



Deciduous Shrubs for Kansas



Introduction

Whether used in urban or rural, residential or commercial settings, shrubs are essential components of Kansas landscapes. They soften edges of buildings and provide seasonal interest. Kansas climates vary widely across the state. Rainfall is greatest in the east and quite low in the west. The northern part of the state, which experiences colder winter temperatures than areas farther south, falls into USDA Hardiness Zone 5. Zone 6 predominates in much of the state, except for a small area in south central Kansas that is in Zone 7.

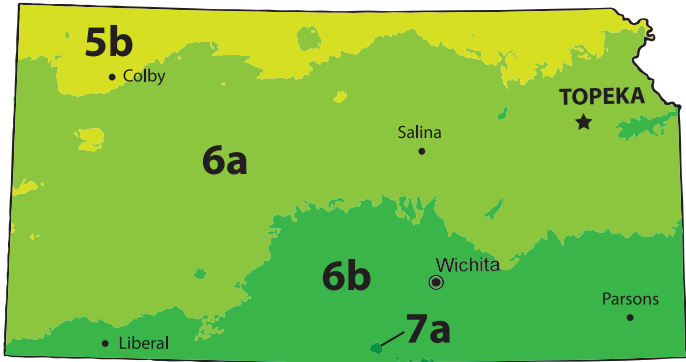
Summer heat is often extreme in Kansas, with frequent drought and significant wind. High pH soils are also typical across the state. They make it difficult for plants to obtain nutrients and may result in deficiencies. Before amending soil, a soil test to evaluate nutritional status is recommended. You can obtain a soil test through your local K-State Research and Extension office.

This publication was developed with the help of Kansas extension agents and gardeners throughout the state. It is intended as a guide to help you find the best plants for your particular area. Many of the plants listed can be grown statewide. Others have been selected to add variety in more extreme environments. Plants are organized by mature size — small (less than 5 feet tall), medium (5 to 10 feet tall), large (10 to 15 feet tall), and very large (more than 15 feet tall). Selections are based on performance and availability from local and regional nurseries.

Keep sun and wind exposure in mind when making your selections and choose plants with seasonal features that interest you. If you cannot find one of the plants or cultivars listed, check with your local garden center. Ask if they can find it through their suppliers.

Enjoy growing new shrubs in your landscape.

Plant Hardiness Zones



Average Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature

- Zone 5b:** -15° to -10° F (-26.1° to -23.3° C)
- Zone 6a:** -10° to -5° F (-23.3° to -20.6° C)
- Zone 6b:** -5° to 0° F (-20.6° to -17.8° C)
- Zone 7a:** 0° to 5° F (-17.8° to -15° C)

Figure 1. USDA Plant Hardiness Zone map for Kansas.

Kansas Area Map

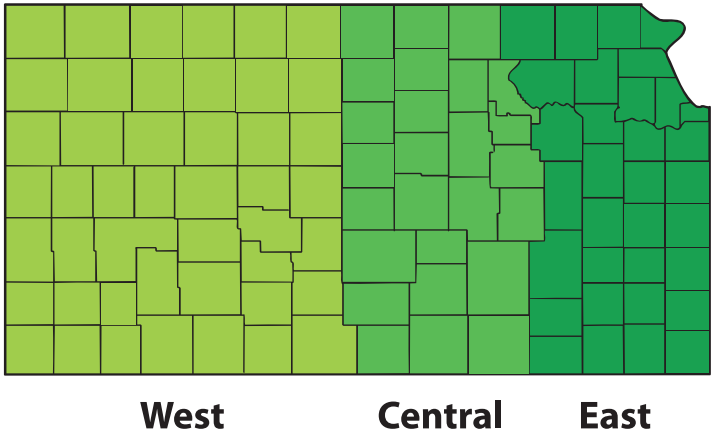


Figure 2. Map showing regions where specific cultivars perform best as noted in tables on pages 2–13.

