



## WHAT IS A SHRUB?

Shrubs are small- to medium-sized perennial woody plants. Unlike herbaceous plants, shrubs have persistent woody stems above the ground. Shrubs can be deciduous or evergreen. They are distinguished from trees by their multiple stems and shorter height, less than 20–33 ft tall.

Why plant shrubs? Besides the obvious reason of providing multi-season color and interest, shrubs can provide shade, privacy, enhance air quality, and provide a natural habitat for wildlife. Planting the right shrubs in the right location could lower your utility bill by providing shade in the summer and in the case of deciduous shrubs, by dropping its leaves in winter allow sunlight to warm your home. Shrubs are a semi-permanent to permanent feature of the landscape of any garden, requiring little maintenance.

Not only are shrubs a source of food for birds, butterflies and bees but they also provide a habitat for them.

## DECIDING WHICH SHRUBS TO PLANT

Shrubs are the link between your house and the grounds surrounding it.

Generally, the preference is for evergreens that provide a visual anchor to your landscape year-round. However, deciduous shrubs offer different delights in each season. The artist in you will find a place for both.

To go “native” or not? Native species occur in the region where they have evolved, which means that they have had generations to perfect their adaptability, which translates into their being somewhat trouble-free.

## PLANTING SHRUBS

For non-native species the cultural requirements have to be closely monitored to assure success on your property. The natives will be happy if you dig a hole large enough to accommodate their roots. Because so many of our plants arrive in nursery pots, we tend to think the shape of the root development is narrow and deep. It isn't. Roots do not go deep: they go wide, hardly a shape practical for nursery care. Research tells us that the depth of the hole needs to be the same as the pot or the root ball while the width of the hole needs to be two to three times that of the pot.

If drainage is poor, dig a hole deeper than the pot and partially fill with coarse material to improve drainage. If water doesn't drain away from the roots well—an inch an hour in a test hole—the plant will drown. The soil may have to be amended, adding aged manure, compost, or peat moss to give tilth (the suitability of the soil's particle size and structure for growing crops) to thin or sandy soils, or even gypsum to lighten clay soil. When planting a potted shrub, you may find it pot bound to some degree. To encourage the roots to spread, cut and knead the root ball, slicing into the sides in three or four places and spreading the roots. If the roots are fairly loose, shake off the potting mixture so that they have more contact with their new soil. New research indicates to wash away all soil (bare the roots) and plant, incorporating roots directly with the soil.

There are literally thousands of shrubs that can grow on the Middle Peninsula. The lists that follow are very selective, including only those that are well adapted to our climate and soil conditions. The shrubs listed do not require pampering once established. All do well in our Zone 7b climate.

## EVERGREEN SHRUBS

The following list does not include the familiar and widely used junipers, yews, arborvitae and pines for lack of space. Here are many others.

Plant	Height/Width	Light/Soil	Description
<b>Abelia</b> <i>Abelia</i> In northern climates, this is considered a semi-evergreen.			
<b>Chinese</b> <i>Abelia chinensis</i>	6 to 8 feet tall with branches sticking out in all directions to 6 feet	Full sun in moist, well-drained soil	Attracts butterflies. Produces clusters of white, bell-shaped flowers from midsummer until fall.
<b>Glossy</b> <i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	3 to 5 feet tall; 6 feet wide	Full sun to light shade in moist, well-drained, acidic soil	Attracts hummingbird and butterflies. Produces small white or pink blooms from mid-May to first hard freeze. Should be protected from cold winter wind. Drought tolerant and deer resistant.
<b>Aucuba—Gold Dust Plant</b> <i>Aucuba japonica</i> 'Gold Dust'	6 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide	Deep shade in average to poor soil.  Leaves will turn brown if it is planted in too much sun.	A shrub to plant where nothing else will grow. It will flourish, giving lots of cuttings of the handsome leaves for flower arrangements. It has various gold patterned leaves or plain green. Tolerates pollution and salt winds. Unfortunately, it is a deer magnet.  Female plants have red berries in the fall.
<b>Azaleas and Rhododendrons</b> <i>Rhododendron spp.</i>	The heights vary.  Some are very low-growing with dense foliage, others sprawl.  Some rhododendron species are tree size.	Heavy to light shade in acid soil.  Have your pH tested if you are unsure. Most soil in Gloucester is slightly acid and these plants do very well here.	Tolerate morning sun but are best in light shade. Guard against planting too deeply. Plant shallowly and mulch the roots.  Azaleas are both evergreen ( <i>kaempferi</i> ) and deciduous ( <i>Ghent</i> hybrids). <i>Kurume</i> hybrids are dwarf evergreen azaleas.  'Encore' varieties are repeat bloomers.  If pruning is needed, do before the end of July so next year's blooms are not cut off.  <b>Note:</b> Both take 3 years to become established.
<b>Barberry</b> <i>Berberis spp.</i> Care should be taken in buying the Japanese cultivars as they are increasingly invasive.			
<b>Mentor</b> <i>Berberis x Mentorensis</i>	5 feet tall and 5 to 7 feet wide	Full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil	A semi-evergreen (probably a true evergreen here in Gloucester) that has bright red fall color and yellow flowers in the spring.
<b>Wintergreen</b> <i>Berberis julianae</i>	10 feet tall and wide	Full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil	This barberry keeps its leaves all winter, grows upright and makes a grand medium hedge plant. It has holly-like leaves, thick clusters of yellow flowers in spring followed by bright red fruit. The leaves are orange-red in fall.

