

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.

D. Medium Sized to Large Shrubs - The selection and placement of these shrubs in the landscape will depend on their ultimate size and upon the plant's use in the landscape. For example, a shrub for screening should be 5 to 6 feet high and evergreen to provide a year-round screen; whereas, a medium sized shrub of 3 to 4 feet may be selected as a base planting to flank a bare wall of the home.

Key:

1. Name (Scientific and Common)
 - a. Size, height, and width
 - b. Deciduous or evergreen
 - c. Rate of growth
 - d. Flower and seasonal interest
 - e. Culture--best growing conditions
 - f. Remarks

1. Abelia (Abelia grandiflora)

- a. 4-5 feet high, 3-4 feet wide
- b. Evergreen
- c. Fast growth
- d. Pale pink to white, small, tubular blooms May through October
- e. Sun or semi-shade
- f. Glossy green foliage. Makes compact shrub when pruned; straggly looking if unpruned.

2. Althea (Rose of Sharon, Hibiscus syriacus)

- a. 6-8 feet high, 4-5 feet wide
- b. Deciduous
- c. Fast growth
- d. White, pink, lavender to rose, single or double bloom in late spring and summer.
- e. Prefers alkaline soil and some moisture, sun or semi-shade. Gets scale insect under certain conditions.
- f. Makes a well-pruned hedge if maintained at 4-5

feet.

3. Indian Azalea (Azalea indica)

- a. 4-6 feet high and wide
- b. Evergreen
- c. Medium fast growth
- d. Large shallow trumpet in late February and March. Pink, rosey purple, salmon, white, orange, depending on variety.
- e. Acid loving, loose, well-drained soil--sun or shade. Mulch to preserve moisture. Gets flower and leaf blight and scale. Slight freeze damage.
- f. "Formosa" variety most hardy. Requires ample growing room--"Pride of Mobile" more spreading type.

4. Bamboo (Bambusa)

- a. Large dense, 6-8 feet high, mass
- b. Evergreen, but often killed back by cold, to return in spring.
- c. Fast growth
- d. No bloom
- e. Likes moisture, sun or shade. Objectionable

root system.

- f. Must be controlled as it gets out of hand by root runners.

5. Barberry (Berberis Thunbergi)

- a. 4-5 feet high and wide
- b. Semi-evergreen (Lose part of its foliage)
- c. Medium rate of growth
- d. Flowers, unimportant
- e. Needs sun and good drainage
- f. Atropurpureum, purple variety, which must have full sun or good color. Barberry will make a fine textured compact hedge. Best as a low hedge.

6. Bottle Brush (Callistemon rigidus)

- a. 4-5 feet high and wide
- b. Evergreen
- c. Slow growth
- d. Spikes or bright orange and red in March and scattered throughout summer
- e. Best in sun, needs little pruning. D1 trees provide major interest and accent with seasonal bloom, seed pods, and fall color, thus making excellent specimen plantings.