

Essential Shrubs for Your Landscape

Angelo Petitti
recommends
the following shrubs as “must haves” for your landscape because they are all hardy in Northeastern Ohio, low maintenance, require little to no pruning or shearing, disease resistant, the flowering varieties are wonderfully long blooming or repeat blooming, and the combination of foliage color and texture, plant habit, and bark characteristics will provide 3 to 4 seasons of interest in the landscape.

- Beginning with Barberry *SUNJOY® Gold Pillar™*, a brilliant blend of compact, upright-columnar habit with the most outstanding foliage transformations. New leaves emerge glowing red then turn fluorescent, lemon-gold, and later flush a warm bronzed in the autumn. Unlike older gold varieties, *SUNJOY® Gold Pillar™* resists sun burn and is rust free. It makes a perfect, deer proof companion alongside ‘*Crimson Pygmy*’ planted in borders, as a low hedge, or in container gardens.
- Blueberry ‘*Pink Lemonade*’ you will have to grow it to believe it! This blueberry offers four seasons of garden interest for the entire family starting with charming, bell-shaped flowers of white and pale pink producing abundant berries maturing from soft green to deep rose-pink mid to late July. Fall foliage turns a spectacular golden orange, and attractive reddish-brown twigs with persistent fruit makes a perfect winter perch for the song birds. Its astonishing pink berries are medium sized possessing mild flavor and good firmness. Plant blueberries ‘*Reka*’ and ‘*Chippewa*’ for more abundant yields.
- *Buckthorn Fine Line®* combines fine, ferny textured foliage with a slender, upright habit that is readily adaptable to a variety of sunlight and soil conditions. Possesses excellent winter hardiness, heat tolerance (once established) providing an attractive solution for narrow garden beds, patio containers and establishing natural screens around a porch or patio. Slowly but steadily topping out at 7’ tall by 2’ wide, this handsome deciduous shrub is attractive to birds, rarely needs pruning, and provides dramatic fall interest with golden foliage, and ornamental (inedible) black berries.
- *Butterfly Bush* breeding has made phenomenal advances in the last few years! Get ready to fall in love with Buddleia ‘*Miss Ruby*’ and *Lo & Behold® ‘Blue Chip’*. Awarded 1st and 2nd prize, respectively, in the Royal Horticultural Society Buddleia Trials for vivid color, compact, well-branched form and continuous blooming from June to frost. ‘*Miss Ruby*’ is a singularly spectacular rosy-violet, and ‘*Blue Chip*’ is a miniature, deep blue variety growing 30” tall. The astonishing ‘*English Butterfly Series*’ contains three compact varieties that grow 1/3 the size of older types. ‘*Adonis Blue*’, ‘*Peacock pink*, and ‘*Purple Emperor*’ will make fine additions to any garden or container, adding fragrance, color, deer resistance and butterflies!
- *Hydrangea arborescens Invincibelle® Spirit* is a dramatic breeding breakthrough often referred to as the pink form of the classic ‘*Annabelle*’ hydrangea, yet it blooms prolifically through summer into fall producing 6-8” wide, pom-pom like flowers. Easy to maintain by simply pruning back to the ground in early spring. Attractive to birds and fabulous in the cutting garden for fresh or dried flower arrangements. Partial proceeds from the sale of this fantastic hydrangea help support The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, so plant in large borders for all to enjoy!