**EVERGREEN SHRUBS (continued)**

<b>Plant</b>	<b>Height/Width</b>	<b>Light/Soil</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Boxleaf Honeysuckle</b> <i>Lonicera nitida</i> 'Baggesen's Gold'	5 feet tall and wide	Full sun to part shade in most soils	Gold, chartreuse foliage to brighten shade border. Grows slowly. Tubular creamy white flowers form in spring through early fall and are followed by bluish purple berries. Good for hedges. Deer, drought, and wind tolerant.
<b>Boxwood</b> <i>Buxus spp.</i> There are two types of boxwood—American and English. Boxwood is grown for its rich green year-round foliage and may be used as a hedge, edging, or topiary. Both are tolerant of full sun but full sun and dry soil may encourage a poor, dull foliage color or scorching.			
<b>American</b> <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> 'Arborescens'	3 to 15 feet tall and wide	Part shade in fertile, well-drained soil	American boxwood is the more common boxwood and grows quickly. Leaves are longer ovals with very pointed tips. Will grow in a bushy form if left unpruned.
<b>English</b> <i>Buxus sempervirens</i> 'Suffruticosa'	2 to 4 feet tall and wide	Part shade in fertile, well-drained soil	English boxwood grows slowly and survives for generations. It is much denser than American and has small oval leaves with blunt tips. It is a perfect plant that says 'Virginia.' It is more prone to disease than American. Tolerates aggressive pruning.
<b>Camellia</b> <i>Camellia spp.</i> There are two types of camellia—spring blooming and fall blooming.			
<b>Spring Blooming</b> <i>Camellia japonica</i>	7 to 12 feet tall and 5 to 10 feet wide	Best in part shade; tolerates full sun and full shade. Requires fertile, humus-rich, moist, acid soil.	Has heavy green foliage, and sports glorious blooms in cold weather—January through April. Some cultivars are not hardy here so buy with caution.
<b>Fall Blooming</b> <i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	Many cultivars are small trees but most are between 5 and 10 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide.	Best in part shade but tolerates full sun and full shade. Requires fertile, acidic, humus-rich, moist, acid soil.	This is a denser plant than <i>Camellia japonica</i> , thus makes a better landscape plant. Blooms in the fall, thus providing another season of color in the landscape.
<b>Cherry or English Laurel</b> <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> 'Otto Luyken'	3 to 5 ft tall and wide	Full sun to part shade in humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil	This dwarf ideal for foundation planting: a pleasant shrub with masses of small white, fragrant flowers in spring and often in fall. This plant is deer resistant. Tolerates seashore conditions.
<b>Chinese Fringe Shrub</b> <i>Loropetalum chinense</i>	May reach 6 feet tall and wide	Sun to part shade in fertile, humus-rich, moist, well-drained soil	This small to medium bushy shrub also has spider-like white flowers. It is said to be highly deer resistant. L.c. 'Razzleberry' has red flowers off and on all year.
<b>Daphne (Winter) or Daphne (Fragrant)</b> <i>Daphne odora</i>	18 to 35 inches tall and wide	Part shade in average, well-drained soil	This small evergreen shrub blooms in late winter with magenta or white flowers that are very fragrant. It is lovely shrub that brightens winter dreariness. Protect from drying wind.
<b>Drooping Leucothoe</b> <i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	3 to 6 feet tall and wide	Part to full shade in moist, well-drained, organic soils and acidic growing conditions	Has racemes of waxy white bells in early spring and the foliage is a bronzy red in winter. It has graceful arching stems. This one has a 'nana' species for ground cover use.

