



Grassroots
Gardens
of Buffalo

Flowering Shrub Planting Guide



Spiraea japonica 'Neon Flash'

This Spirea generally fit into the “cottage” garden style. They are hardy here in Western New York, and like full sun. These plants need to be watered on a weekly basis, sometimes more during heat droughts. Spireas grow fast, and can reach three feet both wide and tall! The red showy flowers bloom from late spring through fall. They are great cut flowers, and attract butterflies.

Spiraea x 'Fire Light'

Fire Light Spirea has a dramatic foliage color. Throughout spring and summer, the leaves are brilliant chartreuse. When fall comes around they change to bright oranges, yellows, and reds. It resembles flames! Hence it's name, Fire Light. Like other Spireas, Fire Light prefers full sun, and weekly watering. This species grows at a moderate rate. It is compact and round, growing three feet wide, and can reach four feet high. These plants bloom pink flowers throughout the summer.



Weigela florida 'Alexandra' Wine & Roses

This Weigela has purple foliage with deep pink tubular flowers. The flowers will bloom throughout the summer. Expect to see butterflies and hummingbirds hanging around these plants. This shrub grows at a moderate rate, but can reach four to five feet tall and wide! Keep it in full sun or in a partial shady spot. Water it weekly, especially during droughts.

Weigela florida 'Gold Rush'

'Gold Rush' has beautiful variegated foliage. They have complementary pink trumpet shaped flower clusters that attract humming birds and butterflies. Like most Weigelas, 'Gold Rush' prefers full sun. However, this plant tolerates urban pollution and salt. It thrives in city environments. Keep it watered, and try not to let it dry out. This plant will grow at a moderate rate, reaching three feet tall and four feet wide.



Kalmia latifolia 'Ostbo Red' Mountain Laurel

This evergreen shrub can grow up to 10 feet high and wide! It likes partial shade, and the pretty blooms will appear May through June. The bright pink buds bloom into pale pink flowers. Prune Mountain Laurels after flowering to remove dead branches or to keep shape. It may take years to flower again if pruned with a heavy hand.

Syringa patula 'Miss Kim' Korean Lilac

'Miss Kim' is a small shrub that has dark garden foliage that turns to a burgundy in the fall. It is slow growing, but can reach 6-8 feet tall and wide. The very fragrant light purple flowers bloom throughout Spring and into Summer. Once this Lilac is established it will only need occasional watering. Keep it in full sun, and only prune after flowering.



Berberis thunbergii 'Bonanza Gold' Japanese Barberry

This Barberry is smaller than most of its cousins. It will only grow 2-3 feet high and wide. It has brilliant chartreuse foliage all season long. There are tiny yellow blooms in mid Spring. This shrub can be pruned any time, and requires a normal watering schedule. Keep it in full sun to partial shade.

Cotoneaster apiculata Cranberry Cotoneaster

This shrub is an evergreen, meaning you will see foliage all year long! It will form low and wide, and grow to 2 feet high and 3-6 feet wide. It has tiny pinkish flowers that bloom early in the Summer, and turn to a cranberry-red fruit in the fall.



Remember, these are not actually cranberries so do not eat them! Keep it in sun, however it will tolerate some shade. It needs well drained soil. It is drought tolerant, but does not do well in soggy conditions. It can also handle salt spray. Watch out for spider mites in dry conditions.

Viburnum dilatatum 'Cardinal Candy'

This Viburnum is a large shrub! It can grow 10 feet high and wide! You will see a show of creamy white clusters of flowers in early Summer. In the Fall you will see vibrant red clusters of berries against bronze foliage. The berries can last as late as September, and are ideal for birds. Keep it in full sun with well drained soil.

