THE NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM PRESENTS

SHRUBS FOR NEBRASKA

Justin Everson & Bob Henrickson. For more plant information, visit plantnebraska.org or retreenbraska.unl.edu

Geographic Adaptability: An E indicates plants suitable primarily to the Eastern 1/3 of the state while a W is for plants that are better adapted to the more arid environment of western Nebraska. All others are considered to be adaptable to most of Nebraska.

Drought/Wet Adaptability: ☼ indicates plants with exceptional drought tolerance while a ♣ indicates plants that tolerate wet soils.

Size Range: The size range indicated for each plant is the expected average mature height x spread for Nebraska.

Large Deciduous Shrubs (typically over 5’ tall/wide at maturity)

1. Amorpha, Indigobush - *Amorpha fruticosa* (♣; native; good for massing and along pond edges; attractive purple flowers; 6-12’x 4-10’)
2. Buffalograss, Silver - *Shepherdia argentea* (☼; tough western native; fragrant flowers and edible fruit; silver foliage; 10-15’x 10-12’)
3. Burning Bush (Winged Euonymus) - *Euonymus alatus* (♣; commonly planted for fiery red fall color; 10-12’x 6-10’)
4. Buttonbush - *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (♣; native to moist sites; interesting button-like flowers; glossy foliage; 6-10’x 5-8’)
5. Cherry, Nanking - *Prunus tomentosa* (☼; early white, fragrant flowers; exfoliating bark; glossy foliage; edible fruit; 6-12’x 6-12’)
6. Chokeberry, Black - *Aronia melanocarpa* (♣; upright habit; glossy leaves; white flowers in May, black fruit and red fall color; 5-8’x 4-6’; variety elata has wonderfully glossy foliage; ‘Autumn Magic’ is more compact with showy fruit clusters)
7. Chokeberry, Red - *Aronia arbutifolia* (♣; similar to Black Chokeberry but with red fruit and scarlet leaves in fall; 5-7’x 4-6’)
8. Chokecherry - *Prunus virginiana* (☼; common native; sometimes a small tree; multi-stem, suckering habit; 10-15’x 6-12’)
9. Cotoneaster, Hedge - *Cotoneaster lucidus* (☼; semi-evergreen; very hardy and reliable; glossy leaves; good fruit; 6-8’x 5-6’)
10. Currant, Clove - *Ribes odoratum* (☼; native; tough and adaptable; edible fruit; good for wildlife; clove scented yellow flowers; 5-6’x 5-6’; Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*) is a very similar and even more hardy)
11. Dogwood, Cornelinisherry - *Cornus mas* (☼; sulfur yellow flowers in early spring; mottled bark; sometimes a small tree; 8-15’x 6-12’)
12. Dogwood, Flowering - *Cornus florida* (♣; eastern G.P. only; needs extra protection; attractive but unreliable flowers; 15’x 10’)
13. Dogwood, Gray - *Cornus racemosa* (☼; native; good dusty red fall color; can be grown as a small tree; 10-15’x 6-12’)
14. Dogwood, Kousa - *Cornus kousa* (♣; nice small tree; star-like creamy-white flowers; attractive bark; needs protection; 15’x 10’)
15. Dogwood, Pagoda - *Cornus alternifolia* (♣; beautifully layered branching; large white flowers; glossy leaves; 10-15’x 10-15’)
16. Dogwood, Redstem - *Cornus sericea* (♣; beautiful red stems are vibrant against a snowy backdrop; spreading; 8-10’x 8-10’)
17. Dogwood, Silky – *Cornus amomum* (♣; good for wet areas; attractive white to porcelain blue fruit in fall; 6-10’x 5-8’)