Table 1: Small deciduous shrubs: less than 5 feet tall and wide at maturity

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry	Adaptable species, long persistent black fruit in the fall, wine-red fall color. Can colonize large areas.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring Fall	S
'Autumn Magic'		Compact			
'McKenzie'		Selected for juice making.			
'Nero'					
'Viking'					
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry	One of the most popular landscape shrubs. Needs full sun, has thorns, small red fruit. Too many cultivars to list, here are some highlights.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring Summer Fall (Foliage)	S
Purple Leaf Types	<i>var. atropurpurea</i>				
'Admiration'		Purple leaves with yellow margin. Striking.			
'Bagatelle'		Compact, slow growing, minimal fruit.			
'Crimson Pygmy'		Most common. Overused.			
'Goruzam'	Golden Ruby	Leaves edged in gold, purple centers, good red fall color.			
'Rose Glow'		New leaves are rose pink, darkening to purple with age.			
Green, Yellow, Variegated Leaf Types					
'Aurea'		Vivid yellow leaves that do not scorch in heat.			
'Kobold'		Looks like a compact Japanese holly or boxwood and is a good substitution plant.			
'Orange Rocket'		Upright, columnar habit with rust-orange foliage.			
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterflybush	Arching, slender branches. Leaves (4 to 10 inches) are gray-green on top, silver and pubescent (hairy) underneath. No fall color. Showy all summer, starting in June (many flower colors). Remove spent blooms to encourage growth. Full sun. Attracts butterflies. May die back to the ground in very cold winters. Flowers on new growth so you may want to cut it back to the ground anyway. Can be invasive—sterile cultivars are in development.	Full Sun	Summer	S
'Adokeep'	Adonis Blue	Blue-purple, fragrant flowers, 10 to 12-inch panicles.			
'Asian Moon'		Sterile. Blue/purple fragrant flowers, 4 to 6-inch panicles.			
'Blue Chip'	Low and Behold	True dwarf (18 to 24 –inches tall by 36 inches wide), bluish flowers.			
'Miss Ruby'		Rose-red flowers.			
'Nanho Purple'		Magenta-purple flowers with orange eye, medium fragrance.			
<i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i>	Purple Beautyberry	Long branches arch and touch the ground at tips. White flowers spiral around branches June-July; long lasting bright purple fruit in the fall.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Fall (fruit)	S
'Early Amethyst'		Fruit is more abundant than the species.			
'Albifructus'		White fruit.			
<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i>	Bluebeard	Almost herbaceous—needs to be cut back in late winter (flowers on new growth). Soft blue flowers in August/September.	Full Sun	Summer	S
'Blue Mist'		Powder blue flowers.			
'Lissilv'	Sterling Silver	Unique silver foliage, bright-blue flowers.			
'Dark Knight'		Dark-blue flowers.			
'Dureo'	Pink Chablis	Pink flowers.			
'First Choice'		Compact plant, deeper blue flowers than species.			
<i>Chaenomeles japonica</i>	Japanese Flowering Quince	Thorny stems, 2 to 3 feet high, flowers in spring (orange-red, scarlet or blood red). Not as ornamental as common flowering quince, but very winter hardy.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	S

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet Clethra	Sweet floral fragrance June-August. Lustrous dark green leaves, yellow fall color.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer	E, C
'Hummingbird'		Compact plant, white flowers.			
'Crystalina'	Sugartina	Inflorescences are broader and fuller than typical (white).			
<i>Cornus alba</i>	Red-stemmed Dogwood	Prized for winter interest: bright red stem color. Young stems are the brightest, so prune 1/3 of the oldest stems from the base of the plant every year or trim back to the ground in late winter.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Winter Spring	S
'Bailhalo'	Ivory Halo	Compact form of 'Argenteo-marginata' — leaves have an irregular, creamy white border. Shade.			
'Regnzam'	Red Gnome	Coral-red stems, crimson-red fall foliage.			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> 'Contorta'	Harry Lauder's Walking Stick	Winter interest is the primary trait: Stems are contorted.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Winter	S, (W)
<i>Cotoneaster adpressus</i> 'Tom Thumb'	Creeping Cotoneaster	Very dwarf, low growing, compact, rigidly branching shrub. Grows slowly, reaching 1 to 1½ feet tall and spreading 4 to 6 feet wide. Dark-green leaves, dark-red fruit.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring Summer (fruit)	E, C
<i>Cotoneaster apiculatus</i>	Cranberry Cotoneaster	Stiff branches, grows 3 feet high and up to 6 feet wide. Pink flowers in late May followed by bright-red fruit (1/4- to 1/3-inch) in late fall, though may persist into spring. Nice dark-green, glossy leaves in summer.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring Summer (fruit)	W
<i>Deutzia gracilis</i> 'Nikko'	Slender Deutzia	Compact (2 feet high by 5 feet wide), small leaves, white flowers in late spring (light fragrance). Leaves are blue-green in summer and deep burgundy in fall.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	E
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush	Horizontal branching habit. Amazing red fall color.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Fall	S, (W)
'Fire Ball'	Fire Ball	Makes an excellent screen. Hardier than the species. Grows to 6 feet tall.			
'Rudy Haag'		More compact, grows 4 to 5 feet tall and wide. Fall color is pinkish rose to red.			
<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i> 'Courtasol'	Border Forsythia Gold Tide	Earliest shrub to flower (yellow) in the spring. Little landscape interest after flowering. Prune after spring show (flowers on old wood). Gold Tide is compact, growing 1½ to 2½ feet tall by 4 to 5 feet wide.	Full Sun	Spring	S
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> 'Mt. Airy'	Dwarf Fothergilla	White, fragrant flowers look like bottle-brushes in April and May. Fall color is expressed over a long period (yellow/orange/red in the same leaf).	Part Shade	Spring Fall	E, C
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Smooth Hydrangea	Flowers (4 to 6 inch wide corymbs) June-September on new and old growth. Flowers also dry well for floral arrangements. Three to 5 feet tall and wide, suckers freely and will fill a space if not managed.	Part Shade	Late Spring	E
'Annabelle'		Flowers are up to 1 foot across (white). Flowers may get so large as to weigh the stem down.			
'Abetwo'	Incrediball	Similar to 'Annabelle', but has four times the number of sepals on the flowers.			
'NCHA1'	Invincibelle Spirit	Similar to 'Annabelle', but has pink flowers.			

