

## - Shrubs that merit attention -

## **Underused and Hardy Shrubs for the Kansas City Area**

Size	Culture	Description			
BAYBERRY Myrica pensylvanica					
Height: 6-8' Spread: 5-6'	Extremely adaptable     Grows in full sun to half shade	<ul> <li>Upright growing shrub</li> <li>Excellent plant for mass planting or borders</li> <li>Leaves have a leathery texture and are aromatic when crushed</li> <li>Produces small, gray waxy fruits</li> <li>Male and female plants required for good fruiting</li> </ul>			
BEAUTYBERRY Call	icarpa dichotoma				
Height: 3-5' Spread: 4-6'	<ul> <li>Well-drained soil</li> <li>Grows in full sun or light shade</li> <li>Flowers produced on new growth</li> <li>For best appearance, prune back to 6-18" in spring</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Graceful, rounded shrub with arching branches that touch the ground</li> <li>Small, lavender-pink blooms in June-August followed in September by bright violet berries</li> </ul>			
BOTTLEBRUSH BUCK	BOTTLEBRUSH BUCKEYE Aesculus parviflora				
Height: 8-12' Spread: 8-15'	<ul> <li>Plant in early spring</li> <li>Prefers acid soil, but is adaptable</li> <li>Will grow in full sun or partial shade, but growth is more prolific in shade</li> <li>Pruning seldom needed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Outstanding flowering shrub with wide-spreading, suckering growth</li> <li>Leaves are medium to dark green, turning soft yellow in fall</li> <li>8-12" white "bottlebrush" blooms produced June -July</li> </ul>			
BUCKTHORN Rhamr	BUCKTHORN Rhamnus frangula 'Asplenifolia'				
Height: 10-12' Spread: 6-10'	<ul><li>Adaptable</li><li>Prefers well-drained soil</li><li>Will grow in sun or partial shade</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Outstanding specimen plant</li> <li>Leaves are narrow like a willow adding a ferny appearance to the landscape</li> </ul>			
CAROLINA ALLSPICE Calycanthus floridus					
Height: 6-9' Spread: 8-10'	<ul> <li>Adaptable to many soils</li> <li>Will grow in sun or shade, but becomes tall and straggly in shade</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Dense, bushy rounded shrub</li> <li>Worthwhile for every garden</li> <li>Produces reddish-brown flowers with a fruity fragrance in May (best to purchase plants in bloom as scent can be different on plants grown from seed)</li> </ul>			