**EVERGREEN SHRUBS (continued)**

<b>Plant</b>	<b>Height/Width</b>	<b>Light/Soil</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Florida or Purple Anise</b> <i>Illicium floridanum</i>	8 feet tall and 8 feet wide	Full shade to part shade in moist, well-drained, humus-rich, acidic soil  Can tolerate sun if kept watered	This bushy evergreen shrub has a small glossy leaf and small witch hazel-like flowers in yellow or maroon. It won't grow to its listed height in a dry spot, only in a swampy area.  Deer resistant
<b>Gardenia</b> <i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> 'Chuck Hayes'	6 feet tall by 5 feet wide	Part sun—avoid afternoon sun and protect from wind. Plant in moist, fertile soil.	Blooms with white, fragrant flowers from mid spring to mid summer and in mid fall. Fertilize monthly from April through November with acidic fertilizer. Needs winter protection. Great specimen plant and good cut flowers.
<b>Hollies</b> <i>Ilex</i> All hollies require acid soil. They like riparian environments. Cannot take salt water.			
<b>Chinese Holly—Burford holly</b> <i>I. cornuta</i> 'burfordii' <i>nana</i>	5 to 8 feet tall and wide	Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained, moderately fertile, humus-rich soil	Dwarf variety. Bears lots of red berries.  Nasty thorns on leaves. Don't plant where people may have bare feet. Drops leaves in late spring and early summer.
<b>Chinese Holly—Carissa Holly</b> <i>I. cornuta carissa</i>	4 or 5 feet tall and wide	Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained, moderately fertile, humus-rich soil	An ideal landscape plant as it has no pest or disease problems. Not spiny.
<b>Inkberry</b> <i>I. glabra</i>	10 feet tall and wide  <i>I. glabra</i> 'Compacta' is 4 to 6 feet tall and wide.	Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained, moderately fertile, humus-rich soil	Native. Has black berries. Grows slowly with small dark, shiny leaves without spines. Can be trimmed to encourage thicker growth. Usually loses lower leaves.
<b>Yaupon</b> <i>I. vomitoria</i>	Dwarf and weeping cultivars from 4 to 10 feet tall and wide available.	Full sun or part shade in moist but well-drained, moderately fertile, humus-rich soil	Native. Bears scarlet-red berries. This holly is impervious to salt air, pests, and alkaline soil, wet or dry. It is beloved of wildlife and makes a good backdrop. Taller specimens make good screens.
For the really short plants find varieties with the words 'compacta,' 'helleri,' or 'nana' in the name.			
<b>Indian Hawthorn</b> <i>Raphiolepis indica</i> ; also <i>Rhaphiolepis</i>	4 feet tall and spreading to 6 feet wide	Full sun in most soil types and moisture conditions	A low-growing shrub with heavy dark green leathery leaves and small pink or white fragrant blooms in late spring. Beware of leaf spot.
<b>Poet's Laurel or Alexandrian Laurel</b> <i>Danae racemosa</i>	3 feet tall by 3 feet wide	Part to full shade in moist, well-drained soil. Has also done fairly well in full sun	Elegant small shrub with long stems with small classic laurel leaves, inconspicuous fruit, and showy orange fruits.
<b>Sarcococca (fragrant) or Sweet Box</b> <i>Sarcococca ruscifolia</i>	3 feet tall by 3 feet wide	Part to full shade—the answer for those troublesome shady places too dark for grass. Rich, acidic, organic, well-drained soil	Miniscule white flowers that are intensely fragrant in bloom January and February. Flowers are followed by fairly large (about 1/3 inch) glossy, deep red fruits. This broadleaf evergreen is a wonderful winter shade plant and should be planted in an area with a lot of foot traffic because of its beauty and fragrance.

## EVERGREEN SHRUBS (continued)

Plant	Height/Width	Light/Soil	Description
<b>Viburnum (Laurestinus)</b> <i>Viburnum tinus</i>	6 to 12 feet tall and form a vase shape 2 to 4 feet wide.	Full sun to part shade in most soils	This shrub produces many pinkish-white, fragrant, early spring flowers, followed by ornamental blue-black fruit which attract birds. Use as a hedge, border; specimen, mass planting, container, or accent plant. Attracts butterflies.
<b>Wax Myrtle— Southern Bayberry— Candleberry</b> <i>Myrica cerifera</i>	10 to 15 feet tall and wide	Full sun to part shade in moist, sandy soil	This is a tough native shrub or small tree and is a great plant for along the shore. It was a colonial source of candle wax. Tolerates salt and excess moisture. Prune routinely to get dense growth.

## DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Evergreens are wonderful, but they are always GREEN! Deciduous shrubs come in a great variety of size, shape, and color. The foliage of deciduous shrubs can be variegated, green or burgundy and can even vary from season to season creating diverse landscapes.

The list that follows leaves out some familiar favorites because widespread planting has led to their becoming invasive in Tidewater. Others, such as crape myrtles and Hibiscus syriacus (Rose of Sharon), are more properly trees.