Table Key

Exposure: Full Sun, Partial Sun/Shade, Full Shade.

Season of Interest: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

Area: part of Kansas that the shrub will grow best in: E = eastern, C = central, W = western, S = statewide.

A parenthesis surrounding a letter indicates that the plant will perform better with some protection.

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Bigleaf Hydrangea	Beautiful plant. Needs some protection and plenty of water. In very cold years when shoots die back to the ground, it may not flower the following year (flowers on old wood). There are some new re-blooming (flowers on new wood) cultivars, noted below. Flowers bloom June-August and may last up to 4 weeks, depending on temperature. In high pH soils, flowers will be pink rather than blue. This is tied to the availability of aluminum in the soil (less available in high pH soil—almost all of Kansas), which is needed to develop the blue pigment. Many, many cultivars. Here are some of the best.	Part Shade	Summer	E, C
'All Summer Beauty'		Pink flowers on old wood, mophead type.			
'Bailmer'	Endless Summer	The first re-blooming hydrangea developed. Mophead.			
'Blushing Bride'		Re-blooming. Flowers are pale pink or mauve.			
'Emile Mouillere'		One of the most cold hardy. Flowers on old wood, mophead.			
'Mini Penny'		Re-blooming. Pink mophead.			
'Nikko Blue'		Flowers on old wood, mophead, will be pink.			
'Penny Mac'		Re-blooming, pink mophead.			
'PIIHM-I'	Twist-n-Shout	Re-blooming, rose-pink, lacecap type flowers.			
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea	Best growing hydrangea across the state. Dwarf cultivars described here. Oak-shaped leaves turn rich red to burgundy in fall. Flowers open in June, lasting 3 to 4 weeks. Inflorescences can be 4 to 12 inches long.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer Fall Winter	S
'Munchkin'		White flowers.			
'Pee Wee'		Leaves and flowers half the size of the species; white flowers.			
'Ruby Slippers'		White flowers fade to deep pink.			
<i>Hypericum frondosum</i> 'Sunburst'	Golden St. Johnswort	Large (3-inch) yellow flowers. Tolerates dry soil, heat.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer Fall	S
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. Johnswort	Buttercup yellow flowers May-September.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer Fall	S
<i>Kerria japonica</i> 'Pleniflora'	Japanese Kerria	Best growth in partial shade; bright yellow flowers May-June, then sporadically until frost. Bright green stems maintain color for winter interest. Should be used more often.	Part Shade	Spring Summer	E, C
<i>Philadelphus x virginialis</i>	Mockorange	One-season plant (fragrant spring flowers are white). Full sun, thrives on neglect.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	S
'Snowbelle'		Cold hardy, free flowering, very fragrant, double flowers.			
'Snowgoose'		Compact plant, double flowers.			
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Bush Cinquefoil	Flowers from June until frost. Withstands poor, dry soils and extreme cold. Full sun to partial shade.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Late Spring	E, C
'Coronation Triumph'		Dense, full-mounded plant, very floriferous with bright-yellow, 1-inch blooms.			
'Goldfinger'		Dark-green leaves, large (1¾-inch) bright- yellow flowers.			
'McKay's White'		White flowers, no fruit. Plant grows 2 to 3 feet.			
'Pink Beauty'		Pink flowers, may fade some.			
<i>Prunus glandulosa</i> 'Rosea Plena'	Dwarf Flowering Almond	Pink flowers (double) in April and May. One-season of interest, but flowers are pretty. Prune after flowering.	Full Sun	Spring	E, C

