

## ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

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Ornamental plants are the primary tool in developing functional and beautiful home grounds; the knowledge of plants, their demands, and their proper usage is seldom understood by the homeowner.

Every plant in the landscape should satisfy a definite landscape need; otherwise, it becomes an added expense, a space taker, or a liability rather than an asset to the homeowner. To achieve full use of a plant in the landscape, the user must know the plant he chooses - its growth requirements and its abilities to satisfy the need for which it is intended.

The following list of plants are broken down into basic or general usage areas with basic growth demands, plant characteristics and sizes, and values and drawbacks. Common names and scientific names are listed. The scientific name should be used when possible because many plants have various common names. Quite often two plants may have the same common name. This plant listing is by no means inclusive.

C. Small Shrubs - Dwarf Shrubs - In recent years, plant breeders have introduced many new and outstanding small or dwarf shrubs. Modern landscapes call for these plants which maintain a small dwarf-like effect. Normally, a dwarf plant is one that generally does not exceed three feet in ultimate height. Most dwarf plants are adaptable to planter boxes and tub plantings, or in restricted areas.

- a. Dwarf Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria nana*) - Evergreen and fine textured - two feet high and wide - does not produce berries - medium to slow rate of growth - grows in sun or shade.
- b. Dwarf Bamboo (*Bambusa sasa pygara*) - One foot in height - evergreen - spreading clumps - sun or shade - winter hardy.
- c. Dwarf Purple-leaf Barberry (*Berberis*) - Must have sun for good color - one foot in height and width - medium rate of growth.

- d. Dwarf Sasanqua (*Camellia sasanqua*) - Many good varieties - fall and winter flowering - prefers acid soil and semi or partial shade but will grow in full sun.
- e. Holly Fern (*Crytomium falcatum*) - Evergreen hardy fern - slow growth to 18 inches high - must have shade and cool, well-drained soil - very good pot plant.
- f. Dwarf Junipers (Several good varieties) - Must have sun and well-drained soils - low and compact - attractive blue to silver foliage - fine texture - susceptible to spider mites and bagworm.
- g. Lantana (Several good varieties) - Likes sun - summer flowering, yellow, orange, pink, or white depending on variety - winter kills but returns in spring - fast growth.
- h. Dwarf Pomegranate (*Punica granatum nana*) - Deciduous shrub growing 3 to 4 feet high - fine texture - small orange blooms in summer - medium to slow rate of growth.
- i. Aspidistra (*Aspidistra elatior*) - Leafy evergreen growing to two feet high - very rugged - prefers shade but will grow in sun - slow rate of growth - winter kills but will return.
- j. Dwarf or Kurume Azaleas (*Azalea Obtusum*) - Many varieties - evergreen slow growing to 2-3 feet - spring flowering of pink, white, red, and salmon flowers. Demands acid soil and prefers shade - mulch to protect shallow roots - must have loose organic soil.
- k. Boxwood (*Buxus* varieties) - Slow growing evergreen - two to three feet general height but gets larger - will take severe clipping and pruning - grows in sun or shade - susceptible to nematodes.
- l. Cycad or Sago Palm (*Cycas revoluta*) - Evergreen, 3-4 feet in height and width - very slow growing - sun or shade, yet does best in protected shaded areas - not completely winter hardy; may need protection.
- m. Leather-leaf Mahonia (*Mahonia belaii*) - Evergreen -

upright growth to 3-4 feet tall - very slow growth - must have shade - clusters of yellow spiked blooms in fall - bluish-purple berries in February or early spring.

- n. Dwarf Nandina - Low, compact, and evergreen - rich fall color - sun or shade - easy growing - slow growing.
- o. Dwarf Pyracantha (Pyracantha "tiny tim") - Compact evergreen which is not as thorny as large Pyracantha - rich red-orange berries in late fall until early spring - three feet in height or may be pruned lower.
- p. Indian or Yeddo Hawthorne (Raphiolepis umbellata ovata) - A number of varieties - some compact; others open in character - evergreen and slow growing - clusters of soft pink, white, or bright pink blooms in late spring - grows in sun or shade.
- q. Fatsia (Fatsia japonica) - Evergreen tropical coarse textured plant - 3-4 feet in height - must have shade - medium-slow rate of growth - may get scale insects.
- r. Dwarf Yucca (Yucca filimentosa) - Typical Yucca form reaching only two feet in height - waxy-white blooms on long stock in late spring into summer - grows in sun or shade.
- s. Dwarf Chinese Holly (Ilex cornuta "rotunda") - Dense evergreen growth to three feet - sun or shade - medium slow rate of growth - no berries.
- t. Dwarf Holly (Ilex cornuta rotendifolia) - very dwarf and compact.
- u. Aucuba (Aucuba japonica) - Upright evergreen 2-3 feet in height--slow growing--must have shade--variegated varieties--sometimes called "Gold Dust" plant.
- v. Japanese black Pine (Pinus Thunbergi) - Evergreen sculptural form--3-4 feet in height--slow growing--typical pine foliage and growth habit sun or shade--an excellent accent plant.

- w. Japanese Purple Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica chinensis*) - Mounding type shrub--2 to 3 feet in height--evergreen--fragrant honeysuckle blooms in late spring--purple winter color--fast growth--sun or partial shade.