



Department of
Horticultural Science

SHRUBS 8+ FEET HIGH FOR NORTH CAROLINA LANDSCAPES

M. A. (Kim) Powell, Extension Horticultural Specialist

There are many excellent large landscape plants for all of North Carolina. Practical uses would include large plants as screening plantings or tall specimen or accent plants. The modern practice of "tree form" shrubs is best realized from plants in this category. Foundation plantings can also be implemented where the buildings/structures are very large in scale. Typically, this would be municipal, commercial or industrial projects.

The plants in this category offer both deciduous and evergreen choices, flowering and berry producing plants, along with cultivars with interesting bark and foliage textures. When properly selected and located, the plants in this category will certainly enhance the landscape setting. As many of these plants are fast growing and can easily reach 15 to 20 feet in height, be sure to give them the required growing space.

Botanical Name and COMMON NAME	Hardiness Zone	Group	Growth Rate	Exposure	Texture	Form	Height Spread	Landscape Remarks
Bambusa multiplex HEDGE BAMBOO	7,8	E	rapid	sun or shade	medium	upright branches slightly arching	<u>10-12'</u> 4-6'	Must be confined to a limited area
Buxus sempervirens arborescens TREE BOXWOOD	6,7	E	moderate	partial shade	fine	round	<u>8-12'</u> 8-10'	Good evergreen screen for large areas
Buddleia davidii BUTTERFLY BUSH	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun	coarse	open	<u>10-12'</u> 8-10'	Excellent summer flowering shrub for mass planting
Camellia japonica CAMELLIA	7,8	E	rapid	partial shade	medium	upright columnar	<u>8-15'</u> 6-7'	Numerous cultivars available. Blooms in early spring
Camellia sasanqua SASANQUA	7,8	E	rapid	sun or part shade	medium	upright columnar	<u>8-15'</u> 5-7'	Numerous cultivars available. Blooms in fall. Makes good "small tree" form
Chionanthus virginicus FRINGE TREE	6,7,8	D	slow	sun	coarse	round top spreading	<u>10-12'</u> 8-10'	Large shrub or small tree
Cleyera japonica CLEYERA (TERNSTROEMIA)	7,8	E	moderate	partial shade	medium	upright	<u>8-12'</u> 6-7'	Excellent for coastal areas of N.C.
Cytisus scoparius SCOTCH BROOM	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun to part shade	fine	upright, open	8-10 <u>10-12'</u>	Has erect grass-like green stems, yellow spring flowers
Deutzia scabra PRIDE OF ROCHESTER	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun to part shade	coarse	oval, tall erect	<u>8-10'</u> 6-8'	Arching branches with brown peeling bark
Elaeagnus pungens THORNY ELAEAGNUS	7,8	E	rapid	sun	medium	spreading pendulating branches	<u>8-12'</u> 6-10'	Fragrant flowers; birds are attracted. Winter flowering spring fruited
Euonymus alatus WINGED EUONYMUS	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun to part shade	medium	upright, horizontal	<u>8-10'</u> 8-10'	Beautiful fall color. Dwarf forms available
Exochorda racemosa PEARLBUSH	7,8	D	moderate	sun to part shade	medium	upright, slender branches	<u>10-15'</u> 10-15	Interesting spring flowering shrub, good for borders
Hammamelis virginiana WITCH-HAZEL	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun or shade	medium/ coarse	irregular open crown	<u>18-20'</u> 15-20'	Native shrub for natural situations
Hydrangea paniculata PANICLE HYDRANGEA	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun to part shade	coarse	upright spreading	<u>15-25'</u> 12-20'	Very coarse - difficult to use in most designs
Ilex aquifolia ENGLISH HOLLY	6,7,8	E	slow	sun to part shade	medium	irregular loose	<u>8-12'</u> 8-12	Need both male and female for fruiting
Ilex cornuta CHINESE HOLLY	7,8	E	moderate	sun or part shade	medium/ coarse	rounded upright	<u>10-15'</u> 8-10'	Often used as a small tree will become overgrown on small residential sites. 'Burfordii' is a favorite cultivar.

