



SHRUBS FOR NEBRASKA

Geographic Adaptability: An **E** indicates plants suitable primarily to the Eastern 1/3 of the state. All others are adaptable to most of Nebraska.

Drought/Wet Adaptability: ☼ indicates plants with exceptional drought tolerance while a 1 indicates plants that tolerate wet soils.

Size Range: The size range indicated for each plant is the expected average mature height x spread for Nebraska.

Large Deciduous Shrubs—Native (typically over 8' tall/wide at maturity)

- Buckeye, Bottlebrush** - *Aesculus parviflora* (E; 1; attractive panicle of white flowers in summer; prefers protected site; 8-12' x 8-10')
- Chokecherry** - *Prunus virginiana* (☼; common native; sometimes a small tree; multi-stem, suckering habit; 10-15' x 6-12')
- Dogwood, Roughleaf** - *Cornus drummondii* (☼; native; good dusty red fall color; can be grown as a small tree; 10-15' x 6-12')
- Ninebark, Common** - *Physocarpus opulifolius* (☼; native; attractive exfoliating bark; rounded habit; tough, easy to grow; 5-8' x 5-8'; Diabolo' and 'Summer Wine' are newer purple-foliage forms; dwarf forms available)
- Plum, American** - *Prunus americana* (☼; native; very tough; attractive white flowers in spring smell of grape candy; 6-12' x 6-12')
- Serviceberry, Saskatoon** - *Amelanchier alnifolia* (☼; native to north. G.P.; attractive spring flowers; spreads by stolons; 5-15' x 5-10')
- Serviceberry, Shadblow** - *Amelanchier canadensis* (E; 1; white flowers in spring; edible fruit; suckering habit; 8-12' x 8-12')
- Sumac, Fragrant** - *Rhus aromatica* (☼; tough native; fragrant leaves; nice fall color; attractive fuzzy fruit; good in mass; 5-8' x 5-8')
- Sumac, Shining** - *Rhus copallinum* (☼; winged stems and bright red fall color; easy to grow; 5-8' x 5-8')
- Sumac, Smooth** - *Rhus glabra* (☼; native; good fall color; can spread aggressively in the landscape; suckering habit; 10-20' x 6-12')
- Sumac, Staghorn** - *Rhus typhina* (☼; like smooth sumac but with fuzzy branch tips; distinctive seed horn; 6-12' x 6-12')
- Viburnum, Blackhaw** - *Viburnum prunifolium* (☼; white spring flowers & good fall color; can be grown as a small tree; 10-15' x 8-10')
- Viburnum, Nannyberry** - *Viburnum lentago* (☼; native to north. G.P.; attractive white flowers in spring and purple-red fall color; susceptible to mildew in wet years; can be grown as a small tree; 10-15' x 10-15')
- Viburnum, Rusty Blackhaw** - *Viburnum rufidulum* (E; beautiful and lustrous dark green foliage; very attractive; 8-12' x 8-12')
- Wahoo, Eastern** - *Euonymus atropurpureus* (☼; native shrub with good red fruit and fall color; 8-12' x 6-10')

Large Deciduous Shrubs—Native—Moist Soils (typically over 8' tall/wide at maturity)

This list is for plants that are better adapted to growing in moist soils, in rain gardens and bioretention swales and along pond edges. These plants grow naturally in lowland areas and along waterways. They are highly adaptable, able to withstand periodic flooding as well as drought.

