

Best of the ZOO

Small Shrubs

Top Picks

A lot of selection and breeding in the last decade has resulted in a slew of colorful and appealing shrubs that grow less than 4' tall. This allows gardeners to utilize the year-round structural component a shrub brings to a landscape into locations that in the past would have typically gone to perennials or grasses. As garden spaces seem to have shrunk in many home landscapes, these plants are an invaluable addition to the designer's palette.

Because small shrubs are often sold in smaller sizes and cost less, and also occupy minimal space, they are easier to move or replace and gardeners can select them more freely. For the very same reasons, small shrubs present wonderful opportunities for gardeners to introduce additional ornamental elements and diversity into their landscapes. Tremendous choices exist for bloom, color, texture, fragrance, and form, and many are outstanding at attracting butterflies, hummingbirds, and other wildlife closer to our living spaces. Consider mass plantings of the same small shrub in spaces where vertical space is limited but horizontal space is not. This can create very attractive garden plantings.

For more information and photos, visit www.plantplaces.com.



Green Mound Alpine Currant



Chardonnay Pearls Slender Deutzia



Red Sprite Holly



Southern-Shrub Honeysuckle



Incrediball Hydrangea



Pee Wee Hydrangea



Annabelle Hydrangea



Gro-Low Sumac



Longwood Blue Spirea

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Small Shrubs



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Experience the Botanical Side of the Zoo.



Under 2' Tall

| Plant Name | Sustainability (1-5) | Fall Color | Flower Color |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Buddleia LO & BEHOLD 'Lilac Chip' - 'Lilac Chip' Butterfly Bush | 3 | N/A | Lilac |
| Caryopteris x clandonensis 'Worschester Gold' - Worschester Gold Spirea | 3 | N/A | Blue |
| Cotoneaster dammeri 'Coral Beauty' - Coral Beauty Cotoneaster | 3 | Purplish | White |
| Deutzia 'Nikko' - Nikko Deutzia | 3 | Burgundy | White |
| Forsythia viridissima 'Bronxensis' - Bronx Forsythia | 3 | Yellow-Green | Light Yellow |
| Hypericum calycinum - St. Johnswort | 3 | Purplish | Yellow |
| Indigofera incarnata (syn. decora) 'Alba' - Chinese Indigo | 3 | Yellow | White |
| *Itea virginica 'Little Henry' - Little Henry Virginia Sweetspire | 3 | Orange and Red | White |
| Rhus aromatica 'Gro-low' - Gro-low Sumac | 4 | Orange and Red | Yellow |
| Ribes alpinum 'Green Mound' - Green Mound Alpine Currant | 4 | Yellow | Greenish-Yellow |
| Spiraea japonica 'Lemon Princess' - Lemon Princess Spirea | 4 | Coppery Orange | Pink |
| *Spiraea japonica 'Little Princess' - Little Princess Spirea | 4 | Yellow/Purple | Pink |
| Symphoricarpos x chenaultii 'Hancock' - Hancock Coralberry | 4 | N/A | Pink |
| Abelia grandiflora 'Little Richard' - Little Richard Abelia | 3 | Green | White/Pink |
| Abelia grandiflora 'Pinky Bells' - Pinky Bells Abelia | 3 | Green | Pink |
| Abelia grandiflora 'Rose Creek' - Rose Creek Abelia | 3 | Green | White/Pink |
| Aronia melanocarpa 'Autumn Magic' - Autumn Magic Chokeberry | 3 | Red-Purple | White |
| Aronia melanocarpa 'Elata' - Elata Chokeberry | 3 | Red-Purple | White |
| Buddleia Adonis Blue - Adonis Blue Butterfly Bush | 3 | Yellow-Green | Blue |
| Buddleia LO & BEHOLD 'Blue Chip' - Blue Chip Butterfly Bush | 3 | Yellow-Green | Blue-Purple |
| Buddleia 'Ellen's Blue' - Ellen's Blue Butterfly Bush | 3 | N/A | Blue |
| Buddleia 'Miss Ruby' - Miss Ruby Butterfly Bush | 3 | N/A | Rose-Pink |
| Buddleia LO & BEHOLD 'Purple Haze' - Purple Haze Butterfly Bush | 3 | N/A | Purple |
| Callicarpa dichotoma 'Issai' - Issai Beautyberry | 3 | Yellow | Purple |
| Callicarpa dichotoma 'Early Amethyst' - Early Amethyst Beautyberry | 3 | Yellow | Purple |
| Caryopteris x clandonensis 'Dark Knight' - Dark Knight Spirea | 3 | Silvery-Gray | Blue |
| Caryopteris x clandonensis 'Longwood Blue' - Longwood Blue Spirea | 3 | Silvery-Gray | Blue |
| Chaenomeles speciosa 'Jet Trail' - Jet Trail Flowering Quince | 4 | N/A | White |
| Clethra alnifolia 'Hummingbird' - Hummingbird Summersweet | 3 | Yellow | White |
| Clethra alnifolia 'Sixteen Candles' - Sixteen Candles Summersweet | 3 | Golden | Creamy White |
| Cotoneaster apiculatus - Cranberry Cotoneaster | 3 | Red to Purple | Pink |
| Deutzia gracilis 'Chardonnay Pearls' - Chardonnay Pearls Slender Deutzia | 3 | Purplish | White |
| Deutzia gracilis 'Nikko' - Nikko Slender Deutzia | 3 | Purplish | White |
| Diervilla lonicera - Shrub Honeysuckle | 3 | Red | Yellow |
| Diervilla sessilifolia - Southern Bush-Honeysuckle | 3 | Yellowish | Pale Yellow |
| Echochorda x macrantha 'The Bride' - The Bride Pearlshrub | 3 | Yellow | White |
| Fothergilla gardenii - Dwarf Fothergilla | 3 | Yellow, Orange, Red | Creamy White |
| Fothergilla 'Mt Airy' - Mt Airy Fothergilla | 3 | Yellow, Orange, Red | Creamy White |
| *Hydrangea arborescens - Smooth Hydrangea | 3 | Pale Yellow | White |
| *Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle' - Annabelle Hydrangea | 3 | Pale Yellow | White |
| *Hydrangea arborescens 'Incrediball' - Incrediball Hydrangea | 3 | Pale Yellow | White |
| *Hydrangea arborescens 'Invincibelle' - Invincibelle Spirit Hydrangea | 3 | Pale Yellow | Pink |
| Hydrangea paniculata Bobo - Bobo Hydrangea | 4 | Pale Yellow | White |
| Hydrangea paniculata 'Little Lamb' - Little Lamb Hydrangea | 4 | Pale Yellow | White |
| Hydrangea paniculata Little Lime - Little Lime Hydrangea | 4 | Pale Yellow | White |
| *Hydrangea quercifolia 'Pee Wee' - Pee Wee Hydrangea | 4 | Bronze, Maroon, Purple | White fading to Pink |
| *Hydrangea quercifolia 'Ruby Slippers' - Ruby Slippers Hydrangea | 4 | Branze, Maroon, Purple | White fading to Pink |
| *Hydrangea quercifolia 'Sike's Dwarf' - Sike's Dwarf Hydrangea | 4 | Red/Scarlet, Burgundy | White fading to Pink |
| *Hypericum frondosum 'Sunburst' - Sunburst St. Johnswort | 4 | Reddish Brown | White |