Plant	Height/Width	Light/Soil	Description
<b>Azaleas (Deciduous)</b> <i>Rhododendron spp</i>	2 to 8 feet tall and wide	Light to half shade in humus-rich, moist, well-drained, acidic soil	A surprise that not all of these treasures are evergreen! Families of deciduous azaleas give you the yellow, orange, and other tawny combinations that glow under tall pines. Your best source of information is a catalog.
<b>Beautyberry Bush— American Beautyberry Bush</b> <i>Callicarpa americana</i>	4 to 8 feet tall and wide	Partial sun and well-drained soil in woodland setting	Beautyberries have small, lavender-pink, lilac-like flowers in spring, followed by vivid purple berries in fall. The berries attract birds, as well as provide winter color.
<b>Beautybush</b> <i>Kolkwitzia amaabilis</i>	5 to 10 feet tall and wide	Full sun in moist, well-drained soil  Tolerates alkaline soil	Arching shoots covered with pink bells in late spring/early summer. May sucker into a thicket. This shrub should be pruned annually by removing some of the older stems, to maintain good form.
<b>Butterfly Bush— Summer Lilac</b> <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	Unpruned 15 feet tall and 8 feet wide; dwarf and pruned specimens 5 to 8 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide	Full sun to part shade in average to sandy, fertile to infertile, well-drained soil	A woody shrub that gets a bit rangy unless pruned. It can have white, pink, or purple flowers borne on long, arching branches and is drought tolerant. It attracts butterflies and a host of other nectar-seeking insects as well as vertebrates. This bush can become invasive.
<b>Chokeberry</b> <i>Aronia</i>			
<b>Red</b> <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	6 to 10 feet tall and 3 to 6 feet wide	Full sun to half shade in wet to dry, fertile to infertile, acidic soil  Adaptable	Has brilliant red fall color and red berries following white flowers in corymbs. Protect the young growth from rabbits. A suckering shrub with small, ovate dark green leaves.
<b>Black</b> <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	3 to 5 feet tall and wide	Full sun to light shade  Not fussy as to soil	Produces inconspicuous white flowers in May and purplish-black fruits September through December. Spreads by suckers so can be invasive. Good fall color.

## DECIDUOUS SHRUBS (continued)

Plant	Height/Width	Light/Soil	Description
<b>Holly</b> <i>Ilex</i> These two hollies shed their leaves to display the wonder of their berries against the winter bark. Both of these have friendly leaves, not the skin-tearing holly norm.			
<b>Winterberry</b> <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	6 to 10 feet tall and wide  'Nana' is 2 to 4 feet tall and wide.	Full sun for best berries in humus-rich to heavy, wet to swampy, acidic soil  Can take light shade	Covered with red berries in fall and winter, but uninteresting in other seasons. Good for winter decorating. Fruit sets only on pollinated female plant. Requires a pollinator—at least one male for every three to five female plants; plant the male in close proximity.
<b>Possumhaw</b> <i>Ilex deciduas</i>	6 to 20 feet tall and up to 10 feet wide.	Full sun in humus-rich to sandy, acidic soil in wet to swampy site	Makes a good show in a winter garden with its orange to scarlet berries on silvery-barked branches.
<b>Hydrangea</b> <i>Hydrangea spp.</i> Hydrangeas are pH sensitive, having blue flowers in acidic soil and pink in alkaline, although many cultivars will retain a particular color despite soil pH.			
<b>French (Big Leaf)</b> <i>H. macrophylla</i>	2 to 8 feet tall and wide	Light to half shade; acid soil for blue flowers; alkaline soil for pink flowers	Blooms May 25–July 4 with large rose-pink or bright blue globe-like flowers. Gardeners express a decided preference for either the 'mop-head' (hortensia) or the flat-flowered 'lace cap' cultivars. Check before you buy since there does not seem to be an indicator in the name.
<b>Oakleaf</b> <i>H. quercifolia</i>	6 or more feet tall and 4 feet wide	Full sun to part shade; acidic soil	This favorite for a shady location is a spreading shrub with large white panicles that turn buff colored. Large oak-leaf shaped leaves turn brilliant red in the fall.
<b>Peegee</b> <i>H. paniculata</i> 'Grandiflora compacta'	5 feet tall and wide (note the 'compacta').	Full sun to part shade	This is the small version of a tree sized shrub. It blooms with pointed clusters of greenish-white flowers which mature into creamy white, then age to rose.
<b>Smooth</b> <i>H. arborescens</i> 'Grandiflora'	3 to 5 feet tall and rounded	Light to half shade. Full sun if constantly moist	A small shrub that produces large white flower clusters—snowballs—almost six inches in diameter on new growth. It can be killed back to the ground in winter but grows rapidly and flowers.
<b>Japanese Spirea</b> <i>Spiraea japonica</i> A clump-forming, deciduous shrub with erect shoots. This is considered moderately invasive in the mountains and piedmont regions of Virginia but not in the coastal region.			
<i>Spiraea japo</i> 'Alba'	2 feet tall and 3 feet wide	Full sun in fertile, moist, well-drained soil	Has pale green leaves and white flowers in corymbs. Heat and drought tolerant.
<i>Spiraea japonica</i> 'Anthony Waterer'	3 to 5 feet tall and wide	Full sun in fertile, moist, well-drained soil	Stays small but has bright, hot pink, small, flat-topped flower umbels all summer.
<i>Spiraea japonica</i> 'Goldflame'	2 to 3 feet tall and wide	Full sun in fertile, moist, well-drained soil	Its young leaves in spring open in shades of yellow, orange and red, fading to pale green. The flowers are airy clusters of dark pink flowers which some gardeners feel clash with the foliage and attempt to remove them. Heat and drought tolerant.
<b>Lilac</b> <i>Syringa patula</i> 'Miss Kim'	4 to 9 feet tall and 5 to 7 feet wide	Full sun in well-drained, average to sandy soil	This is one of the few lilacs for our climate as it tolerates our hot summers and blooms without the needed cold winter other lilacs need.