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant Sumac	Hardy, drought tolerant with yellow spring flowers and hairy red fruit on female plants in August/September. Glossy green leaves in summer, red to orange fall color. Grows 2 to 6 feet tall and wide.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer Fall	W, C
'Gro-low'	Wide spreading form that grows 2 feet tall and 6 to 8 feet wide. Female cultivar always has a good crop of fruit.				
'Konza'	Selected by the USDA Plant Material Center in Manhattan from a population growing in limestone. Leaves turn dark red in fall, heavy fruit production.				
<i>Rhus copallina</i> 'Prairie Flame'	Flameleaf Sumac	Thrives in dry, rocky places. Compact form (5 to 7 feet tall and wide), greenish yellow flower panicles in August, followed by red fruit in the fall. Fall color is rich crimson, scarlet and burgundy red.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer Fall	W
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Alpine Currant	Fruit is good for birds and wildlife, good plant for securing slopes or erosion-prone areas. Sun or shade.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring Summer (fruit)	S
<i>Rosa rugosa</i> 'Frau Dagmar Hastrup'	Rugosa Rose	Leaves are leathery, lustrous, and dark green with good fall color. Vigorous, disease resistant, tolerates salt (good for difficult sites). Flowers are light pink, single, slight fragrance. Bright fruit (hips) is a nice feature.	Full Sun	Spring Summer	S
<i>Spiraea decumbens</i>	White Lace Spirea	Low mounding groundcover (18 inches) good for rock gardens. White flowers in spring with mint green-colored leaves. Native habitat is limestone soils in the Alps.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	W
<i>Spiraea nipponica</i> 'Snowmound'	Snowmound Nippon Spirea	Dark blue-green leaves, white flowers May to June. Plant growth is neater and denser than Vanhoutte Spirea.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	S
<i>Spiraea x vanhouttei</i>	Vanhoutte Spirea	Old-fashioned favorite. Habit is arching and fountain-like. Stunning white floral display in May. Very durable.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	S
'Levgold'	Firegold	Yellow/lemon/lime-green leaves, may fade with age.			
'Renaissance' and 'Snow White'		Good disease resistance.			
<i>Spiraea japonica</i> , <i>S. x bumalda</i>	Dwarf Spirea hybrids	Lots of great cultivars featuring a variety of foliage and flower colors.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring to Late Spring	S
'Anthony Waterer'		Pink inflorescences are 4 to 6 inches across. New leaves are red, changing to green for summer, and then red fall color.			
'Gold Mound'		Lavender/pink flowers in May/June. Gold leaves may fade to yellow-green. Orange/Red fall color.			
'Little Princess'		Deep pink flowers. Grows fast, large leaves.			
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Common Snowberry	Grows 3 to 6 feet tall and wide. White fruit September through November. Good shade tolerance. Suckers—good for colonizing large areas. Native to limestone areas.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer Late Summer (fruit)	S
<i>Symphoricarpos x chenaultii</i>	Chenault Coralberry	Low spreading (3 to 6 feet), arching form with pink flowers. Fruit is pink or white and tinged pink (the side away from the sun is white).	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer Late Summer (fruit)	W
'Hancock'		Low spreading (2 feet tall and up to 12 feet wide)—good as a groundcover.			
'Blade of Sun'		Grows 12 to 18 inches tall and 18 to 24 inches wide. New growth is yellow-orange. Pink/purple berries.			
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Indiancurrant Coralberry	Tough plant, good for naturalizing. Fruit are attractive, purplish red maturing October into winter.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer Late Summer (fruit)	S
<i>Syringa meyeri</i>	Meyer Lilac	Lavender purple, fragrant flowers in spring.	Full Sun	Spring	S
'Palibin'		Heavy bloom (flowers on old wood). Compact plant starts blooming at 1 foot tall. Reddish-purple buds open to pink flowers.			
'Penda'	Bloomerang	The first re-blooming lilac, though long-term performance in Kansas has not been evaluated. Since this trait DOES exist, you can be sure there will be more re-blooming lilacs entering the market in coming years.			

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Weigela florida</i>	Old Fashioned Weigela	Bell-shaped flowers (1 to 2-inch) in April/May/June, then sporadically throughout the rest of the season. No fall color.	Full Sun	Summer	E, C
'Alexandra'	Wine and Roses	Compact (4 to 5-feet) plant with burgundy/purple leaves. Hot pink flowers.			
'Bramwell'	Fine Wine	Purple leaves, grows 2 to 3½-feet tall and wide.			
'Dark Horse'		Leaves are purple/black with lime-green veins. Deep pink flowers. Grows 2 to 3 feet tall and wide.			
'Elvera'	Midnight Wine	Dwarf form of Wine and Roses, grows 18- to 24-inches tall and wide.			
'Minuet'		Dwarf form (30-inches) with dark, ruby-red flowers over purple/dark green leaves. Excellent cold hardiness.			
'Pink Poppet'		Dark green foliage, grows 2 to 3½ feet tall. Light pink flowers.			
'Polka'		Green leaves, pink flowers with yellow throat.			
'Red Prince'		Red flowers, green leaves.			

Table 2: Medium deciduous shrubs: 5 to 10 feet at maturity

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> 'Regent'	Saskatoon Serviceberry	White flowers in early spring, red fall color. Sweet, bluish-purple, juicy fruit in June. Multi-stemmed shrub.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> 'Brilliantissima'	Red Chokeberry	White flowers in May, vivid red fall color. Bright-red fruit (mature in September) are shunned by birds, persist into winter.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Fall, Winter	S, (W)
<i>Berberis x mentorensis</i>	Mentor Barberry	Dark-green leaves persist longer than other barberries, yellow/orange/red fall color. Yellow flowers, red fruit. Good for hedges or barriers.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Fall	S
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Butterflybush	Arching, slender branches. Leaves (4 to 10 inches) are gray-green on top, silver and pubescent (hairy) underneath. No fall color. Showy all summer, starting in June (many flower colors). Remove spent blooms to encourage growth. Attracts butterflies. May die back to the ground in very cold winters. Flowers on new growth so you may want to cut it back to the ground anyway. Can be invasive—sterile cultivars are in development.	Full Sun	Summer	S
'Attraction'		Red-purple fragrant flowers.			
'Black Knight'		Dark purple, fragrant flowers, 10-inch panicles.			
'Bicolor'		Purple buds open lavender-purple with butterscotch-orange eyes. Fragrant.			
'Honeycomb'		Yellow. 2 to 3-inch panicles.			
'Nanho Blue'		Mauve-blue, low fragrance.			
'Pink Delight'		Deep pink, low-medium fragrance.			
'Royal Red'		Red flowers, 6 to 20-inch panicles.			
'Silver Frost'		White flowers, silver-gray foliage.			
'White Profusion'		White flowers with yellow eyes, low-medium fragrance.			
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> 'Bieberich'	Buttonbush Sputnik	Lustrous green leaves, attracts butterflies, good for areas that occasionally hold water. Curious, round, white flowers in summer.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer	S