2' - 4' Tall

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| Plant Name | Sustainability (1-5) | Fall Color | Flower Color |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Hypericum kalmianum - Kalm St. Johnswort | 3 | Yellow-Green | Yellow |
| Ilex verticillata 'Red Sprite' - Red Sprite Holly | 3 | Yellow-Green w/ Purple | White |
| Ilex verticillata 'Shaver's' - Shaver's Holly | 3 | Yellow-Green w/ Purple | White |
| *Indigofera kirilowii - Kirilow Indigo | 4 | Yellow | Yellow/Pink |
| *Itea virginica 'Henry's Gamet' - Henry's Gamet Virginia Sweetspire | 3 | Red-Purple | White |
| Potentilla fruticosa 'Abbotswood' - Abbotswood Bush Cinquefoil | 3 | N/A | White |
| Rosa 'Carefree Beauty' - Carefree Beauty Shrub Rose | 3 | Maroon | Bubble Gum Pink |
| Rosa 'Sunrise Sunset' - Sunrise Sunset Shrub Rose | 3 | Yellow | Fuchsia-Pink |
| Rosa 'The Fairy' - The Fairy Shrub Rose | 3 | Yellow | Light Pink |
| Spiraea cineria 'Grefsheim' - Grefsheim Spirea | 4 | Green-Yellow | White |
| Spiraea thunbergii 'Ogon' - Ogon Spirea | 4 | Orange-Pink | White |
| Spiraea x bumalda 'Anthony Waterer' - Anthony Waterer Spirea | 4 | Reddish | Deep Red-Pink |
| *Spiraea x bumalda 'Goldflame' - Goldflame Spirea | 4 | Yellow | Light Pink |
| *Sorbaria sorbifolia 'Sem' - Sem Ural Falsespirea | 4 | Coppery Bronze | Creamy White |
| Symphoricarpos orbiculatus - Indiancurrant | 3 | N/A | Pink |

Key: Full Sun ☀️ Full Shade ☁️ Native 🌿 Cut back to ground in spring ✂️
 Part Sun/Part Shade 🌄 Wet Soil Tolerant 💧 Highly Recommended *
 Fragrant Fr



Sunburst Hypericum



Sem Ural Falsespirea



Bronx Forsythia



Purple Haze Butterfly Bush



Sike's Dwarf Hydrangea



Issai Beautyberry



Dwarf Fothergilla



Little Henry Virginia Sweetspire



Kirilow Indigo