## DECIDUOUS SHRUBS (continued)

Plant	Height/Width	Light/Soil	Description
<b>New Jersey Tea</b> <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	3 to 4 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide	Full sun  Tolerates poor growing conditions	A small shrub bearing dense clusters of white summer flowers. It is tough, adaptable, and nitrogen fixing. The blue flowered species are not hardy in our zone 7b. The flowers were used for tea during earlier times.
<b>Summersweet</b> <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	4 to 8 feet tall and 4 to 6 feet wide	Sun or part shade in moist soil	Legend tells us that sailors in the Bay could smell this plant, a Tidewater native, from their ships. A cultivar called 'Hummingbird' grows to only four feet. Give it plenty of room: it is a traveler.
<b>Sweetshrub, Carolina Allspice</b> <i>Calycanthus florida</i>	Grows to 8 feet tall and several feet wide.	Partial to full shade in average soil	Native bushy shrub with handsome foliage and reddish-brown, sweet-smelling blooms in the spring.
<b>Viburnum</b> These great shrubs come in all sizes with a variety of tolerance for soil and habitat. Most have heavy, crinkled leaves and are handsome. Some spring flowers have the nostalgic fragrance of 'Old Spice.'			
<b>Arrowwood</b> <i>V. dentatum</i>	5 to 7 feet tall and wide	Full sun to part shade in moderately fertile, moist, but well-drained soil	Has tiny white flowers which are followed by rich blue-black berries.
<b>Blackhaw</b> <i>V. prunifolium</i>	12 to 15 feet tall and 8 to 12 feet wide	Full sun to part shade in moderately fertile, moist, but well-drained soil	A deciduous shrub whose new growth in spring is as red as it is in the fall and the blue/black fruit is sweet enough to eat. Bears small white flowers.
<b>Nannyberry</b> <i>V. lentago</i>	12 feet tall by 10 feet wide	Full sun to part shade in moderately fertile, moist, but well-drained soil	A large shrub with shiny foliage, purple to red in the fall. Blue-black fruit follows large white flower clusters.
<b>Virginia Sweetspire</b> <i>Itea virginica</i> 'Henry's Garnet'	3 to 4 feet	Sun or part shade in moist soil	Creamy white flowers on erect racemes grace this native plant in mid May. It has reddish purple fall color. Can form a large thicket.
<b>Witch Alder</b> <i>Fothergilla</i> Fothergilla belongs to the witch hazel family, Hamamelidaceae and includes only two species, <i>F. gardenia</i> and <i>F. major</i> , both native to southeastern North America.			
<b>Dwarf</b> <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	2 to 3 feet tall and 2 to 4 feet wide	Prefers moist, acidic, organically rich and well-drained soil  Best flowers in full sun	Lovely white bottle brushes grace this dwarf fothergilla in spring ahead of the leaves. It is a wonderful red in fall. For fragrance, use honey-scented 'Suzanne.'
<b>Large</b> <i>Fothergilla major</i>	6 to 10 feet tall and almost equal spread.	Full sun to light shade in acidic well drained soil	Same flowers as the dwarf but flowers a little later. Excellent fall color and tolerates dry site.
<b>Witch Hazel</b> <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> 'Little Suzie'	4 to 5 feet tall with rounded shape.  Many witch hazels are trees, but this is a shrub.	Sun or part shade	Autumn is its season when the yellow leaves shine. The late fall blooms, miniature strappy pompoms, are unique. Tolerates a wide range of growing conditions. It is also the source of the witch hazel found in certain liniments.

*Calycanthus florida*



## ROSES

On November 20, 1986, the rose became our national flower as declared by President Ronald Reagan in a special ceremony at the White House. The rose has been around for a long time and is a symbol of love and peace among many other things. They also grow naturally throughout the United States and North America. Every home garden needs a few of our national flower. Roses that flower from May to December can flourish with the right selections.

### Planting

It is wise to prepare your beds or planting holes in advance using the Formula for Rose Planting Mix described in the box to the right and provided by Joy Long, Rosarian and Master Gardener. Mix all ingredients well and place in the planting hole.

Soak new bare root roses overnight in a clean trashcan filled with water. Place the roots of the rose bushes over a mound of planting mix in the bottom of the hole. Plant rose bush with the bud union (or graft) at or slightly below ground level. Backfill with prepared planting mix and water generously to settle the soil around the roots.

Shade newly planted roses with a cardboard box, basket or large plastic planting pot (with drain holes for ventilation) for about two weeks to help them become established. Water newly planted bushes regularly.