18. Dogwood, Variegated - *Cornus alba* (♣; similar to redstem dogwood, but leaves have creamy margins; ‘Ivory Halo’ is 5-6’x 5-6’)
19. Elderberry - *Sambucus canadensis* (♣; found naturally in moist areas; suckering habit; edible black fruit; 8-10’x 8-10’)
20. Forsythia - *Forsythia spp.* (☼; golden flowers often cover the plant in early spring; flowers not always reliable; many cultivars and types available including ‘Meadowlark’, ‘Northern Sun’, ‘Lynwood Gold’; 5-8’x 5-8’)
21. Hazelnut, American - *Corylus americana* (♣; native to northern G.P.; edible nuts; bronze fall color; good for massing; 6-8’x 6-8’)
22. Lilac, Common - *Syringa vulgaris* (☼; very common; great fragrance in spring; many cultivars to choose from; 6-12’x 6-10’)
23. Lilac, Miss Kim - *Syringa patula* (☼; common mid-sized lilac; purple fragrant blooms later than most; 6-7’x 5-6’)
24. Lilac, misc. - *Syringa spp.* (☼; several species and types of lilac are available including later blooming forms, smaller leaf forms, a cutleaf type, spreading habits, etc.; consult with local nurseries for availability)
25. Locust, New Mexico - *Robinia neomexicana* (W; ☼; western native; purple flowers; thicket forming; drought tolerant; 10-12’x 10-12’)
26. Magnolia, Star - *Magnolia stellata* (♣; one of the magnolias for Nebraska; reliable white flowers; 6-10’x 5-8’)
27. Mahogany, Curl-leaf Mountain - *Cercocarpus ledifolius* (W; ☼; semi-evergreen western native; dry soils only; 8’x 5’)
28. Mahogany, Mountain - *Cercocarpus montanus* (W; ☼; native western G.P.; sparse foliage; upright habit; dry soils only; 5-8’x 4-6’)
29. Mockorange - *Philadelphus spp.* (♣; old fashioned shrubs grown for their sweetly fragrant white flowers in June; 5-10’x 4-8’)
30. Ninebark, Common - *Physocarpus opulifolius* (☼; native; attractive exfoliating bark; rounded habit; tough, easy to grow; 5-8’x 5-8; ‘Diabolo’ and ‘Summer Wine’ are newer purple-foliage forms; dwarf forms available)
31. Oak, Dwarf Chinkapin - *Quercus prinoides* (☼; native; prolific and early acorn producer; spreading, variable habit; 6-15’x 6-15’)
32. Peashrub, Siberian - *Caragana arborescens* (W; ♣; very drought tolerant; best in west; open habit; 10-15’x 6-10’)
33. Plum, American - *Prunus americana* (☼; native; very tough; attractive white flowers in spring smell of grape candy; 6-12’x 6-12’)
34. Privet - *Ligustrum vulgare* (☼; tough shrub often used for hedges; showy, pungent flowers in June; compact forms available; 4-8’x 3-6’)
35. Rose - *Rosa spp.* (☼; many species and cultivars to choose from; see entry under medium shrubs)
36. Serviceberry (Juneberry) - *Downy - Amelanchier arborea* (♣; native; often a multi-stem small tree; great flowers, fruit; 15’x 10’)
37. Serviceberry, Saskatoon - *Amelanchier alnifolia* (♣; native to north G.P.; attractive spring flowers; spreads by stolons; 5-15’x 5-10’)
38. Serviceberry, Shadbowl - *Amelanchier canadensis* (♣; white flowers in spring; edible fruit; suckering habit; 8-12’x 8-12’)
39. Smoketree, Common - *Cotinus coggyria* (♣; plumy, smoke-like inflorescence; purple-leaf forms most common; 8-10’x 8-10’)
40. Spierea, Bridalwreath - *Spiraea prunifolia* (old favorite with double white flowers in spring; arching habit similar to Vanhoutte; 5’x 6’)
41. Spierea, Vanhoutte - *Spiraea x vanhouttei* (old fashioned type; arching stems covered in white flowers mid spring; 5’x 6’)