- Amorpha, Indigobush** - *Amorpha fruticosa* (native; good for massing and along pond edges; attractive purple flowers; 6-12' x 4-10')
- Buttonbush** - *Cephalanthus occidentalis* (1; native to moist sites; interesting button-like flowers; glossy foliage; 6-10' x 5-8')
- Chokeberry, Black** - *Aronia melanocarpa* (1; upright habit; glossy leaves; white flowers in May, black fruit and red fall color; 5-8' x 4-6'; variety *elata* has wonderfully glossy foliage; Autumn Magic' is more compact with showy fruit clusters)
- Chokeberry, Red** - *Aronia arbutifolia* (E; 1; like Black Chokeberry but with red fruit and scarlet leaves in fall; 5-7' x 4-6')
- Dogwood, Redstem** - *Cornus sericea* (1; beautiful red stems are vibrant against a snowy backdrop; spreading; 8-10' x 8-10')
- Dogwood, Silky** - *Cornus amomum* (1; good for wet areas; attractive white to porcelain blue fruit in fall; 6-10' x 5-8')
- Dogwood, Variegated** - *Cornus alba* (1; like redstem dogwood, but leaves have creamy margins; 'Ivory Halo' is 5-6' x 5-6')
- Elderberry** - *Sambucus canadensis* (1; found naturally in moist areas; suckering habit; edible black fruit; 8-10' x 8-10')
- Hazelnut, American** - *Corylus americana* (1; native to northern G.P.; edible nuts; bronze fall color; good for massing; 6-8' x 6-8')
- Viburnum, American Cranberrybush** - *Viburnum trilobum* (1; attractive creamy-white flowers in flat clusters; nice red fruit and fall color; very adaptable; 'Wentworth' is a common form grown for abundant, showy fruit; 8-12' x 8-12')
- Viburnum, Arrowwood** - *Viburnum dentatum* (1; clean, shiny, upright foliage; attractive black fruit in fall; many proven cultivars including 'Autumn Jazz', 'Chicago Lustre' and 'Northern Burgundy'; 6-10' x 6-10')
- Witchhazel, Common** - *Hamamelis virginiana* (E; 1; native; late fall flowers; good yellow/orange fall color; 6-10' x 5-8')
- Witchhazel, Vernal** - *Hamamelis vernalis* (E; 1; native; fragrant, early spring flowers; good yellow/orange fall color; 6-10' x 5-8')

Large Deciduous Shrubs for Western, Nebraska (typically over 5' tall/wide at maturity)

The following plants are better adapted to the more arid environment of western Nebraska. These plants will grow in Eastern Nebraska but often don't perform well or struggle to live more than a few years.

- Buffaloberry, Silver** - *Shepherdia argentea* (☼; tough western native; fragrant flowers and edible fruit; silver foliage; 10-15' x 10-12')
- Locust, New Mexico** - *Robinia neomexicana* (W; ☼; western native; purple flowers; thicket forming; drought tolerant; 10-12' x 10-12')
- Mahogany, Curl-leaf Mountain** - *Cercocarpus ledifolius* (W; ☼; semi-evergreen western native; dry soils only; 8' x 5')
- Mahogany, Mountain** - *Cercocarpus montanus* (W; ☼; native west. G.P.; sparse foliage; upright habit; dry soils only; 5-8' x 4-6')



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Sumac, Skunkbush - *Rhus aromatica* (W; ☼; native to western Nebraska; tough as nails; good fall color; 4-6'x 5-7'; Autumn Amber' is a low, spreading form growing to 2'x 8')

Large Deciduous Shrubs—Non-Native—(typically over 8' tall/wide at maturity)

Cherry, Nanking - *Prunus tomentosa* (☼; early white, fragrant flowers; exfoliating bark; glossy foliage; edible fruit; 6-12'x 6-12')

Lilac, Common - *Syringa vulgaris* (☼; very common; great fragrance in spring; many cultivars to choose from; 6-12'x 6-10')

Lilac, Miss Kim - *Syringa patula* (☼; common mid-sized lilac; purple fragrant blooms later than most; 6-7'x 5-6')

Mockorange - *Philadelphus* spp. (☼; old fashioned shrubs grown for their sweetly fragrant white flowers in June; 5-10'x 4-8')

Privet - *Ligustrum vulgare* (☼; tough shrub often used for hedges; showy, pungent flowers in June; compact forms available; 4-8'x 3-6')

Viburnum, Leatherleaf - *Viburnum × rhytidophylloides* (E; large, leathery leaves hold year-round; Alleghany' and 'Willowwood' are common cultivars that grow 10-12'x 10-12')

Viburnum, Sargent - *Viburnum sargentii* (E; ☼; like *Viburnum trilobum* with attractive flowers and nice fruit; 'Onondoga' is a variety with maroon tinged foliage and purple tinged pink flowers; 6-10'x 6-10')

Viburnum, Wayfaringtree - *Viburnum lantana* (☼; long planted; very tough and adaptable; creamy white flowers give way to red fruits that ripen to black; good red fall color; Mohican' is a compact selection with abundant fruit; 6-10'x 5-8')

Small/Medium Deciduous Shrubs—Native (under 5' tall/wide at maturity)