Size	Culture	Description			
CHOKEBERRY Aron	ia arbutifolia  Aronia melanocarpa				
Height: 3-5' or 6-8' Spread: 2-4' or 6-8'	<ul> <li>Tolerant of a wide range of soils and conditions</li> <li>Best fruit production in full sun</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Ornamental shrub with a spreading-suckering growth habit</li> <li>Best used in mass plantings</li> <li>Leaves dark green in summer, changing to red, crimson or purple in fall</li> </ul>			
CLETHRA Clethra alnifolia					
Height: 3-6' Spread: 3-6'	<ul> <li>Prefers moist, acid soil rich in organic matter</li> <li>Very tolerant of wet soils and shade, but will grow in full sun</li> <li>One of the easiest plants to grow</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Excellent fragrant, summer flowering shrub</li> <li>Leaves are glossy, dark green in summer, turning soft yellow in fall</li> <li>Late to leaf out in spring</li> <li>White flowers in May followed by red or purplish-black fruits</li> </ul>			
FOTHERGILLA Fothergilla gardenii 'Blue Mist' Fothergilla gardenii 'Mount Airy'					
Height: 2-3' or 3-5' Spread: 2-3'	Prefers moist, well-drained acid soil     Does well in part shade, but flowers and colors best in full sun	<ul> <li>A great native American shrub for fall color</li> <li>Bluish-green summer foliage that turns a combination of red, orange and yellow in fall</li> <li>White, honey-scented "bottlebrush" blooms in April</li> </ul>			
HARRY LAUDER'S	HARRY LAUDER'S WALKING STICK Corylus avellana 'Contorta'				
Height: 6-9' Spread: 6-10'	<ul> <li>Prefers well-drained soil</li> <li>pH adaptable</li> <li>Usually grafted and suckers need to be cut</li> </ul>	Good specimen shrub     Stems and leaves are twisted, creating great winter interest     Produces catkins in early spring			
HYPERICUM Hyperic	cum 'Hidcote' Hypericum frondosum 'Sunbu	rst'			
Height: 2-3' Spread: 2-4'	<ul> <li>Does well in dry soils</li> <li>pH adaptable</li> <li>Grows in full sun or partial shade</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Splendid golden yellow flowers are borne profusely in spring with sporadic flowers into fall</li> <li>Foliage bluish-green</li> <li>'Hidcote' may die back to ground in winter, but sends up new shoots in spring that flower in July</li> </ul>			
INKBERRY llex x gla	bra				
Height: 3-6' Spread: 3-5'	<ul> <li>Prefers moist, acid soils</li> <li>Tolerates shade and will grow in full sun with adequate moisture</li> <li>Hardiest evergreen holly</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Excellent plant for foundation plantings or hedges</li> <li>Dark green, shiny leaves all year long</li> <li>More deer-resistant than other hollies</li> </ul>			
KERRIA Kerria japonica 'Pleniflora'					
Height: 3-5' Spread: 4-6'	<ul><li>Requires well-drained soil</li><li>Full shade</li><li>Will sucker</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Interesting free flowering shrub</li> <li>Bright golden yellow flowers in May</li> <li>Bright green twigs attractive in winter</li> </ul>			

Size	Culture	Description			
NINEBARK Physocarpus opulifolius 'Dart's Golden' or 'Diabolo'					
Height: 4-5' or 4-8' Spread: 4-5' or 4-8'	Adaptable     Full sun     Tolerates dry conditions     Renew by cutting to ground in late winter or early spring	White flowers in spring, but planted for foliage     'Dart's Golden' has bright golden spring foliage and 'Diabolo' has brilliant reddish-purple spring foliage			
OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA Hydrangea quercifolia 'Alice,' 'Snow Queen,' 'Snowflake' or 'Sikes Dwarf'					
Height: 3-4 to 10-12' Spread: 3-4 to 10-12'	Requires moist, well-drained soil     Grows in sun or partial shade	<ul> <li>Large leathery green leaves develop wonderful fall colors ranging from wine-red to purple to deep burgundy</li> <li>White, 4-12" flower panicles appear in late May</li> <li>Bloom color changes to pinkish-beige by fall</li> </ul>			
OREGON GRAPEHOL	OREGON GRAPEHOLLY Mahonia aquifolium Mahonia aquifolium 'Compacta'				
Height: 2-3' or 4-6' Spread: 3-4' or 4-6'	<ul> <li>Prefers moist, well-drained acid soil</li> <li>Avoid hot, dry soils</li> <li>Protect from wind</li> <li>Prefers shade</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Good shrub for shady areas with glossy dark evergreen foliage that turns purple-bronze in winter</li> <li>Bright yellow flowers in April followed by blue- black fruit in July-September</li> </ul>			
PANICLE HYDRANGE 'Grandiflora'	PANICLE HYDRANGEA Hydrangea paniculata 'Angel's Blush', 'Brussles Lace', 'Burgundy Lace', 'Tardiva' or				
Height: 6-8' Spread: 6-8'	<ul> <li>Prefers moist, well-drained soil</li> <li>Sun or partial shade</li> <li>Very hardy</li> <li>Most adaptable</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>An excellent shrub for late summer interest</li> <li>Very large flowers produced in late summer</li> <li>Beautiful when planted in mass</li> </ul>			
PINK HYDRANGEA	Hydrangea serrata 'Preziosa' or 'Bluebird'				
Height: 2-3' Spread: 3-4'	<ul> <li>Does well in sun or half shade</li> <li>Plants die to the ground in winter, but bloom freely on new growth in summer</li> <li>Mulch well</li> </ul>	A hardy, free-flowering, pink hydrangea with thick, dark green leaves     An alternative to 'Nikko Blue'			
SERVICEBERRY Amelanchier alnifolia 'Regent'					
Height: 4-6' Spread: 4-5'	<ul> <li>Prefers moist, well-drained, acid soil, but tolerant of most soils</li> <li>Tolerates full sun or part shade</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>White flowers in spring are followed by red fruits that change to a bluish-purple</li> <li>Stunning fall display as leaves change to gold, orange and red</li> <li>Edible fruit</li> </ul>			
INDIAN CURRANT S	INDIAN CURRANT Symphoricarpos x doorenbosii 'Magic Berry'				
Height: 3-4' Spread: 4-5'	<ul> <li>Tolerant of any soil</li> <li>Native on limestone and clay</li> <li>Full sun to heavy shade</li> <li>Suckers profusely</li> <li>Flowers produced on new wood</li> </ul>	Compact, arching shrub with dull blue-green leaves and white, rose tinged flowers in June     Abundant rose-pink fruits follow in the fall			