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	Flowering Quince	Prized for bright spring flowers (April).	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	S
'Cameo'		Large, double, fluffy, peach-pink flowers.			
'Jet Trails'		White flowers.			
'Texas Scarlet'		Red flowers.			
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet Clethra	Sweet floral fragrance June-August. Lustrous dark green leaves, yellow fall color.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer, Fall	E, C
'Ruby Spice'		Deep rose colored, non-fading, fragrant flowers.			
'Sixteen Candles'		White inflorescences (4 to 6-inches) are held upright like birthday candles.			
<i>Cornus alba</i> 'Argenteo marginata'	Red-stemmed Dogwood	Prized for winter interest: bright red stem color. Young stems are the brightest, so prune 1/3 of the oldest stems from the base of the plant every year or trim back to the ground in late winter. 'Argenteo-marginata' has leaves with an irregular, creamy white border. Shade.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Fall, Winter	S
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Redosier Dogwood	Similar to <i>Cornus alba</i> , but more suckering, stoloniferous, and colonizing. More tolerant of wet soils than <i>C. alba</i> .	Full Sun to Part Shade	Winter	S
'Bailey'		Reddish winter stems, white flowers followed by bluish fruit, red-purple fall color.			
'Cardinal'		Cherry-red stems.			
'Silver and Gold'		Yellow stems. Leaves have a cream-colored margin.			
<i>Cotoneaster acutifolius</i>	Peking Cotoneaster	Good for difficult soils. Grows up to 10 feet tall. Dull green leaves, red fruit.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer	W
<i>Cotoneaster divaricatus</i>	Spreading Cotoneaster	Reddish-purple fall color lasting 4 to 6 weeks. Small, rose colored flowers produce red to dark red fruit that persists into winter. Good for screens.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer, Fall	E, C
<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i> 'Spectabilis'	Showy Border Forsythia	First plant to flower (yellow) in the spring. Little landscape interest after flowering. Prune after spring show (flowers on old wood).	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	S
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	Vernal Witchazel	Native. Late winter (January) flowers (yellow/orange/red) are fragrant. Dark green leaves turn rich butter-yellow to golden yellow in the fall.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Winter	E, C
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	Panicle Hydrangea	Large panicles of flowers (may reach 12 to 18 inches long and 6 to 12 inches wide) usually open white in the summer, aging to a blushed purplish pink (flowers on new growth). Grow in a semi-protected spot and keep watered during drought.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer	E, C
'Bulk'	Quick Fire	Flowers early (May/June).			
'DVPpinky'	Pinky Winky	Inflorescences appear two-toned as they open white and mature to a dark pink.			
'Jane'	Little Lime	Smaller than Limelight, but similar lime-green inflorescences.			
'Limelight'	Limelight	Lime-green inflorescences.			
'Little Lamb'		White flowers. Smaller, more compact plant.			
'Pink Diamond'		Light pink flowers.			
'Tardiva'		White flowers open in September.			

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea	Best growing hydrangea across the state. Can be quite large. Oak-shaped leaves turn rich red to burgundy in fall. Flowers open in June, lasting 3 to 4 weeks. Inflorescences can be 4 to 12 inches long.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	S
'Alice'		Half-dollar-sized sepals emerge white, aging rosy pink.			
'Snowflake'		Multiple white sepals emerge on top of older ones, creating a double-flowered appearance.			
'Flemygea'	Snow Queen	Large, showy white sepals mature to pink.			
<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i> 'Pink Cloud'	Beautybush	Pink flowers in May/June. Upright, arching, vase-shaped shrub. Exfoliating bark.	Full Sun	Late Spring, Early Summer, Winter (bark)	S
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Crapemyrtle	Prized for wonderful, fluffy flowers (no fragrance) in July/August. Good fall color. Exfoliating bark provides winter interest. Needs a protected location (cold hardiness is an issue). Many colors and plant sizes to choose from: here are a few.	Full Sun	Summer, Fall	E, C
'Acoma'		White. Semi-dwarf (5 to 10 feet).			
'Hopi'		Pink. Semi-dwarf (5 to 10 feet).			
'Pink Ruffles'		Pink. Grows to 6 feet.			
'Prairie Lace'		Pink with white outer margin. Blooms June through late September.			
'Velma's Royal Delight'		Magenta flowers. Grows to 5 feet. One of the most cold hardy cultivars, Introduced by Dr. John Pair (K-State) in 1991.			
'Whit I'	Raspberry Sundae	Crimson buds open cardinal-red to pink (two-toned effect).			
'Whit II'	Dynamite	Bright red, heavy flowering into September.			
'Whit III'	Pink Velour	Crimson buds open deep pink. Burgundy new growth turns purple/green to dark green.			
<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	Winter Honeysuckle	Powerful fragrance (sweet, lemon scent) in early spring. Needs space as it is a wide spreading plant.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Late Winter, Early Spring	S
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Common Ninebark	Very tough and durable plant. White with pink-tinge flowers appear in May and look great when offset by the leaves of one of the purple cultivars. Exfoliating bark offers winter interest.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	S
'Center Glow'	Center Glow	New leaves are red-wine-purple with a lime-yellow center. Color may fade in the heat.			
'Coppertina'	Coppertina	Similar to Center Glow, but with a copper center rather than lime-yellow.			
'Monlo'	Diabolo	Reddish purple leaves. Mildew may be a problem.			
'Seward'	Summer Wine	More compact (5 to 6 feet) than others. Wine-red to bronze-red leaves.			
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	Great red fall color. Thrives on neglect.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer, Fall	S
'Bailtiger'	Tiger Eyes	Yellow/Gold leaves. Orange-red fall color. Coarse leaf texture. Use sparingly as a specimen plant. Suckers.			
<i>Ribes aureum</i> var. <i>villosum</i>	Clove Currant	Rare in cultivation, but is suitable for difficult sites and should be used more. Yellow flowers in April smell strongly of cloves, small red fruit in June or July. Habit is upright-arching and suckers prolifically.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer	W, C