### Feeding

Feed a new rose after its first blooming cycle by applying a water-soluble fertilizer at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon of water or following label directions. Use a balanced granular agricultural fertilizer (10-10-10) at the rate of 1/2 cup to 1 cup depending on the size of the bush. The granular should be placed around the drip line of each bush and scratched in lightly. Remember to water deeply before and after feeding with granular fertilizer for best results. Another feeding about mid-July will do for the year. Joy Long suggests, "Lazy Rosarians will have healthy plants and great flowers for cutting by using a product designed just for roses once a month. A wonderful treat for roses is mushroom compost. It is inexpensive and it works well. Use as a top dressing, a quart for minis and a gallon for all others."

### Requirements of Roses

- Six (minimum) to eight hours of sun per day
- Morning sun is best
- Good drainage as roses will not tolerate wet feet
- An inch of water each week
- A soil pH of 6.0 to 6.5

### Formula for Rose Planting Mix

- 1/3 sphagnum peat moss (See page 106.)
- 1/3 original soil from planting hole
- 3-pound coffee can of perlite
- 1 cup green sand (potash)
- 1 cup rock phosphate or triple super phosphate
- several cups of garden gypsum (helps break up heavy clay soil)

If you want to win a trophy or two, indicates Joy Long, suggests using a slow release organic fertilizer at the rate of one or two cups per bush after pruning and again in August. Supplement the organic fertilizer with 20-20-20 (one tablespoon per gallon of water, two gallons per plant) or fish emulsion, (two tablespoons per gallon of water, one gallon per plant) and alternate between the two and use every two weeks.

If you want a magic elixir, make a batch of Joy Long's alfalfa tea for use as a growth stimulant. Use one gallon of the alfalfa tea per standard rose bush; use only one quart per miniature rose. Stand back to watch them grow. If there is sediment left in the bottom of the trashcan, refill with water and reapply. One load of organic ingredients will make up to two batches. It is a good idea to alternate between organic and inorganic fertilizers. Stop fertilizing in the late summer.

### Alfalfa Tea

Place 12 cups alfalfa meal or pellets in a 32-gallon trashcan filled with water.

Steep for three days to one week, stirring daily.

Add 1/2 cup Epsom salts, 1/2 cup chelated iron, 1/4 cup of a seaweed fertilizer (such as Response), and one cup 20-20-20 fertilizer.



## Pruning

Most roses benefit from a yearly pruning to rejuvenate the plant. Prune in early spring— when the forsythia are blooming – just before the buds begin to swell. Pruning should produce a plant of good form, urn shaped with the center open to sun and air. Dead or diseased canes should be removed anytime. Climbing roses and once blooming roses should be pruned after they bloom. Severe pruning will disrupt the spring bloom cycle. Remove spent blooms from plants.

## Diseases and Insects

The most common diseases of roses are powdery mildew and black spot. Caused by fungi, they can be controlled, but rarely eliminated. A systemic fungicide attacks both of these as well as rust and

anthracnose. Spray every 21 days. A pesticide is available that is completely organic, but you will have to use it more often than the systemic fungicides. Do not spray in the heat of the day; always water deeply the day before spraying any chemical on your roses. Sucking and chewing insects can be controlled with a systemic all-purpose insecticide. Washing foliage periodically can control mites.

## Reliable Rose Selections

Joy Long recommends the rose varieties listed in the following table as being reliable, easy to grow, disease resistant, and good bloomers for Gloucester. ‘Earth Kind’ roses have been tested for 10+ years at Texas A&M. They have outstanding disease and insect resistance, and a high level of landscape performance.