Size	Culture	Description			
SUMAC Rhus aromatica	SUMAC Rhus aromatica 'Gro-low'				
Height: 2-3' Spread: 6-8'	<ul> <li>Prefers acid, well-drained soil, but will grow in dry soils</li> <li>Grows in half shade or full sun</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Low-growing shrub with glossy foliage</li> <li>Great groundcover</li> <li>Produces yellow flowers in spring followed by red, hairy fruit</li> <li>Good orange-red fall color</li> </ul>			
SWEETSPIRE Itea virgin	SWEETSPIRE Itea virginica 'Little Henry," Itea virginica 'Henry's Garnet'				
Height: 2-3' or 3-4' Spread: 3-4' or 4-6'	<ul> <li>Prefers moist, fertile soils, but will tolerate wet soils and is drought tolerant</li> <li>Will grow in full sun or shade</li> <li>pH adaptable</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pride of Kansas selection</li> <li>Beautiful, fragrant white flowers with bright green, shiny foliage that turns shades of crimson, scarlet and purple in the fall</li> </ul>			
WEIGELA Weigela florida "Wine & Roses,", Weigela florida "Midnight Wine," Weigela florida "French Lace"					
Height: 2-3' or 4-5' Spread: 3-4' or 4-6'	<ul> <li>Very adaptable, but prefers well-drained soil and full sun</li> <li>Pruning after flowering is usually needed to maintain good shape</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Spreading, dense shrub with arching branches</li> <li>Brilliantly colored, funnel-shaped flowers appear in late spring with a second lighter bloom in late summer</li> <li>Selected varieties display beautiful variegated or burgundy colored foliage</li> </ul>			
WINTERBERRY Ilex verticillata (many varieties)					
Height: 2-8' Spread: 2-8'	<ul> <li>Very adaptable</li> <li>Tolerates wet soils as well as light and heavy soils</li> <li>Full sun or partial shade</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Deciduous holly</li> <li>Bright red to orange berries in fall which are loved by birds</li> <li>Male and female plants required for berry production</li> </ul>			
WITCH HAZEL Hamamelis x intermedia 'Arnold Promise' or 'Diane'					
Height: 15-20' Spread: 15-20'	Prefers partial shade and moist, well-drained soils	<ul> <li>Can be used as a small tree</li> <li>Flowers emerge as early as February and often last until April</li> <li>Excellent fall color of yellow, orange, red and purple</li> </ul>			

Extension Master Gardener Hotline (913) 715-7050

**We Answer Lawn and Garden Questions** garden.help@jocogov.org

## **REV 2023**

"Kansas State University Agricultural and Cooperative Extension Service."

K-State Research and Extension is committed to making its services, activities, and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, please contact Johnson County Extension at 913.715.7000. K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.