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Rosa</i> sp.	Rose	<i>Rosa</i> is a huge genus with more cultivars in production than can be mentioned here. In general, hybrid tea roses take quite a bit of care and are best left to rose collectors. The most carefree roses (and best for landscape use) are shrub roses, of which there are many available. Shrub roses have less fragrance and do not have the same shape as florist roses, but the plants are much healthier and require less maintenance. A few of the most likely to be seen are listed here.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer	S
Drift Series	Coral Drift Red Drift	Dwarf hybrids, do not re-bloom like Knock Out roses.			
Knock Out Series		Bloom spring to frost, excellent disease resistance. Cultivars come in both single and double petal flower forms.			
<i>Salix integra</i> (<i>S. purpurea</i>) 'Hakuro-nishiki'	Willow	Good for covering large, moist areas (stream bank stabilization). Should be pruned to the ground occasionally. Blue-green leaves hold late into the fall. 'Hakuro-nishiki' produces white, pink, green new shoot growth that matures to green.	Full Sun	Spring, Summer	S
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	American Elderberry	Grows well in moist areas—good for colonizing large areas. Large cymes of flowers in June/July are followed by purple-black fruit in August/September, which are used in jellies and wine.	Full Sun	Spring, Summer	S
<i>Spiraea prunifolia</i>	Bridalwreath Spirea	Common garden plant, abundant white flowers appear in late spring.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	S
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Common Lilac	Wonderfully fragrant flowers in late May. Save a spot in your garden for a lilac. Borers can be a problem for some cultivars. Many cultivars (more than 2,000 at present estimates) available with varying flower colors (white, violet, blue, lilac, pink, magenta, purple). Space to list only a few here, look to lilac enthusiast books and online references for more cultivars.			
'Alba'		White.			
'Arch McKeon'		Bright reddish-purple.	Full Sun	Spring	S
'Charles Joly'		Double, magenta.			
'Krasavitsa Moskvyy'		Double white, pink in bud.			
'Prairie Petite'		Light pink, fades to lavender. Dwarf (3 x 3 feet).			
'President Roosevelt'		Purple, highly fragrant.			
'Sensation'		Purple, edged in white.			
<i>Syringa x chinensis</i>	Chinese Lilac	More delicate and more floriferous than the common lilac. Fewer cultivars in commerce.	Full Sun	Spring	S
<i>Viburnum x burkwoodii</i>	Burkwood Viburnum	Very good heat and cold tolerance. Semi-snowball type inflorescences are 2 to 3 inches wide and fragrant. May need some pruning as it grows larger. Pollution tolerant.			
'Conoy'		Semi-evergreen (turns maroon in winter), spreading form. Flowers are pink in bud, opening white, but no fragrance. Red fruit attractive for 5 to 8 weeks in fall.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Fall	E, C
'Mohawk'		Dark red flower buds open white and have a spicy clove fragrance (buds are effective for several weeks before opening). Dark, glossy green leaves in summer/ reddish-purple fall color, compact habit.			
<i>Viburnum carlesii</i>	Koreanspice Viburnum	Wonderful, spicy-sweet fragrance in April/May. Neat foliage, good red fall color.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer	S, (W)
<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	Witherod Viburnum	New foliage is bronze to purple, spring flowers, attractive fruit, great fall color.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden Viburnum	Heavy flowering in spring, followed by candy-red fruit that often last into the winter.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
'Henneke'	Cardinal Candy	Glossy foliage, fruits can last all winter.			
'Michael Dodge'		Yellow fruit.			
<i>Viburnum farreri</i>	Fragrant Viburnum	Great fall color (reddish purple).	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
<i>Viburnum x juddii</i>	Judd Viburnum	Cross between <i>V. carlesii</i> and <i>V. bitchiuense</i> with best features of both parents. Full, rounded habit, disease-resistant, pink buds open to white, highly fragrant flowers. Inflorescences are 2½ to 3¼ inches wide.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Smooth Witherod Viburnum	Flowers have a musky scent, opening in May/June. Great plant for foliage texture, great fall color (red).	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
'Bulk'	Brandywine	Glossy, green leaves. Fruit are multicolored (green, ivory, pink and blue) all on the same inflorescence. Good red fall color.			
'Winterthur'		Lustrous, waxy leaves. Blue fruit. Red fall color.			
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	European Cranberrybush Viburnum	Maple-like leaves, moderate red fall color. White flowers in spring, fruit change from yellow to bright red.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Fall	S
'Compactum'		Compact plant maturing at 6 feet tall and wide.			
'Roseum'	Snowball	Flowers are sterile, shaped like snowballs (2 to 3 inches wide).			
<i>Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum</i>	Doublefile Viburnum	Graceful, horizontally branched shrub. Spring flowers are raised on 2-inch high stalks above leaves, resulting in a Milky Way effect. Red fruit ripen in late summer and mature to black. Good bird food.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
'Shasta'		Very cold hardy.			
'Summer Snowflake'		Continuous flowering.			

