



## Shrubs that merit attention Underused and Hardy Shrubs for the Kansas City Area

Size	Culture	Description
<b>BAYBERRY</b> <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>		
Height: 6-8' Spread: 5-6'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extremely adaptable</li> <li>Grows in full sun to half shade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>BEAUTYBERRY</b> <i>Callicarpa dichotoma</i>		
Height: 3-5' Spread: 4-6'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>BOTTLEBRUSH BUCKEYE</b> <i>Aesculus parviflora</i>		
Height: 8-12' Spread: 8-15'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>BUCKTHORN</b> <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> 'Asplenifolia'		
Height: 10-12' Spread: 6-10'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptable</li> <li>Prefers well-drained soil</li> <li>Will grow in sun or partial shade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding specimen plant</li> <li>Leaves are narrow like a willow adding a ferny appearance to the landscape</li> </ul>
<b>CAROLINA ALLSPICE</b> <i>Calycanthus floridus</i>		
Height: 6-9' Spread: 8-10'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptable to many soils</li> <li>Will grow in sun or shade, but becomes tall and straggly in shade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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
<b>CHOKEBERRY</b> <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>		
Height: 3-5' or 6-8' Spread: 2-4' or 6-8'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tolerant of a wide range of soils and conditions</li> <li>• Best fruit production in full sun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>CLETHRA</b> <i>Clethra alnifolia</i>		
Height: 3-6' Spread: 3-6'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>FOTHERGILLA</b> <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> 'Blue Mist' <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> 'Mount Airy'		
Height: 2-3' or 3-5' Spread: 2-3'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers moist, well-drained acid soil</li> <li>• Does well in part shade, but flowers and colors best in full sun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>HARRY LAUDER'S WALKING STICK</b> <i>Corylus avellana</i> 'Contorta'		
Height: 6-9' Spread: 6-10'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers well-drained soil</li> <li>• pH adaptable</li> <li>• Usually grafted and suckers need to be cut</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good specimen shrub</li> <li>• Stems and leaves are twisted, creating great winter interest</li> <li>• Produces catkins in early spring</li> </ul>
<b>HYPERICUM</b> <i>Hypericum</i> 'Hidcote' <i>Hypericum frondosum</i> 'Sunburst'		
Height: 2-3' Spread: 2-4'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does well in dry soils</li> <li>• pH adaptable</li> <li>• Grows in full sun or partial shade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>INKBERRY</b> <i>Ilex x glabra</i>		
Height: 3-6' Spread: 3-5'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers moist, acid soils</li> <li>• Tolerates shade and will grow in full sun with adequate moisture</li> <li>• Hardest evergreen holly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>KERRIA</b> <i>Kerria japonica</i> 'Pleniflora'		
Height: 3-5' Spread: 4-6'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires well-drained soil</li> <li>• Full shade</li> <li>• Will sucker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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
<b>NINEBARK</b> <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Dart's Golden' or 'Diabolo'		
Height: 4-5' or 4-8' Spread: 4-5' or 4-8'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptable</li> <li>• Full sun</li> <li>• Tolerates dry conditions</li> <li>• Renew by cutting to ground in late winter or early spring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White flowers in spring, but planted for foliage</li> <li>• 'Dart's Golden' has bright golden spring foliage and 'Diabolo' has brilliant reddish-purple spring foliage</li> </ul>
<b>OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA</b> <i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> 'Alice,' 'Snow Queen,' 'Snowflake' or 'Sikes Dwarf'		
Height: 3-4 to 10-12' Spread: 3-4 to 10-12'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires moist, well-drained soil</li> <li>• Grows in sun or partial shade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>OREGON GRAPEHOLLY</b> <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> 'Compacta'		
Height: 2-3' or 4-6' Spread: 3-4' or 4-6'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>PANICLE HYDRANGEA</b> <i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> 'Angel's Blush', 'Brussels Lace', 'Burgundy Lace', 'Tardiva' or 'Grandiflora'		
Height: 6-8' Spread: 6-8'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers moist, well-drained soil</li> <li>• Sun or partial shade</li> <li>• Very hardy</li> <li>• Most adaptable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>PINK HYDRANGEA</b> <i>Hydrangea serrata</i> 'Preziosa' or 'Bluebird'		
Height: 2-3' Spread: 3-4'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A hardy, free-flowering, pink hydrangea with thick, dark green leaves</li> <li>• An alternative to 'Nikko Blue'</li> </ul>
<b>SERVICEBERRY</b> <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i> 'Regent'		
Height: 4-6' Spread: 4-5'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers moist, well-drained, acid soil, but tolerant of most soils</li> <li>• Tolerates full sun or part shade</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>INDIAN CURRANT</b> <i>Symphoricarpos x doorenbosii</i> 'Magic Berry'		
Height: 3-4' Spread: 4-5'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compact, arching shrub with dull blue-green leaves and white, rose tinged flowers in June</li> <li>• Abundant rose-pink fruits follow in the fall</li> </ul>

Size	Culture	Description
<b>SUMAC</b> <i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro-low'		
Height: 2-3' Spread: 6-8'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers acid, well-drained soil, but will grow in dry soils</li> <li>• Grows in half shade or full sun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>SWEETSPIRE</b> <i>Itea virginica</i> 'Little Henry,' <i>Itea virginica</i> 'Henry's Garnet'		
Height: 2-3' or 3-4' Spread: 3-4' or 4-6'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>WEIGELA</b> <i>Weigela florida</i> "Wine & Roses," <i>Weigela florida</i> "Midnight Wine," <i>Weigela florida</i> "French Lace"		
Height: 2-3' or 4-5' Spread: 3-4' or 4-6'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>WINTERBERRY</b> <i>Ilex verticillata</i> (many varieties)		
Height: 2-8' Spread: 2-8'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 style="list-style-type: none"> <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>
<b>WITCH HAZEL</b> <i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i> 'Arnold Promise' or 'Diane'		
Height: 15-20' Spread: 15-20'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prefers partial shade and moist, well-drained soils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>

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