Coralberry - *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* (☼; native suckering shrub; often grows in a twining low thicket; attractive purple-red fruit in fall and winter; birds love it; 3-4'x 3-4'; 'Chenault' is a refined form with striking fruit; 'Hancock' is a low, groundcover 1-2'x 3-4')

Holly, Winterberry - *Ilex verticillata*. (E; 1; need male and female for striking fruit set; 5-8'x 5-8')

Hydrangea, Oakleaf - *Hydrangea quercifolia* (E; 1; sub-shrub; coarse leaves; great flowers; exfoliating bark; 3-5' x 3-5')

Hydrangea, Smooth - *Hydrangea arborescens* (big snowball flowers on long stems; Annabelle' is a common type; 2-3' x 2-3')

Serviceberry, Saskatoon - *Amelanchier alnifolia* (☼ 'Regent' and 'Smokey' have abundant fruit & spreading habit; 4-5'x 4-5')

Snowberry - *Symphoricarpos occidentalis* (☼; native relative of coralberry but with white fruit; often leggy; 3-4'x 3-4')

St. Johnswort, Kalm - *Hypericum kalmianum* (E; bright yellow flowers in summer; compact, rounded; 3'x 4')

St. Johnswort, Shrubby - *Hypericum prolificum* (E; 1; bright yellow flowers in June & July; finicky; blue green foliage; 3'x 4')

St. Johnswort, Sunburst - *Hypericum frondosum* 'Sunburst' (E; 1; bright yellow flowers June-August; herbaceous habit; 2'x 3')

Sumac, Gro-Low - *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-Low' (☼; a low growing form of a tough native; nice fall color; 2-3'x 3-5')

Small/Medium Deciduous Shrubs—Native—Moist Soils (under 5' tall/wide at maturity)

Clethra, Summersweet - *Clethra alnifolia* (sweet smelling flower spikes in July; shade tolerant; 3-5'x 3-4')

Currant, American - *Ribes americanum*. (☼; attractive foliage & small yellow flowers in early spring; black fruit in early summer; 3-4' x 3-4')

Dogwood, Redstem - *Cornus sericea* (attractive red stems in winter; shorter forms include 'Isanti' 4-5' and 'Kelsey' 2-3')

Fothergilla - *Fothergilla gardenii* (1; fragrant, bottlebrush-like flowers; witchhazel-like leaves; good fall color; 3-5' x 3-5')

Sweetshrub (Carolina Allspice) - *Calycanthus floridus* (E; 1; interesting red flowers; spicy sweet fragrance; 4'x 5')

Small/Medium Deciduous Shrubs for Western, Nebraska (typically 5' or smaller at maturity)

These following plants are better adapted to the more arid environment of western Nebraska. These plants will often grow in Eastern Nebraska but often don't perform well or struggle to live more than a few years.

Apache Plume - *Fallugia paradoxa* (☼; western native; white rose-like spring flowers; plume-like seed bracts; 3-5'x 3-5')

Cherry, Western Sand - *Prunus besseyi* (☼; prefers sandy and well-drained soils; 3-5'x 3-5'; Pawnee Buttes' is a low, spreading cultivar.

Currant, Clove - *Ribes odoratum* (☼; native; tough and adaptable; edible fruit; good for wildlife; clove scented yellow flowers; 5-6'x 5-6');

Rabbitbrush - *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* (W; ☼; tough western native with great late summer yellow flowers; 3-5' x 3-5')

Small/Medium Deciduous Shrubs—Non-Native—(typically 5' or smaller at maturity)

Azalea - *Rhododendron* spp. (E; 1; deciduous leathery leaves; prefer acid soils, part shade, protected sites; very attractive flowers; 4-5'x 4-5'; Minnesota selected "Lights" series including 'Golden Lights', 'Northern Lights' and 'Rosy Lights' are the hardiest)

Beautyberry, Purple - *Callicarpa dichotoma* (E; striking metallic purple berries in fall; needs protection; 3-5'x 3-5')

Bluebeard (Blue Mist Spirea) - *Caryopteris × clandonensis* (E; topped with blue misty flowers in late summer; not long lived; 4'x 4')



