shade for bluish tint; Fall foliage changes from yellow to orange to red to purple; abundant fragrant flowers. Excellent alternative to invasive Japanese barberry.
Hydrangea aborescens	Hydrangea 'Annabelle'	3-5'	4-6'	Upright, multi stemmed	F	Full sun to full shade; medium soil; huge blooms (8-12") begin in June & last up to two months; occasional Fall repeat bloom; blooms on new wood so prune to low buds in late winter. Mulch root zone and provide supplemental watering in hot dry weather for best performance. Remove suckers to control spreading.
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oakleaf hydrangea	6-8'	6-8'	Upright, multi stemmed	S	Mostly sun to part shade; medium soil; fragrant white blooms appear in June turning to shades of rose lasting for several months; large oak like leaves turn attractive shades of bronze, crimson or purple in Fall; mature stems exfoliate to reveal an attractive rich brown inner bark in winter; blooms on old wood. Mulch root zone and provide supplemental watering in hot dry weather for best performance. Prune after flowering if needed & remove suckers to control spreading. Some plant parts are poisonous but deer may browse.

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Hydrangea quercifolia 'Alice'	Oakleaf hydrangea	5-8'	5-8'	Upright, multi stemmed	M	Full sun to part shade; vigorous form of Oakleaf hydrangea; dark green foliage becomes burgundy in Fall; large 12" creamy white panicles fading to pink late May through early June. Blossoms on old wood. Needs minimal pruning but remove weak winter damaged stems in early spring. Mulch the root zone.
Ilex verticillata 'Southern Gentleman'	Winterberry, Black alder	6-8'	4-6'	Oval	S	Male pollinator for 'Winter Red' & other Winterberries; dark green summer foliage with yellow green to purplish bronze Fall foliage. Requires moist acidic soils but will tolerate clay. Full sun to partial shade. Remove suckers to control spread.
Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red'	Winterberry	6-8'	6-8'	Rounded	S	Female plant, full sun to part shade; requires moist acid soils but will tolerate clay; dark green leaves; white nondescript blooms become abundant, large, persistent red fruits loved by robins; one male plant may be sufficient to pollinate 9-10 female plants; requires occasional late winter pruning. Berries are inedible. Remove suckers to control spread.
Physocarpus opulifolius	Ninebark	6-8'	4-6'	Upright spreading	M	Full sun for best leaf color but tolerates part shade; adapts to most soils and tolerant of dry sites; distinct burgundy foliage holds color in heat of summer; creamy white flowers in spring; to renew prune every few years or may be cut to ground to rejuvenate. Named for its exfoliating bark which provides winter interest. 'Diablo' is a purple leaved cultivar; practically insect & disease free.
Viburnum nudum	Possum haw, Witherod, Smooth	5-10'	5-8'	Upright, multi stemmed spreading	S	Full sun to part shade; medium to wet soil; wind & drought tolerant; glossy aromatic white flowers in early summer followed by edible but highly acidic but edible berries that turn colors as they ripen from light pink to rose to blue to purple; glossy deep green foliage turns deep red in Fall; plant in groups for best fruiting. Prune if necessary after flowering.

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Low Growing Deciduous Shrubs						
Ceanothus americanus	New Jersey tea	3-4'	3-5'	Compact dense rounded	M	Full sun to part shade; medium to dry soils; requires good drainage & some protection from wind; fragrant white blooms on stem ends in May; good pollinator; drought tolerant but hard to transplant due to deep roots; new leaves are favorite of bunnies; dried leaves were used as tea substitute during Revolutionary War.
Fothergilla gardenii	Dwarf fothergilla	1.5'-3'	2-4'	Multi stemmed upright suckering	S	Full sun to part shade; medium soil; ivory bottlebrush like almond scented blossoms in April-May; flowers usually appear before leaves; dark green leaves turn vibrant shades of red, orange & yellow in Fall; good pollinator; dwarf size requires infrequent pruning after flowering.
Hibiscus moscheutos	Rose mallow hibiscus	3-5'	2-3'	Multi stemmed upright	F	Full sun, medium to wet soils. Stunning large 5" blooms in July & August. Cut back stems to 3-4" in late autumn. Many hybrids available in pink, red & white. Leaves out late in spring then grows quickly.
Hypericum frondosam 'Sunburst'	Sunburst St. Johnswort	3-4'	3-4'	Dense upright rounded	M	Drought & soil tolerant low growing with glossy blue green leaves on erect stems; bright golden yellow flowers from June to mid October excellent for cutting; deadhead flowers to extend blooms; grows in full sun to part shade; requires occasional minimal late winter pruning. Great ground cover but short-lived (4-6 years).
Hypericum kalmaianum 'Gemo'	Gemo St. Johnswort	2-3'	3"	Multi stemmed upright spreading	M	Full sun to part shade; prefers moist soils but tolerates drought; tightly branched with willow like foliage & prolific small bright yellow flowers from July to September excellent for cutting; requires occasional pruning after flowering.
Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet'	Henry's garnet sweetspire	3-4'	3-4'	Mounded	M	Full sun to part shade; moist to dry soils; compact form with arching branches; 3-4" large dense fragrant white racemes in June-July; lasting brilliant dark maroon with hints of pink & red Fall color; prefers moist, fertile soils in sun or shade. Excellent alternative to burning bush. Remove 1/3 of oldest stems annually. Excellent alternative to burning bush.
Itea virginica 'Little Henry'	Little Henry sweetspire	3'	3'	Mounded	M	Full sun to part shade; moist to dry soils; compact form with arching branches; 3-4" large fragrant white racemes in June-July; lasting brilliant reddish Fall color; remove suckers to control spread. Remove 1/3 of oldest stems annually. Excellent alternative to burning bush.