42. Sumac, Fragrant - *Rhus aromatica* (☼; tough native; fragrant leaves; nice fall color; attractive fuzzy fruit; good in mass; 5-8’x 5-8’)
43. Sumac, Smooth - *Rhus glabra* (☼; native; good fall color; can spread aggressively in the landscape; suckering habit; 10-20’x 6-12’
44. **Sumac, Staghorn - Rhus typhina** (☼; similar to smooth sumac but with fuzzy branch tips; distinctive seed horn; 6'-12'x 6'-12')
45. **Viburnum, American Cranberrybush - Viburnum trilobum** (☼; attractive creamy-white flowers in flat clusters; nice red fruit and fall color; very adaptable; ‘Wentworth’ is a common form grown for abundant, showy fruit; 8'-12'x 8'-12')
46. **Viburnum, Arrowwood - Viburnum dentatum** (☼; clean, shiny, upright foliage; attractive black fruit in fall; many proven cultivars including ‘Autumn Jazz’, ‘Chicagusto’ and ‘Northern Burgundy’; 6'-10'x 6'-10')
47. **Viburnum, Blackhaw - Viburnum prunifolium** (☼; white spring flowers & good fall color; can be grown as a small tree; 10'-15’x 8'-10')
48. **Viburnum, Burwood - Viburnum × burkwoodii** (☼; shiny leaves; fragrant flowers; rounded, open habit; 6'-10'x 6'-10')
49. **Viburnum, Doublefile - Viburnum plicatum var. tomentosum** (☼; very attractive, layered habit; beautiful white, plate-like flowers; often suffers stem dieback in winter; 5'-8'x 5'-8'; cultivars include ‘Stasha’, ‘Maries’, ‘Pink Beauty’, ‘Shoson’)
50. **Viburnum, European Cranberrybush - Viburnum opulus** (☼; attractive flowers and fruit; birds like it; tough and adaptable; compact forms available; the common snowball bush is a form with large balls of white flowers but is aphid infested; 6'-12’x 6'-12')
51. **Viburnum, Manchurian - Viburnum burejageticum** (☼; similar to V. lantana; fragrant flowers; very hardy; nice fruit; 8'-12'x 8'-12')
52. **Viburnum, Lantanaphyllum - Viburnum × rhytidophyloides** (☼; large, leathery leaves hold year-round; ‘Alleghany’ and ‘Willowood’ are common cultivars that grow 10'-12'x 10'-12')
53. **Viburnum, Nannyberry - Viburnum lentago** (☼; native to north. G.P.; attractive white flowers in spring and purple-red fall color; susceptible to mildew in wet years; can be grown as a small tree; 10'-15'x 10'-15')
54. **Viburnum, Rusty Blackhaw - Viburnum rufidulum** (☼; beautiful and lustrous dark green foliage; very attractive; 8'-12'x 8'-12')
55. **Viburnum, Sargent - Viburnum sargentii** (☼; similar to Viburnum trilobum with attractive flowers and nice fruit; ‘Onondaga’ is a variety with maroon tinged foliage and purple tinged pink flowers; 6'-10'x 6'-10')
56. **Viburnum, Siebold - Viburnum sieboldii** (☼; lustrous, tough, leathery leaves; can grow quite large; 12'-15’x 10'-12')
57. **Viburnum, Wayfaringtree - Viburnum lantana** (☼; long planted; very tough and adaptable; creamy white flowers give way to red fruits that ripen to black; good red fall color; ‘Mohican’ is a compact selection with abundant fruit; 6'-10'x 5'-8')
58. **Wafer-ash (Hop Tree) - Ptelea trifoliata** (☼; native; unusual compound leaf and interesting wafer-like fruit; 8'-12'x 8'-12')
59. **Wahoo, Eastern - Euonymus atropurpureus** (☼; native shrub with good red fruit and fall color; 8'-12'x 6'-10')
60. **Witchazel, Common - Hamamelis virginiana** (☼; native; late fall flowers; good yellow/orange fall color; 6'-10'x 5'-8')