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- Butterfly Bush** - *Buddleia davidii* (E; herbaceous in Nebraska; multi-stem habit; lilac like flowers in summer attract butterflies; 4-6'x 3-5')
- Cotoneaster, Cranberry** - *Cotoneaster apiculatus* (arching stems in unique herring bone pattern; bright red fruit; 2-3'x 3-5')
- Cotoneaster, Spreading** - *Cotoneaster divaricatus* (☼; semi-evergreen; glossy leaves; attractive dark red fruit; 5-6'x 5-6')
- Deutzia** - *Deutzia gracilis* (E; old-fashioned but forgotten; pure white flowers smother the plant in May; 3-5'x 2-4')
- Falsespirea, Ural** - *Sorbaria sorbifolia* (☼; very aggressive, spreading plant; white flowers like spirea; 3-5'x spreading)
- Forsythia, Bronx** - *Forsythia viridissima* (groundcover habit; sparse yellow flowers; bronze in fall; 2-3'x 2-3')
- Lilac, Dwarf Korean** - *Syringa meyeri* (☼; dwarf lilac; round uniform habit; small leaves; later bloom; 4-5'x 6-7')
- Potentilla** - *Potentilla fruticosa* (☼; very tough, small shrub; wide color range; 2-4'x 2-4')
- Quince, Flowering** - *Chaenomeles speciosa* (showy orange red flowers in May; somewhat thorny; 3-5'x 3-5')
- Rhododendron** - *Rhododendron spp.* (E; 1; broadleaf evergreens for shade and part shade; prefer acid soils & protected sites; very attractive in flower; 'P.J.M.' is one of the hardiest (4-5'x 4-5'))
- Rose** - *Rosa spp.* (☼; many species, types and cultivars with various colors and size ranges to choose from; consult with nursery)
- Spirea, Korean** - *Spiraea fritschiana* (large, attractive, flat-topped white flowers; clean, large leaves; 3'x 3')
- Spirea, Japanese** - *Spiraea japonica* (compact form; pink flowers emerge late spring through summer; cultivars vary greatly in size including several dwarf forms less than 1' tall; 'Daphne', 'Little Princess', 'Magic Carpet', 'Neon Flash', 'Shibori'; 2-3'x 2-3')
- Viburnum, Koreanspice** - *Viburnum carlesii* (very similar to Judd viburnum; fragrant flowers; slightly more compact; 4-6'x 4-6')

Evergreen Shrubs

- Grapeholly** - *Mahonia aquifolium* (E; holly-like leaves; yellow flowers; attractive fruit; prefers part shade and acid soil; 2-3" x 3-4"; *Mahonia repens* (Creeping Mahonia) is a shorter native form that grows under pine trees in the Panhandle; 12-15" x 2-4')
- Holly, Meserve Hybrids** - *Ilex x meserveae* (E; 1; hybrid hollies proven to grow in Nebraska with protection; attractive red fruit in fall and winter; Blue Boy/Blue Girl, China Boy/China Girl are common types; need male and female for fruit)
- Juniper, Common** - *Juniperus communis* (☼; underused native with soft, layered foliage; can tolerate some shade; 2-3' x 3-5'; 'Blueberry Delight' is a North Dakota selection with silvery blue foliage on a 1'-2' x 4-8' plant)
- Juniper, Chinese** - *Juniperus chinensis* (☼; common landscape shrub; dozens of selections available including:
'Armstrong' - a common form with gray-green foliage; layered habit; lacy texture; 4-5' x 8-12')
'Holbert' - a lower growing form with silvery blue foliage that is retained through winter; 2-4' x 6-12')
'Pfitzeriana Compacta' - a slower growing, more compact form of Pfitzer; 3-5' x 6-12')
Sargent (J. chinensis var. sargentii) - gray-green, feathered foliage; attractive plant; 1-2' x 5-8')
'Sea Green' - lush, dark green foliage; fountain-like arching habit; 5-8' x 8-10')
- Juniper, Creeping** - *Juniperus horizontalis* (☼; native, ground-hugging evergreen; typically grows 6"-12" x 5'-10' wide; common cultivars include 'Bar Harbor', 'Blue Chip', 'Wilton Carpet', 'Andorra' and 'Prince of Wales')
- Juniper, Savin** - *Juniperus sabina* (☼; bright green foliage; mounding habit; typically 18-24" x 6-10'; common cultivars include 'Arcadia', 'Broadmoor', 'Buffalo' and variety *tamariscifolia* (Tams Juniper))
- Yew** - *Taxus x media* (E; short-needled evergreen shrubs; many forms and size ranges available including 'Densiformis' (3'x5'), 'Everlow' (2'x4')).

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