



‘TOP’ SHRUBS AND VINES FOR SUN
By Pat Curran

Usually long-lived, disease/pest resistant, generally winter-hardy, won’t spread too much

Shrubs

- Abeliophyllum distichum, white forsythia
- Aronia arbutifolia ‘Brilliantissima’, red chokeberry
- Aronia melanocarpa ‘Viking’, black chokeberry
- Callicarpa dichotoma, purple beautyberry
- Caryopteris x clandonensis, bluemist shrub
- Cephalanthus occidentalis, buttonbush
- Clethra alnifolia ‘Ruby Spice,’ summersweet
- Cornus mas, Cornelian ‘cherry’
- Cotoneaster apiculatus, cranberry cotoneaster
- Forsythia ‘Meadowlark,’ ‘Northern Sun’
- Hibiscus syriacus ‘Minerva’, rose-of-sharon
- Hydrangea arborescens ‘Annabelle’
- Hydrangea paniculata ‘Limelight’, PG hydrangea
- Lespedeza thunbergii ‘Gibraltar’
- Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Diablo,’ ninebark
- Potentilla fruticosa ‘Abbotswood’
- Syringa ‘Miss Kim,’ lilac
- Viburnum plicatum tomentosum, doublefile viburnum
- Weigela florida ‘Red Prince,’ ‘Pink Princess’

Comments

- blooms very early; white or pale pink
- native, great fall color & fruit; light shade OK
- native, edible fruit, fall color; light shade OK
- showy fruit in early fall
- occasional winter dieback & may be short-lived
- native for wet places; pollinator favorite
- native spreads by suckers; fragrant blooms
- early bloom; edible fruit
- showy fruit; good on slopes
- will sucker eventually; flowerbud hardy
- triploid cultivar few seedlings; summer bloomer
- will also take light shade; blooms on new wood
- long ornamental interest; blooms on new wood
- showy late bloomer, may act as dieback shrub
- dark-leaved selection of native tall arching shrub
- long-blooming smaller native
- smaller lilac with maroon fall foliage
- flowers, fruit & maroon fall foliage
- hummingbird magnet, extra-winter hardy

Vines

- Clematis ‘The President’
- Lonicera x brownii ‘Dropmore Scarlet’, scarlet trumpet honeysuckle
- Lonicera x heckrottii, goldflame honeysuckle
- Lonicera sempervirens ‘Sulphurea’, trumpet honeysuckle
- Wisteria frutescens ‘Aunt Dee’, American/Kentucky wisteria

Comments

- twining petioles need narrow pieces to wrap
- twining vine; extra winter hardy
- twining vine
- twining vine
- twining; native, not invasive

Reference:

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses, Sixth Edition, Michael Dirr (invaluable and comprehensive, but no color pictures)

Dirr’s Encyclopedia of Trees & Shrubs, Michael Dirr (great color pictures, but not as comprehensive)

Shrubs & Vines for American Gardens, Trees for American Gardens, 2 books by Donald Wyman (older references with great plant lists, but do not use USDA hardiness zones)

Learn more:

Missouri Botanic Garden Plant Finder (over 6800 plants):

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>

Published: August 2016

Author: Pat Curran – Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County