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**Small/Medium Deciduous Shrubs (under 5’ tall/wide at maturity)**

61. **Apache Plume - Fallugia paradoxa** (W; ☀; western native; white rose-like spring flowers; plume-like seed bracts; 3'-5'x 3'-5')
62. **Azalea - Rhododendron spp.** (E; ☀; deciduous leafy leaves; prefer acid soils, part shade, protected sites; very attractive flowers; 4'-5'x 4'-5'; Minnesota selected “Lights” series including ‘Golden Lights’, ‘Northern Lights’ and ‘Rosy Lights’ are the hardest)
63. **Barberry, Japanese - Berberis thunbergii** (common plant; thorny stems; rounded form; good barrier plant; green, yellow, red and purple forms exist; many size ranges; typically 3'-5'x 3'-5')
64. **Barberry, Korean - Berberis koreana** (very hardy; thorny stems; deep green in summer; reddish purple in fall; 4'-5’x 4’-5’)
65. **Barberry, Mentor - Berberis × mentorensis** (☼; good as hedge; bright green; golden yellow flower; thorny; 5’x 5’)
66. **Bearberry - Arctostaphylos uva-ursi** (broadleaf evergreen groundcover; very cold hardy; prefers acid soil; 6’-12”x 2’-4”)
67. **Beautyspider, Purple - Callicarpa dichotoma** (E; striking metallic purple berries in fall; needs protection; 3’-5’x 3’-5’)
68. **Bluebeard (Blue Mist Spirea) - Caryopteris × clandonensis** (E; similar to spirea but with blue flowers most of summer; not long lived; treat as herbaceous perennial and cut back to the ground in spring; ‘Blue Mist’ and ‘Dark Knight’ are common cultivars; 4’x 4’)
69. **Buckeye, Bottlebrush - Aesculus parviflora** (E; ☀; attractive panicle of white flowers in summer; prefers protected site; 5’-8’x 5’-8’)
70. ** Burning Bush, Dwarf - Euonymus alatus ‘Compactus’** (☼; commonly planted for fiery red fall color; corky stems; 5’-6’x 4’-5’)
71. **Butterfly Bush - Buddleia davidii** (E; herbaceous in Nebraska; multi-stem habit; lilac like flowers in summer attract butterflies; 4’-6’x 3’-5’; many cultivars available including ‘Black Knight’, ‘Nanho Blue’, and ‘Pink Delight’)
72. **Cherry, Sand - Prunus besseyi** (W; ☀; native to western G.P.; prefers sandy and well-drained soils; 3’-5’x 3’-5’; ‘Pawnee Buttes’ is a low, spreading cultivar growing to 2’ x 10’)
73. **Clethra, Summersweet - Clethra alnifolia** (uncommon; sweet smelling flowers in July; shade tolerant; 3’-5’x 3’-4’)
74. **Coralberry - Symphoricarpos orbiculatus** (☼; native suckering shrub; often grows in a twining low thicket; attractive purple-red fruit in fall and winter; birds love it; 3’-4’x 3’-4’; ‘Chenault’ is a refined form with striking fruit; ‘Hancock’ is a low, groundcover 1’-2’x 3’-4’)
75. **Cotoneaster, Cranberry - Cotoneaster opiculatus** (arching stems in unique herring bone pattern; bright red fruit; 2’-3’x 3’)
76. **Cotoneaster, Spreading - Cotoneaster divaricatus** (☼; semi-evergreen; glossy leaves; attractive dark red fruit; 3’-5’x 5’-6’)
77. **Currant - Ribes spp.** (☼; several species and types adaptable to Nebraska; good for massing, wildlife and tough sites)
78. **Deutzia - Deutzia gracilis** (old-fashioned but forgotten; pure white flowers smother the plant in May; 3’-5’x 2’-4’)
79. **Dogwood, Redstem - Cornus sericea** (☼; attractive red stems in winter; shorter forms include ‘Isanti’ 4’-5’ and ‘Kelsey’ 2’-3’)
80. **Falsespirea, Ural - Sorbaaria sorbifolia** (☼; very aggressive, spreading plant; white flowers similar to spirea; 3’-5’x spreading)
81. ** Forsythia, Bronx - Forsythia viridissima** (groundcover habit; sparse yellow flowers; bronze in fall; 2’-3’x 2’-3’)
82. **Fothergilla - Fothergilla gardenii** (E; ☀; fragrant, bottlebrush-like flowers; witchhazel-like leaves; good fall color; 3’-5’x 3’-5’)
83. **Holly, Winterberry - Ilex verticillata** (E; ☀; need male and female for striking fruit set; 5’-8’x 5’-8’)
84. **Hydrangea, Oakleaf - Hydrangea quercifolia** (E; ☀; sub-shrub; coarse leaves; great flowers; exfoliating bark; 3’-5’x 3’-5’)
85. **Hydrangea, Smooth - Hydrangea arborescens** (big snowball flowers on long stems; ‘Annabelle’ is a common type; 2’-3’x 2’-3’)
86. **Leadplant - Amorpha canescens** (native prairie plant; very tough; silver leaves; blue-purple flowers; 3’-4’x 3’-4’)
87. **Lilac, Dwarf Korean - Syringa meyeri** (☼; dwarf lilac; round uniform habit; small leaves; later bloom; 4’-5’x 6’-7’)
88. **Potentilla - Potentilla fruticosa** (W; ☀; very tough, small shrub; wide color range; 2’-4’x 2’-4’)
89. **Quince, Flowering - Chaenomeles speciosa** (showy orange red flowers in May; somewhat thorny; 3’-5’x 3’-5’)
90. **Rabbitbrush - Chrysothamnus nauseosus** (W; ☀; tough western native with great late summer yellow flowers; 3’-5’x 3’-5’)
91. **Rhododendron** - *Rhododendron* spp. (E; broadleaf evergreens for shade and part shade; prefer acid soils & protected sites; very attractive in flower; ‘P.J.M.’ is one of the hardiest (4-5’x 4-5’); other cultivars available including ‘Northern Starburst’)