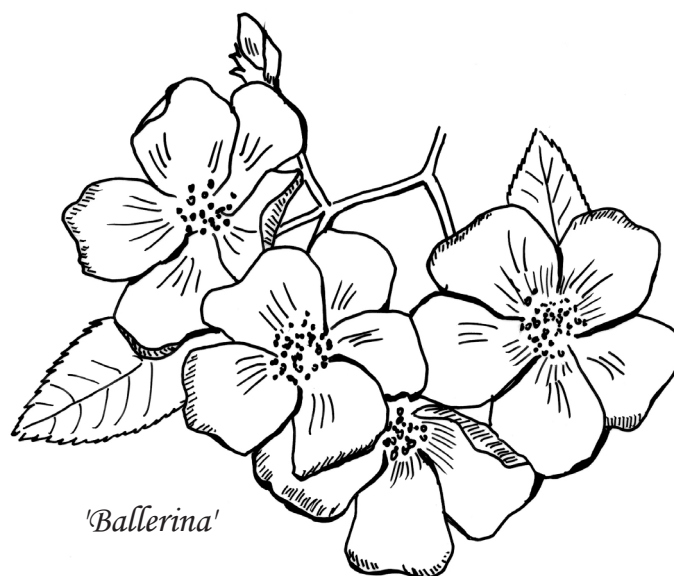
Standard-Size Roses			
Rose	Description	Rose	Description
<b>Ballerina</b>	A 4-foot tall, 3-foot wide shrub rose with soft pink flowers with white eyes. Single small blooms in large clusters often mistaken for a hydrangea. Will tolerate some shade.	<b>Knock Out</b>	A shrub that is not only ‘Earth Kind’ but the most disease-resistant rose in 50 years. It is 4-to5 feet tall and 3 feet wide and comes in red, pink, yellow with more colors to come.
<b>Belinda’s Dream</b>	A hybrid tea form in a pink shrub, ‘Earth Kind.’	<b>Lady Banks</b>	A yellow species with no thorns, no fragrance, and no maintenance. Can grow 20 to 40 feet and blooms once a year. Protect from the cold.
<b>Bonica</b>	A shrub rose with medium pink flowers of forty plus petals and semi-glossy foliage.	<b>La Marne</b>	A cluster bloomer of hot pink flowers with shiny, disease-resistant foliage. This is an ‘Earth Kind’ rose.
<b>Pink Pet</b> (formerly Caldwell Pink)	A 4-foot plant with pinkish lavender pom-pom flowers. This ‘Earth Kind’ rose spreads by runners so you will have babies to give away.	<b>Lyda Rose</b>	A rose that is 5 feet tall and 5 feet wide at 3 years. It bears white edged in pink single flowers that look like apple blossoms and are fragrant.
<b>Carefree Beauty</b>	An ‘Earth Kind’ with medium pink flowers	<b>Rugosa spp.</b>	These tough old-timers survive even in salt-spray areas and have wonderful fragrance.
<b>Flower Carpet</b>	This plant is short and has spreading growth. It has sprays of 15-20 deep pink flowers with dark green foliage.	<b>The Fairy</b>	A low growing, 3 to 4 foot, ‘Earth Kind’ rose with pale pink cluster or pom-pom flowers. Can bloom from spring until Christmas. Spreads by runners so it may be wider than it is tall.
<b>Gartendirektor Otto Linne</b>	This bushy 3-foot plant has 30 or more clusters of dark carmine pink flowers.	<b>White Meidiland</b>	A shrub, 2 feet tall by 4 feet wide, with very full white flowers (over 40 petals), dark green glossy foliage, and spreading growth. Will tolerate some shade.

*"If you inherited a shed or garage with your dream home that you must keep up, plant a Lady Banks rose. Within ten years a lovely camouflage will be complete."*

– Celeste Dudley, GEMG Emeritus

*"Minis and minifloras in pots are a great way to add interest in the garden and around the home. Move to a prominent location when blooming to add a splash of color."*

– Sandy Pait, GEMG



Minis and Minifloras	
<b>Minis</b>	
Minis or miniature roses are twiggly, repeat-flowering shrubs ranging from 6 inches to 36 inches in height; most are 12 to 24 inch tall. Climbing varieties, bearing tiny flowers, can reach up to 5 feet tall. Blooms come in all the hybrid tea colors. Minis are great in containers or make lovely borders.	
Rose	Description
<b>Gourmet Popcorn</b>	White blooms. It is a real "pop" of color.
<b>Green Ice</b>	Starts out with white blooms which mature to green blooms.
<b>Jeanne Lajoie</b>	Mini climber. Great pink color. American Rose Society Award of Excellence winner.
<b>Rainbow's End</b>	Buds are yellow with great edging on the outer petals and deepen to red in the heart. American Rose Society Award of Excellence winner.
<b>Minifloras</b>	
The American Rose Society defines a miniflora as, "Those roses whose leaf structure and leaf morphology and bloom structure are essentially smaller than a floribunda but larger than the typical miniature." They were created largely through the breeding of large roses with miniatures. The average miniflora bush is 2 1/2 to 4 1/2 foot tall and can be within that range for plant width as well. They are easy to grow, pretty, and grow well in pots.	
<b>Butter Cream</b>	Medium yellow blooms; often a show winner.
<b>Foolish Pleasure</b>	Pink and white blended blooms.
<b>Memphis Music</b>	Dark red (burgundy) and yellow stripes—reverse yellow and red.

These are but short lists of reliable roses that do well in Gloucester. Ask your friends which roses grow well for them. Everyone has his or her favorites and likes to share. Don't be afraid to try what appeals to you. Check with your local nurseries as they usually stock roses that grow well in our area. In May several area nurseries have spring sales at which they display many varieties of roses. The Colonial District of the American Rose Society is also a great resource. They will provide you with the names of local American Rose Society certified rosarians in our area. Check out [www.colonialdistrictroses.org](http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org).

