

## The Backbone of the Landscape

Shrubs, are an important element in the landscape. Shrubs are the backbone, or “workhorse” of the landscape. Shrubs help screen, shade, and protect your home as well as provide beauty. They come in a variety of shapes, sizes, colors and textures.



Before purchasing shrubs decide what function they will have in a landscape. Shrubs massed together give a layered effect with higher shrubs in back, medium and small toward the middle and front. Consider height and width of mature plant when selecting shrubbery. By placing plants too close together, you will create long-term maintenance problems. Learn what individual requirements are for the shrubbery you choose for you landscape. Choose shrubs that are suited to our growing conditions. They

will reward you with vigorous growth, showy color, less maintenance and water efficiency by a reduction in turfgrass.

Shrubs serve many purposes:

- Preserve the environment by conserving water, and reducing the possibility of flooding by reducing storm run-off. They act as wind barriers, reducing evaporation from plants and the soil.
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- Provide year-round accents, enclosures, and screenings. Also, provide year-round interest in the landscape, from seasonal color to interesting foliage.
- Set the tone for the landscape whether it be formal, informal, eclectic, cottage-style or a wildscape.
- Hide unsightly views, or “eye-sores.”
- Provide shade for our homes and landscaped beds, to promote water efficiency.

The following are some of BexarMet’s favorites for the landscape, based on their hardiness to adapt to our growing conditions.

<b>Dwarf Shrubs (about 1 to 3 feet tall)</b>	
<b>Dwarf Burford Holly (Ilex cornuta “Rotunda Burfordii”)</b>	Evergreen with dark green glossy leaves and rich red berries. Excellent as a border.
<b>Dwarf Chinese Holly (Ilex cornuta “Rotunda”)</b>	Evergreen with spiny leaves and rounded growth habit.
<b>Dwarf Yaupon Holly (Ilex vomitoria “Nana”)</b>	Native low spreading, compact evergreen that is excellent as a border plant.
<b>Dwarf Nandina (Nandina sp.)</b>	Rounded growth habit with lightly cupped leaves. Foliage turns red-purple in winter.

<b>Small Shrubs (about 3 to 5 feet tall)</b>	
<b>Beautyberry (Callicarpa americana)</b>	Native multi-branched deciduous with attractive purple or white fruit.
<b>Bridal Wreath Spirea (Spirea cantoniensis)</b>	Sprawling growth habit with spectacular white or pink blooms in the spring.
<b>Flame Acanthus (Anisacanthus wrightii)</b>	Native that has orange tubular flowers. Works well as a specimen plant.
<b>Dwarf Palmetto (Sabal minor)</b>	Native bushy palm

<b>Grayleaf cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster glaucophylla</i>)</b>	Evergreen sprawling growth habit. Bright red berries in the fall.
<b>Compact Nandina (<i>Nandina domestica</i>)</b>	Evergreen with clusters of red berries in the winter. Cane like stems with delicate foliage.
<b>Turk's Cap (<i>Malvaviscus drummondii</i>)</b>	Native with unusual bright red flowers. Easy to grow.
<b>Firebush (<i>Hamelia patens</i>)</b>	Also called Hummingbird Bush. Red tubular flowers attract hummingbirds all summer.

<b>Medium Shrubs (about 6 to 9 feet tall)</b>	
<b>Agarita (<i>Mahonia trifoliata</i>)</b>	Native evergreen with coarse holly-like foliage. Yellow spring flowers and edible berries.
<b>Althea (<i>Hibiscus syriacas</i>)</b>	Upright growth habit with wide range of flowers that bloom all summer.
<b>Burford Holly (<i>Ilex cornuta "Burfordii"</i>)</b>	Evergreen bushy growth with bright red berries in the fall.
<b>Ceniza or Texas Sage (<i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i>)</b>	Native evergreen shrub with dusty gray foliage that tolerates poor soil conditions.
<b>Glossy Abelia (<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>)</b>	Evergreen with large graceful arching branches with small white flowers.
<b>Esperanza (<i>Tecoma stans</i>)</b>	Native that blooms golden-yellow trumpet-shaped flowers.
<b>Eleagnus (<i>Eleagnus fruitlandi</i>)</b>	Fast growing spreading growth habit. Silvery green foliage with fragrant flowers.

<b>Large Shrubs (about 10 to 25 feet tall)</b>	
<b>Crape Myrtle (<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>)</b>	Large shrub or small tree. Multi-trunked with beautiful flowers all summer.
<b>Mock Orange (<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>)</b>	Fragrant white spring flowers. Several varieties available.
<b>Oleander (<i>Nerium oleander</i>)</b>	Evergreen fast-growing that blooms summer through fall.
<b>Possumhaw (<i>Ilex decidua</i>)</b>	Native deciduous that is low maintenance. Striking red berries in the winter.
<b>Windmill Palm (<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>)</b>	Narrow upright palm with rich green fronds. Fibrous bark.
<b>Chaste Tree (<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>)</b>	Fast growing multi-trunked shrub or small tree. Lavender blue spikes all summer.
<b>Yaupon Holly (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>)</b>	Native evergreen with upright growth habit, Freely branching.
<b>Nellie R. Stevens Holly (<i>Ilex cornuta "Nellie R. Stevens"</i>)</b>	Fast growing large shrub or small tree. Dark green glossy leaves. Very versatile.