92. **Rose** - *Rosa* spp. (C; many species, types and cultivars with various colors and size ranges to choose from; consult with nursery)

93. **Serviceberry, Saskatoon** - *Amelanchier alnifolia* (C; ‘Regent’ and ‘Smoekey have abundant fruit & spreading habit; 4-5’x 4-5’)

94. **Snowberry - Symphoricarpos occidentalis** (C; native relative of coralberry but with white fruit; often leggy; 3-4’x 3-4’)

95. **Spirea, Bumald - Spirea x bumalda** (a very popular shrub – often over planted; ‘Froebel’ has pink flowers and bright green leaves; ‘Anthony Waterer’ had pink-red mottled flowers; ‘Goldflame’ & ‘Goldmound’ are chlorotic looking with yellow foliage; 3’x 3’)

96. **Spirea, Fritschiana - Spirea x fritschiana** (large, attractive, flat-topped white flowers; clean, large leaves; 3’x 3’)

97. **Spirea, Grefsheim - Spirea x cinerea** (lovely, compact, white flowers cover the plant in April; dense, arching habit; 4’x 4’)

98. **Spirea, Japanese - *Spirea japonica*** (compact form; pink flowers emerge late spring through summer; cultivars vary greatly in size including several dwarf forms less than 1’ tall; ‘Daphne’, ‘Little Princess’, ‘Magic Carpet’, ‘Neon Flash’, ‘Shibori’; 2-3’x 2-3’)

99. **Spirea, Japanese White - *Spirea albiflora*** (compact, graceful habit; white flowers bloom late (July and August); 2’x 2’)

100. **Spirea, Snowmound - *Spirea nipponica* ‘Snowmound’ (pure white flowers cover the shrub in May; compact habit; 3’x 3’)

101. **St. Johnswort, Kalm - Hypericum kalmianum** (E; bright yellow flowers in summer; compact, rounded; 3’x 4’)

102. **St. Johnswort, Shrubby - Hypericum prolificum** (E; bright yellow flowers in June & July; finicky; blue green foliage; 3’x 4’)

103. **St. Johnswort, Sunburst - Hypericum frondosum** ‘Sunburst’ (E; bright yellow flowers June-August; herbaceous habit; 2’x 3’)

104. **Sumac, Gro-Low - Rhus aromatica** ‘Gro-Low’ (C; a low growing form of a tough native; nice fall color; 2-3’x 3-5’)

105. **Sumac, Skunkbush - Rhus aromatica** (W; C; native to western Nebraska; tough as nails; good fall color; 4-6’x 5-7’; ‘Autumn Amber’ is a low, spreading form growing to 2’x 8’)

106. **Sweetshrub (Carolina Allspice) - Calycanthus floridosus** (E; interesting red flowers; spicy sweet fragrance; 4’x 5’)

107. **Viburnum, Emerald Triumph - Viburnum x ‘Emerald Triumph’** (a more compact form of Lantanaphyllum Viburnum; 4-6’x 4-6’)

