

# HOME & GARDEN

## Paint your landscape with flowering shrubs

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With the forsythia bursting into sunny bloom and the lilacs leafing out, I am reminded that the flowering shrubs are one of the easiest ways to provide a yardful of color and beauty.

Flowering shrubs can be used around the house in a variety of ways. They can make a striking focal point to a landscaping planting providing color and interest for two or three seasons of the year. Deutzia, forsythia, flowering quince, spirea and viburnums can be used effectively and beautifully as hedges along drives or paths leading to the house. If you have planted an evergreen windbreak a few flowering shrubs will add some color and their blossoms will show off to advantage against the dark background.

Forsythia's golden blossoms are a promise of the warm weather to come and it is a welcome reminder of the

easiest shrubs to grow needing only ordinary garden soil. It will even blossom in light shade as well as out in the open. It is a graceful plant and makes a cheerful hedge especially if it is not pruned into tight little lollipop bushes or sheared into square boxes.

Ottawa is a new variety of forsythia that not only provides the garden with color in the spring; in the fall its foliage turns a reddish purple, giving outstanding color for two seasons of the year.

### BETWEEN THE ROWS

The lilac (Syringa) is one of the most traditional New England shrubs and the scent of rain washed blooms on a fresh spring morning make one think that the world is new again. Lilacs are very hardy, but should be planted in full sun in a neutral soil.

The common lilac that is famed for growing in dooryards is usually lavender, but the new French hybrids come in many colors, carmine-purple, violet-red, pink, Wedgewood blue and, of course, pure white. They are wonderful for cutting, and actually all spent flower heads should be removed to help insure good bloom the following year. (Admittedly this advice is easier to follow when the bushes are young and have not yet reached a height of 15 feet.)

Deutzia gracilis is another easy to grow shrub. It is tolerant of many soil conditions and light shade. For several weeks in the early spring it is covered with clusters of small white flowers.

Spiraea is often seen used as a hedge and for good reason. It is hardy and in May its graceful branches are covered with white flowers. It also makes a good background for other more colorful spring plantings.

The flowering quince is another bush that will add a bright

note of color to your spring yard. I once owned a bright pink quince and it did very well in a shady moist location although usually they should have more sun and a soil that is well drained. Quince also comes with white blossoms and the Rubra Grandiflora is dressed in scarlet. This last is an especially good choice for a hedge because its growth is very controlled and it will not spread wider than two feet. It will also produce fruit in the fall that makes delicious jelly.

All of the plants I've mentioned so far should be pruned after they bloom. They bloom on "old wood" which is to say that they set their flower buds late the previous growing season. If they are pruned early in the spring, all the flowers will be lost.

Also to prune these shrubs properly, don't just cut them back at the tips of their branches. The purpose of pruning is to keep the plant vigorous, to maintain its blooming ability

best way to prune is to cut back old branches at the base. You can take out almost one-fourth of the bush every year. This will give new plants a better opportunity to develop from the bottom so the plant is constantly renewed. This even takes less time than pruning the tips and is much more effective.

This winter I read a lot of English gardening books and my reading has inspired me to think about adding two other flowering shrubs to my garden.

I know the perfect spot for a witch hazel (Hamamelis) bush. This is famous for being the chief ingredient of the medicinal lotion and it grows slowly to a height of from five to 12 feet depending on the variety. Very early in the spring it is covered with unusual yellow blossoms with thin petals that are wonderfully fragrant. H. vernalis is a hardy variety that likes a moist location, but will grow in sun or light shade.

The witch hazel is another one of the many spring blooming shrubs, but the potentilla is valuable because it blooms from late June until frost when most other shrubs have gone by. These thick, bushy shrubs only grow to be 2 1/2 or 3 feet tall but all summer they are covered with flowers that resemble small single rose blossoms. They come in many colors, Abbot'sford is white with yellow centers, Klondyke is golden and the Queen Royal Flush is crimson.

All of these flowering shrubs are available from large mail-order plant nurseries including Wayside Gardens, Hodges, S.C. 29695 and White Flower Farms, Litchfield, Conn. 06759, as well as most local nurseries.

ADDENDUM — Another sign of Spring: the Farmer's Market opens Saturday. As a special highlight, the Greenfield Garden Club will hold their third annual Perennial Sale at the market. The sale will consist of perennials, small shrubs and groundcovers — all grown in club members' lawns. The market will be held in the Courthouse parking lot, off Hope Street, from 8 a.m. to noon.



Mother's Day ...

**SPECIALS**  
AT  
Deerfield  
Lawn and Garden

Center





**AZALEA'S**  
Reg. \$30-\$32 **\$22<sup>50</sup>**

**White Flower DOGWOOD**  
Reg. \$58 **\$45<sup>00</sup>**

**RHODODENDRONS**  
Reg. \$20 **\$16<sup>50</sup>**

**Hanging Plants** **\$5<sup>95</sup> to \$7<sup>50</sup>**

- Variety of Perennials .....each **\$1<sup>49</sup>**
- Pansies .....each **\$1<sup>75</sup>**

**Selection of Ground Cover**

Calendulas lend beauty to borders