*"Glossy foliage that is dark green usually indicates a rose that is disease resistant."*

*"If your roses need a pick-me-up, try adding a mixture of equal portions of old milk and water. Great tonic!!"*

–Joy Long, GEMG

## PROBLEMS WITH SHRUBS

There are few problems with shrubs as a rule. To keep in bounds established shrubs that flower in spring on the previous year's growth, you may cut out as much as 1/3 of the old canes at the base of the plant in any one year. This applies to butterfly bush, forsythia, and mock orange. If the shrub has been placed in a favorable location, only a little trimming is needed. If you suspect insect or disease problems, contact the Gloucester County Virginia Cooperative Extension Office for a positive identification and diagnosis or publications available at <https://Resources.ext.vt.edu> or <https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu>. Many homeowners spread mulch around their shrubs and trees to keep weeds down. Sometimes an oddity will appear on the mulch—Dog Vomit or Slime Mold. Not to worry. Read the following.

### Dog Vomit or Slime Mold *Fuligo septica*

Ever wonder what that foamy looking tan, yellow, orange or pink blob is on your mulch? It is not a fungus nor is it a mold but rather a plasmodium (a giant cell with many nuclei). It usually appears after rains or watering and moves slowly in the mulch, consuming fungi and bacteria that are on decaying plant matter. As it reaches maturity it firms up forming a mound that looks like dog barf. Eventually it dries up and releases brownish clouds of spores when disturbed.

Slime mold is harmless to people, pets, and plants and is a natural phenomenon that doesn't hurt anything. Actually, it helps the garden as it breaks down plant matter which aids the microorganisms essential to the healthy growth of plants.

You cannot prevent slime molds as the spores are everywhere—just waiting for the right conditions to become active. If you cannot tolerate the look of it, you can shovel it into a trash bag or just turn it over.

Information extracted from Botts, Beth. "Dog Vomit Slime Mold." Chicago Gardener, Chicago Tribune.com, 30 June 2007

## INVASIVE SHRUBS

According to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Invasive Alien Plant Species of Virginia dated September 2003, there are some commonly available shrubs that are considered invasive and should be monitored. They can be 'aggressive' by growing underground runners or by spreading seed. The invasiveness level in natural areas and native plant habitats attributed to the shrub by the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation is noted in parenthesis.

- **Amur Honeysuckle** *Lonicera maackii* (moderately)
- **Morrow's Honeysuckle** *Lonicera morrowii* (highly)
- **Winter Honeysuckle** *Lonicera fragrantissima* (occasionally)

The honeysuckles listed here are of the bush variety and not the vines. They are upright, generally deciduous shrubs that can grow from 6 to 16 feet in height. These bushes can grow so dense that it interferes with the growth of many native plants.

- **Autumn Olive** *Elaeagnus umbellata* (highly)  
Autumn Olive is considered very invasive because of its very prolific fruiting that are consumed by birds and the seeds to be easily dispersed. The plant also has the ability to adapt to poor soil and is a rapid grower. Very hard to eradicate as it resprouts vigorously after cutting or burning. Autumn olive can grow to a height of 20 feet.
- **Japanese Barberry** *Berberis thunbergii* (moderately)
- **Linden Viburnum** *Viburnum dilatatum* (occasionally)
- **Border Privet** *Ligustrum obtusifolium* (moderately)
- **Thorny Elaeagnus** *Elaeagnus pungens* (occasionally)
- **Winged Euonymous** *Euonymous alatus* (highly)

Winged Euonymous or Winged Burning Bush is a deciduous shrub that can grow to 20 feet in height. Like the Autumn Olive, this shrub has very prolific fruits that birds love and the seeds are very easily dispersed. Because of its high tolerance of full shade and easily germination, it doesn't take long for it to spread like wildfire!

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## REFERENCES

Relf, D. (2009). Trees & shrubs. In Relf, D. (Ed.), *Master gardener handbook: A guide to gardening in Virginia*. (pp. 416-429). Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech.

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR). (2009). *Invasive alien plant species of Virginia*. Retrieved from: [http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/documents/invlist.pdf](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/invlist.pdf).

Below is a partial list of Virginia Cooperative Extension publications that address shrubs. These and other publications about specific shrubs can be found at <https://Resources.ext.vt.edu> or <https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu>. (Type in the publication number [e.g. 456-018] in the search box.)

*A guide to successful pruning: pruning shrubs*, 430-459

*A guide to successful pruning: Shrub pruning calendar*, 430-462

*A guide to successful pruning: Pruning basics and tools*, 430-455

*Fertilizing landscape trees and shrubs*, 430-018

*Growing azaleas and rhododendrons*, 426-602

*Managing winter injury to trees and shrubs*, 426-500

*Problem-free shrubs for Virginia landscapes*, 450-236

*Selecting landscape plants: Broad-leaved evergreens*, 426-607

*Shrubs: Functions, planting, and maintenance*, 426-701

*Tree and shrub planting guidelines*, 430-295

*Trees and shrubs for acid soils*, 430-027

*Trees and shrubs that tolerate saline soils and salt spray drift*, 430-031

In addition, go to: <http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce> and click on Local Horticultural Publications.

*Syringa patula*