108. **Viburnum, Judd - Viburnum x juddii** (wonderfully spicy fragrant snowball-like flowers in late April; slower grower; 5-8’x 4-6’)

109. **Viburnum, Koreanspice - Viburnum carlesii** (very similar to Judd viburnum; fragrant flowers; slightly more compact; 4-6’x 4-6’)

110. **Viburnum, Smooth Witherod - Viburnum nudum** (creamy white flowers in June; attractive fruit that changes from white to pink to dark blue; lustrous green leaves; ‘Winterthur’ is a common cultivar; 5-6’x 4-6’)

111. **Viburnum, Witherod - Viburnum cassinoides** (very similar to Smooth Witherod but leaves not as glossy; 5-6’x 4-6’)

112. **Weigela - Weigela florida** (E; common foundation plant with showy lavender flowers; 3’x 3-5’)

**Evergreen Shrubs**

113. **Arborvitaes, Russian - Microbiota decussata** (C; uncommon, low-growing grower; graceful, feathery foliage; 12”x 3-5’)

114. **Boxwood, Common - Buxus sempervirens** (E; marginally hardy broadleaf evergreen; requires protected site; can grow 5-6’x 3-5’)

115. **Boxwood, Littleleaf (Korean) - Buxus microphylla** (E; hardiest of the boxwoods; upright; prefers part shade; 2-4’x 2-3’)

116. **Firethorn - Pyracantha cocinea** (E; thorny; bright orange-red fruit in fall; 6-10’x 8-12’)

117. **Grapeholly - Mahonia aquifolium** (holly-like leaves; yellow flowers; attractive fruit; prefers part shade and acid soil; 2-3’x 3-4’; *Mahonia repens* (Creeping Mahonia) is a shorter native form that grows under pine trees in the Panhandle; 12-15”x 2-4’)

118. **Holly, Preserve Hybrids - Ilex × meserveae** (E; hybrid Hollies proven to grow in Nebraska with protection; attractive red fruit in fall and winter; blue Boy/Blue Girl, China Boy/China Girl are common types; need male and female for fruit)

119. **Juniper, Common - Juniperus communis** (C; underused native with soft, layered foliage; can tolerate some shade; 2-3’x 3-5’; ‘Blueberry Delight’ is a North Dakota selection with silvery blue foliage on a 1’-2’x 4-8’ plant)

120. **Juniper, Chinese - Juniperus chinensis** (C; common landscape shrub; dozens of selections available including:

   - ‘Armstrong’ - a common form with gray-green foliage; layered habit; lacy texture; 4-5’x 8-12’
   - ‘Holbert’ - a lower growing form with silvery blue foliage that is retained through winter; 2-4’x 6-12’
   - ‘Old Gold’ - new growth golden, similar bit to ‘Armstrong’, 4-5’x 8-12’
   - ‘Pfitzeriana’ - the old Pfitzer juniper that can grow quite large, 6-12’x 10-20’
   - ‘Pfitzeriana Compacta’ - a slower growing, more compact form of Pfitzer; 3-5’x 6-12’
   - Sargent (J. chinensis var. sargentii) - gray-green, feathered foliage; attractive plant; 1-2’x 5-8’
   - ‘Sea Green’ - lush, dark green foliage; fountain-like arching habit; 5-8’x 8-10’

121. **Juniper, Creeping - Juniperus horizontalis** (C; native, ground-hugging evergreen; typically grows 6”-12”x 5’-10’ wide; common cultivars include ‘Bar Harbor’, ‘Blue Chip’, Wilton Carpet’, ‘Andorra’ and ‘Prince of Wales’)

122. **Juniper, Savin - Juniperus sabina** (C; bright green foliage; mounding habit; typically 18-24”x 6-10’; common cultivars include ‘Arcadia’, ‘Broadmoor’, ‘Buffalo’ and variety tamariscifolia’ (Tams Juniper))

123. **Yew - Taxus × media** (E; short needled evergreen shrubs; many forms and size ranges available including ‘Densiformis’ (3’x5’), ‘Everlow’ (2’x4’),

**DID YOU KNOW?** The greater the variety of plants, the more resilient the landscape.

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