Table 3: Large deciduous shrubs: 10 to 15 feet at maturity

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush Buckeye	Native. Bottle-brush inflorescences are 8- to 12-inches long with white flowers. Butter yellow fall color. Can colonize large areas.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer	E, C
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Shadblow Serviceberry	Shrub with erect stems, spreads by suckering. White flowers (2- to 3-inch long racemes) in late March lead to black fruit, which is juicy and sweet. Fall color is yellow/gold, but may have a little orange and red.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer	S
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	Blue/green leaves, creamy white flowers and white fruit (August/September/ good for birds). Reddish purple fall color. Suckers profusely—good for colonizing large areas. Gray (3-year old wood) and reddish brown (young wood) stems provide winter interest.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Fall, Winter	S
'Hurzam'	Huron	Dwarf, growing 3 to 4 feet tall and wide.			
'Muszam'	Muskingum	Dwarf, growing 2 by 4 feet.			
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American Filbert	Native. Good for naturalizing in large, informal areas (suckers).	Full Sun to Part Shade	Early Spring	E, C

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Common Smoketree	Flower panicles have silk-like hairs that develop on the inflorescence, giving this plant a smoke-like appearance. The straight species grows quite well across the state, but more often the purple leaved cultivars are found in garden centers. They grow well, too, and have great fall color (red and orange mix into the already purple leaves).	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	S
'Ancot'	Golden Spirit	Bright yellow leaves, fade to green/yellow or green depending on heat.			
'Royal Purple'		Good purple-leaved cultivar.			
x'Grace'		Hybrid with <i>C. obovatus</i> has pink flower panicles (14 inches high by 11 inches long). Leaves are light red when young, darkening to blue/green with great fall color.			
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning Bush	Horizontal branching habit. Amazing red fall color.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Fall	S, (W)
'Compactus'		Makes an excellent screen. Not as hardy as the species.			
<i>Ilex decidua</i> 'Warren's Red'	Possumhaw	Also known as Deciduous Holly, this plant loses its leaves in the winter, but the bright red berries provide fantastic winter interest. Found in roadside ditches and fences in southeast Kansas. Cold hardiness can be an issue.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Winter	E, C
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	Mockorange	Thrive with neglect, though suckering can be a problem. Single-season interest (May/June flowers are quite fragrant).	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring	S
<i>Prunus americana</i>	American Red Plum	Tough plant, can be used for naturalizing and wildlife areas. White flowers with plum fragrance appear in March. Yellow fruit in June/July. Great red fall color.	Full Sun	Spring, Summer, Fall	S
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	Sandhill Plum or Chickasaw Plum	Similar to American Red Plum, but smaller. Good for making jelly.	Full Sun	Spring, Summer	E, C
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> 'Kasan'	Scarlet Firethorn	Thorns — use as a border. White flowers in May/June lead to bright orange-red fruit in the fall/winter (principal interest for this plant). Can be trellised or espaliered.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer	S, (W)
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood Viburnum	Glossy green leaves, red fall color, flowers are cream-colored and not as pleasant for fragrance as other <i>Viburnums</i> . Hardy, durable plant, good for difficult situations like parking lots. Can sucker and colonize.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
'Christom'	Blue Muffin	Blue fruit in the fall.			
'Ralph Senior'	Autumn Jazz	Vase-shaped habit, glossy green leaves in summer, multi-colored fall color.			
'Synnestvedt'	Chicago Lustre	Glossy dark green leaves, red-purple fall color.			
<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaringtree Viburnum	Flowers are creamy white, 3 to 5 inches wide and are not fragrant. Impressive fruit in the fall (start yellow, change to red and black, often all colors in the same group of fruit).	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
'Emerald Triumph'		Compact form grows 6 to 8 feet tall and wide. Leathery, glossy leaves. Very good cold tolerance, red coloration on fruit lasts 3 to 4 weeks.			
'Mohican'		Compact form, thick dark green leaves, fruit turns orange-red for more than 4 weeks, starting in July.			
<i>Viburnum macrocephalum</i>	Chinese Snowball Viburnum	Large, white, puffy flowers cover the plant in April/May and again in fall.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Fall	S