- Hydrangea macrophylla or Mop-head hydrangea grow best in part-shade to full sun with plenty of soil moisture; including many new varieties that are capable of blooming on old and new wood, also repeat blooming. **'All Summer Beauty'** has been one of Angelo's favorite hydrangeas when he discovered it has better flower power than **'Endless Summer'** blooming large mop-heads of pink or blue on new (current season) or old wood! **Let's Dance®** Moonlight has the most striking, full, deep rose blooms (or blue in acidic soil) that are known to be the fastest re-bloomers in the landscape, blossoming on a vigorous, but compact plant growing 3' tall by 3' wide. In 2008 Angelo introduced **'Blue Cassel'** and **'Pink Cassel'**, delightful lace-cap varieties with non-stop, showy blossoms and fantastic garden performance. Discovered and bred by Curt Cassel at Petitti's Madison farm; an extraordinary legacy to mark his past growing achievements and his memory.
- Hydrangea paniculata, panicle or grape cluster flowering types, are the lowest maintenance out of all hydrangea families. They prefer sun and are the most heat tolerant while performing nicely in the part-shade. They are extremely Hydrangea cold hardy and will bloom reliably despite frigid temperatures or heavy pruning because they always produce blossoms on new wood each year. Regardless of soil pH, flowers will vary in color from white to cream, pale green to deep rose, and will look stunning in fresh or dried arrangements, even provide lasting winter interest if left on the shrub or specimen tree. Best pruned heavily in early spring. **'Pinkie Winkie'** produces a showy, bi-color pink and white bloom that can be used in the perennial, cutting garden as well as the landscape. **'Limelight'** takes panicle hydrangeas to a new, unique, light chartreuse color making a perfect backdrop, hedge or specimen plant with strong cutting stems. **'Quick Fire'** is the only panicle hydrangea that blooms more than a month earlier than the rest, and flushes to a gorgeous, deep rose-pink before other varieties start to blush.
- **Itea Little Henry®** knocks the socks off burning bush and many other plants fine fall displays for its extraordinary glowing and fiery-red autumn show. It is also the most compact of the native sweetspire family maxing out at 3' tall and wide. Preferring moist, acidic, clay soil it grows extremely well in Northeast Ohio in the sun or shade. Sweetly scented, white bottle brush flowers open in early summer attracting pollinators and filling a niche when most other shrubs are not blooming. Try it, you'll love it!
- **Lilac Bloomerang® Purple** is the first of its kind to bloom repeatedly from spring through the fall! It has exceptional flowering traits as its ancestors, perfumed fragrance, clusters of deep violet buds open to lovely lilac colored panicles, wonderful deer resistance, and butterfly attractiveness, yet possesses a much more desirable, compact habit growing 4 to 5' tall and wide.
- **Ninebark Summerwine®** has distinctive, deeply cut, purple to burgundy foliage and a more compact, balanced habit than its predecessors growing only 5' tall. Its white to pale pink button-like flowers are a nice show in June, but the color and texture of its fantastic foliage in a vast, green landscape is what really sets it apart from other shrubs. A native to Ohio and very adaptable in a sunny landscape or container.
- Red-twig Dogwoods **Arctic Sun™** and **Arctic Fire™** are fantastic additions to any winter landscape producing dwarf, well branched, bushy forms that glow yellow-orange with red tips and scarlet-red, respectively. Both possess good disease and deer resistance, making a clean, green hedge in summer and a breathtaking backdrop in winter. Flourishing in sunny, moist sites and containers.
- Rose of Sharon **'Chiffon and Satin Series'** are the best of the best Rose of Sharon. Selected for their brilliant colors, unusually large flowers and long bloom times extending from late June through September. **'Lavender and White Chiffon'** have beautiful, clear coloring with ruffled centers and anemone-like flowers. **'Blue, Blush, Rose and Violet Satin'** exhibit large, tissue paper like flowers with vibrant colors and a vivid red, central eye. Prune to a desirable height after flowering or in early spring.
- Rosa **'Knock Out Series'**, now eight varieties strong with outstanding flower power, excellent disease resistance, vigor, and own-root hardiness, have revolutionized the way we all garden with roses. These easy landscape or container beauties will provide color May to November, including the best selling **'Sunny Knock Out'**, **'Double Knock Out'** and **'Pink Double Knock Out'**. Easily cared for by pruning all varieties down to 6" in early spring for best flowering and rose form.
- Spiraea **Double Play®** Series has taken an already fantastic landscape plant to the next level! This series consists of the best of the best spiraea trialed out of thousands, boasting far more vibrant, sturdy and disease resistant foliage topped by larger and showier flowers. 'Artist' was the first selected to the series with purplish-red new foliage turning grey-blue and violet-pink flowers. **'Big Bang'** begins the season with peach-orange growth changing to vivid lemon-yellow supporting the largest shell pink flowers of all varieties. 'Gold' is a handsome dwarf producing tight, 24" tall mounds of golden foliage and fuchsia pink flowers. Rarely needs pruning, just shear spent flowers to enjoy another bloom cycle that the deer won't devour!
- Viburnum **'Blue Muffin'** in early to mid-summer its white flowers make a great contrast with glossy green leaves. The intense blue fruit that inspired the name 'Blue Muffin' appears in late summer and fall. Viburnum are excellent shrubs or dwarf trees that can flourish in sun or shade, dry or wet soils. They make an attractive natural screen or specimen in the landscape while being a favorite bird attractant and having good deer resistance.
- Weigela **'My Monet'** is a unique, dwarf, variegated variety with tricolor green, pink and white foliage and rose pink flowers. 'Wine & Roses' has dark burgundy-purple foliage that really shows off the hot pink flowers, which bloom in late spring to early summer. All varieties will attract hummingbirds, are compact growers with a pleasing mounded habit, and will reliably produce second bloom cycles if pruned immediately after their first bloom cycle.



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