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Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'	Gro low sumac	2-3'	6-8'	Low mound	S/M	Full sun to part shade; dry to medium soil but requires good drainage; maintains a uniform height; glossy green leaves turn orange red in Fall; tough & adaptable; good ground cover for bank or slope; low maintenance; fruit is attractive to wildlife; fragrant female flowers give way in late summer to small clusters of hairy red berries which may persist through winter; male catkins form in summer and persist through winter. Male & female flowers may occur on the plant. Tiny berries with little flesh can be soaked in hot or cold water to make a lemonade flavor drink.
Symphoricarpos orbiculatus	Coralberry, Indian currant	2-5'	4-8'	Upright arching & suckering	F	Full sun to part shade; prefers well drained soils, pinkish yellow spring flowers; oval leaves turn beautiful red in Fall; attracts bees; magnificent coral red berries persist into winter & attracts birds. Berries are distasteful.

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Intermediate Sized Evergreen Shrubs						
Juniperus scopularum 'Skyrocket'	Rocky Mtn. juniper, Colorado red cedar	15'	2'	Narrow pyramidal	S/M	The most narrow of columnar junipers; hardy; attractive blue green foliage; soil adaptable but will not tolerate standing water; prefers full sun; no pruning required; deer & rabbit resistant but supply protection for birds in winter.
Juniperus scopularum 'Wichita Blue'	Rocky Mtn. juniper, Wichita blue juniper	10-15'	4-6'	Pyramidal	S	Brilliant blue foliage
Thuja occidentalis 'Holmstrup'	Holmstrup arborvitae	6-10'	2-3'	Pyramidal upright	S	Sun to part shade; prefers well drained soil but tolerates moisture; compact form; bright green foliage; an excellent entrance or garden corner plant with good cone set.
Thuja occidentalis 'Techny'	Techny arborvitae	10-15'	12-18'	Broad pyramidal	S	Sun; excellent dark green foliage year round; good screening or hedge plant; cold hardy; fragrant when bruised.
Thuja occidentalis 'Woodwardii'	Woodward globe arborvitae	4'	4'	Globe	S	The most uniform growing of compact globe arborvitae; will retain its ball shape without pruning; foliage is dark green turning to bronze in winter.
Low Growing Evergreen Shrubs						
Juniperus horizontalis Blue Rug	Blue rug juniper	4-6"	6-8'	Trailing	S	Prefers full sun & dry soil; salt & heat tolerant; very flat trailing form; silver blue foliage; purple tinge in winter; susceptible to juniper blight & spider mites.
Juniperus communis 'Compressa'	Compressa juniper	4'	1'	Narrow upright cone shaped accent plant	S	Needs full sun, adapts to wide range of soils, but will not tolerate standing water. Best incorporated into foundation plants or rock gardens; turns bronze in Fall.
Juniperus virginiana 'Grey Owl'	Grey owl red cedar	3'	6'	Low spreading	M	Prefers full sun but soil & pollution tolerant; finely textured silvery gray foliage; outer branches are thread like & open becoming more dense towards the center; turns bronze in Fall; susceptible to bagworms & cedar-apple rust; produces generous quantities of pollen that may precipitate allergic reactions; avoided by rabbit & deer.
Thuja occidentalis 'Hetzii Midget'	Hetz midget arborvitae	3-4'	3-4'	Globe	S	Sun or part shade; well drained soil; tolerant of limestone soils, heat & drought; no pruning necessary to maintain shape; good foundation planting; appreciates afternoon shade in heat of summer; has dense light blue-green foliage turning bronze in Fall.

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Vines						
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia creeper	N/A	N/A	spreading vine	F	Easily grown in sun or shade in medium well drained soils; blossoms are generally hidden by the leaves which emerge purplish in spring to green in summer to attractive purple to crimson-red in Fall.