Table 4: Very large deciduous shrubs: greater than 15 feet at maturity

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian Peashrub	For very harsh sites. Pea-green leaves emerge with the yellow flowers in May. Fruit are narrow pods that make a popping sound when they open in July/August. Fixes atmospheric nitrogen.	Full Sun	Spring, Summer	S
<i>Cornus asperifolia</i>	Roughleaf Dogwood	Native. Fruit is white in summer. Reddish purple fall color.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer, Fall	S
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry Dogwood	Multistemmed shrub or small tree. Exfoliating bark. Yellow flowers in March followed by bright cherry red fruit in July. Fruit can be used for syrup and preserves. Good bird food.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>	Eastern Wahoo	Native. Large shrub or small tree. Dark purple flowers in May/June. Attractive red fruit. Reddish purple fall color.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Late Spring, Summer, Fall	E, C
<i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i> 'Arnold Promise'	Witchhazel	Fragrant early spring flowers are bright yellow with a bit of red. Fall color is rich yellow to orange-apricot.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Winter	E, C
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witchhazel	Native. Fragrant yellow flowers appear in October, may last until December, but are masked by yellow fall color.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Fall	E, C
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Rose-of-Sharon or Shrub Althea	Upright habit, multi stemmed. Many cultivars, flower color ranges from white, pink, red and purple to almost blue (single and double flowers). Flowers appear from June and July into September on new growth.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer	S
'Aphrodite'		Dark pink with dark red eye.			
'Diana'		Pure white and large.			
'Helene'		White with maroon eye.			
'Lucy'		Double red/dark-pink flowers.			
'Marina'	Blue Satin	Very close to blue color.			
'Minerva'		Lavender-pink with red eye.			
<i>Prunus virginiana</i> 'Schubert Select' or 'Canada Red'	Common Chokecherry	White flowers in April/May lead to fruit that are red to dark purple in color and are used for making jams, jellies, pies, sauces and wines.	Full Sun	Spring, Summer	S
<i>Rhus copallina</i>	Flameleaf Sumac	Thrives in dry, rocky places. Good for naturalizing large spaces, greenish yellow flower panicles in August followed by red fruit in the fall. Fall color is rich crimson, scarlet and burgundy red. Plants can reach 20 to 30 feet tall.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Summer, Fall	W, C
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac	Great red fall color. Thrives on neglect.	Full Sun to Part shade	Summer, Fall	S
'Laciniata'		Divided leaflets create a fine textured, ferny appearance.			
<i>Shepherdia argentea</i>	Silver Buffaloberry	Leaves are silver-colored on both surfaces, thorny, form is a bit unkempt — probably most useful in naturalizing open spaces. Berries can be used for making jellies. Difficult to find in cultivation. Native.	Full Sun	Summer	W
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry Viburnum	Good for naturalizing and as winter bird food. Adaptable to a wide range of conditions. White flowers in spring, multicolored fruit in the fall/winter.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	S
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw Viburnum	Similar to <i>V. lentago</i> ; however, branches are very stiff, resulting in an interesting coarse texture in winter. White flowers in April/May, fruit is pink maturing bluish black (good for making preserves) in September. Reddish purple fall color. Grows well in dry soils.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer Fall	S
<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>	Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum	Creamy white flowers, pink to blue-black fruit, reddish purple fall color. Habit is oval to rounded. Leathery, glossy dark green leaves.	Full Sun to Part Shade	Spring, Summer, Fall	S

Botanical name or cultivar	Common name	Comments	Exposure	Season of Interest	Area
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> 'Shoal Creek'	Chastetree	Lilac purple flowers occur in 12- to 18-inch long and wide panicles. May die back to the ground in harsh winters, but flowers on new growth.	Full Sun	Summer	E, C

Definitions

Corymb: a more or less flat-topped indeterminate inflorescence whose outer flowers open first.

Cyme: a more or less flat-topped determinate inflorescence whose outer flowers open last.

Dwarf: an atypically small plant.

Exfoliate: to peel off in shreds or thin layers, as bark from a tree.

Hybrid: plant resulting from a cross between two or more other plants, which are more or less alike.

Inflorescence: the method of flower bearing (a grouping of flowers vs. a single flower).

Native: inherent and original to an area.

Naturalized: thoroughly established, but originally from a different region.

Panicle: an indeterminate inflorescence whose primary axis bears branches of pedicel led flowers (at least basally so); a branching raceme.

Pedicel: the stalk of a flower or fruit when in a cluster or when solitary.

Raceme: a simple indeterminate inflorescence with pedicel led flowers.

Stoloniferous: bearing slender stems just on or under the ground that root at the tips.

Sucker: a shoot arising from the roots or from beneath the surface of the ground.

Variegated: striped, margined or mottled with a color other than green, where green is normal.

Resources

Dirr, M.A. 2011. *Dirr's encyclopedia of trees and shrubs*. Timber Press (Portland, Oregon).

Dirr, M.A. 2009. *Manual of woody landscape plants: Their identification, ornamental characteristics, culture, propagation and uses*. 6th ed. Timber Press (Portland, Oregon).

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