Botanical Name and COMMON NAME	Hardiness Zone	Group	Growth Rate	Exposure	Texture	Form	Height Spread	Landscape Remarks
Ilex crenata JAPANESE HOLLY	6,7,8	E	slow	sun to part shade	medium	semi-globular	10-12' 6-8'	Many cultivars available
Ilex latifolia LUSTERLEAF HOLLY	7,8	E	moderate	partial shade	coarse	rounded	8-12' 7-11'	Excellent evergreen specimen or espalier
Ilex pernyi PERNY HOLLY	6,7,8	E	slow	sun or part shade	medium	pyramidal outline	10-15' 6-8'	Tall, showy holly shrub; beautiful berries
Ilex vomitoria YAUPON HOLLY	7,8	E	slow	sun or shade	medium/ fine	upright	10-20' 8-12'	Excellent for large shrub or small tree
Illicium anisatum ANISETREE	7,8	E	moderate	sun or part shade	coarse	open rounded	8-12' 8-10'	Fragrant-light green foliage color
Ligustrum japonicum JAPANESE PRIVET	7,8	E	rapid	sun or shade	coarse	erect, oval top	10-15' 6-8'	Large evergreen, tolerant of adverse conditions. Not a foundation plant
Ligustrum lucidum TALL-GLOSSY PRIVET	7,8	E	rapid	sun or shade	coarse	spreading irregular	10-15' 5-8'	Excellent screening plant; can tolerate severe pruning
Lonicera fragrantissima WINTER HONEYSUCKLE	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun to part shade	medium	wide spreading irregular	8-12' 6-10'	Fragrant, screening plant; winter flowering
Magnolia stellata STAR MAGNOLIA	6,7,8	D	slow	sun	medium	oval upright	15-20' 10-12'	Nice accent shrub-several cultivars available
Magnolia virginiana SWEET BAY	7,8	semi evergreen	slow	sun to part shade	medium	wide, spreading irregular	8-12' 6-10'	Coastal area nature plant Extremely fragrant flowers
Michelia figo BANANA SHRUB	7,8	E	slow	sun	medium	rounded dense	8-10' 6-8'	Fragrant blooms, specimen plant for coastal N.C.
Myrica cerifera WAXMYRTLE	7,8	E	moderate	sun to part shade	fine	irregular	10-15' 10-12'	Excellent screening plant, aromatic foliage. Native to southeastern N.C.
Nerium oleander OLEANDER	8	E	rapid	sun	fine/med	rounded upright	8-10' 8-9'	Summer flowering - all plants are toxic
Osmanthus fortunei FORTUNE'S OSMANTHUS	7,8	E	moderate	sun	medium	oval dense	12-15' 8-10'	Excellent for screening. Hybrid of o. fragrans x o. heterophyllus
Osmanthus fragrans SWEET OSMANTHUS	7,8	E	moderate	sun	medium	upright rounded	12-15' 10-12'	Large specimen for open areas. Gets large in N.C. Is not very cold hardy.
Osmanthus heterophyllus HOLLY OSMANTHUS	7,8	E	moderate	sun	medium	upright with irregular shape	10-12' 8-10'	Fall flowering, very fragrant. Several cultivars available
Photinia glabra JAPANESE PHOTINIA	7,8	E	rapid	sun	medium	upright loose	10-12' 6-8'	Smallest of photinias Typical objectionable odor
Photinia serrulata CHINESE PHOTINIA	7,8	E	rapid	sun	coarse	broadly oval	20-25' 18-20'	Should not be used in small designs. Can be a "small tree" form

Botanical Name and COMMON NAME	Hardiness Zone	Group	Growth Rate	Exposure	Texture	Form	Height Spread	Landscape Remarks
Photinia x 'Fraseri'	7,8	E	rapid	sun	medium	oval	10-15' 5-10'	Most popular-commonly referred to as "Red Tip"
FRASIER PHOTINIA								
Pittosporum tobira	8	E	rapid	sun	medium	stiff, dense branches	10-12' 6-9'	Excellent specimen plant
PITTIOSPORUM								
Podocarpus macrophyllus	7,8	E	slow	sun or shade	fine	pyramidal branches upright	8-10' 4-5'	Excellent for coastal N.C. Not very hardy in Piedmont
PODOCARPUS								
Prunus laurocerasus	6,7,8	E	moderate	sun or shade	medium/ coarse	upright slightly open	10-12' 8-11	Good plant for shaded areas Several dwarf cultivars available
ENGLISH LAUREL								
Punica granatum	8	D	moderate	sun	medium/ coarse	rounded	10-12' 10-12'	Specimen - orange flowers
POMEGRANATE								
Pyracantha coccinea	6,7,8	E	moderate	sun to part shade	medium	stiff, thorny open branches	8-20' 8-20	Can become quite overgrown More cold hardy than P. koidzumii
SCARLET FIRETHORN								
Pyracantha koidzumii	7,8	E	rapid	sun to part shade	medium	dense-irregular spreading	8-12' 8-12'	Multi-stemmed - very popular species, many uses
FORMOSA FIRETHORN								
Rhododendron 'Exbury Hybrid'	6,7,8	D	moderate	partial shade	medium	upright loose	8-10' 5-7'	Excellent in combination with evergreen azalea cultivars
KNAPHILL AZALEA								
Rhododendron periclymenoides	6,7,8	D	slow	partial shade	medium	low spreading branches	8-9' 4-5'	Size varies with native habitat
PINXTERBLOOM AZALEA								
Syringa persica	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun	medium	global	8-9' 7-9'	Spring flowering - fragrant Smaller than S. vulgaris
PERSIAN LILAC								
Syringa vulgaris	6,7	D	rapid	sun	medium	upright with stiff ascending branches	10-15' 8-10'	Good spring flowering shrub or small tree - very fragrant. Hundreds of cultivars
COMMON LILAC								
Tamarix gallica	7,8	D	moderate	sun	fine	broad spreading open	10-12' 9-11'	Summer flowering. Generally associated with coastal areas
SALT CEDAR								
Vaccinium corymbosum	6,7	D	slow	sun	medium	upright multi-stemmed	6-12' 8-12'	Excellent hedge, beautiful fall color - edible fruit
HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY								
Viburnum dilatatum	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun to part shade	medium	rounded dense	9-10' 6-8'	Many uses - nice flowers, showy berries in fall
LINDEN VIBURNUM								
Viburnum rhytidophyllum	6,7,8	E	moderate	sun to part shade	coarse	upright multi-stemmed	10-15' 12-15'	Retains leaves in winter - excellent foliage character
LEATHERLEAF VIBURNUM								
V. plicatum tomentosum	6,7,8	D	moderate	sun to part shade	coarse	broad spreading	8-10' 8-10'	Handsome accent plant
DOUBLEFILE VIBURNUM								
Vitex negundo	6,7,8	D	rapid	sun or part shade	medium/ fine	open, loosely branched	12-15' 8-10'	Large shrub or small tree. Purple flowers in later summer
CHASTE TREE								