

Large Shrubs

Paul S Drobot
www.plantstogrow.com

This group of shrubs gets around 6-12 plus feet in height and should be given a minimum of 6-8 plus feet to spread. The height and spread info was gathered from personal observations and reliable references. Remember that these are only suggestions and can vary widely depending on growing conditions.

These are best used as the main shrub of a corner planting or in shrub beds or borders. Too large for foundation planting in a residential property. Some plants I have listed in this group can be kept smaller by minimal proper pruning techniques.

Key to the chart

1. The first column is data about the specific plant or the genus
2. Second column is a list of cultivars or similar plants in the genus
3. Most plants are linked back to www.plantstogrow.com
4. stars***
 - *** has been a proven winner for me
 - ** has been a proven winner but with a few problems
 - * has not been a good plant for me
 - no star means I have not grown it or used it but have seen it enough times in the same place and feel confident about giving it a try
5. Colors
 - orange – I have grown this or used it in landscape jobs
 - blue – I have observed it enough times and feel confident to use it
 - red – not a good plant
 - purple-shrubs that can get larger than the perimeters listed for this group

Aronia arbutifolia (Brilliantissima Red Chokeberry***)	
6-10 feet tall spread 4-6 white flowers in the early spring full to ½ day sun persistent red berries changing to black birds seem to avoid mine mine has brilliant red fall color reported to sucker, mine never has	
Cephalanthus occidentalis (Buttonbush, Button-willow)	
large dogwood-like shrub 6 by 6 plus full to part sun	

likes wet areas bottle brush shaped flowers	
<u>Cornus (Dogwoods^{***})</u>	
a large genus of large shrubs 6-8 by 6-8 full sun, tolerates some shade tolerates and is good for wet areas many different leaf variegations white flowers white to blue berries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gray Twig-a native shrub, suckers and forms colonies,, birds love the blue berries • Red Twig-nice red colored bark on young stems • Silky- a native shrub, stems not as red as others, porcelain blue berries, birds love • Silver and Gold-a white variegated plant with yellow twigs • Summer Dreams-white variegated leaves, reported to be compact • Yellow Twig-nice yellow bark on the young twigs • Variegated-white leaf variegation, red twigs
<u>Cotinus coggygia Ancot (Golden Smoke Bush)</u>	
6-8 by ¾ spread golden yellow foliage red, orange and yellow fall color	
<u>Eunymus alata (Burning Bush^{***})</u>	
the largest one I saw was over 7 feet tall by 10 foot spread, reported to get larger full sun is best grown for its fiery red fall color could also be used as a very large shrub	
<u>Forsythia (Forsythia Cultivars^{***})</u>	
6-10 by 6-10 or greater full sun yellow flowers before the leaves emerge blooms on new wood so prune after it blooms can have nice purple fall foliage use only the new hardier cultivars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadow Lark^{***}-one of my favorites, has good bud hardiness in zone #5 • Vermont Sun^{***}-6-8 by 6
<u>Hibiscus syriacus (Rose of Sharon^{**})</u>	
listed as getting 6-10 by 6-10 may have trouble reaching that size because of winter kill this is one plant I have noticed over the years that has benefited from global warming blooms late in the summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerva-large pink flowers with dark red eyes
<u>Hydrangea paniculata (P.G. Hydrangea^{***})</u>	
6-8 by 6-8 plus full to part sun with flowers late summer bloom best in gull sun, tolerates shade prune in late fall early spring	

<u>Kolkwitzia amabilis</u> (Beauty Bush)	
the shrubs at Boerner Botanical Gardens are at least 10-12 by 10-12 feet lots of pink flowers	
<u>Lindera benzoin</u> (Spice Bush)	
up to 10 by 10 feet greenish yellow blooms before the leaves sun to partial shade	
<u>Prunus tomentosa</u> (Nanking Cherry)	
can reach 8-10 by 8-10 inking flowers tart edible red fruit a broad spreading shrub best flowers in full sun	
<u>Prunus triloba Multiplex</u> (Double Flowering Plum)	
10 by 10 feet or larger double pink flowers broad rounded shrub	
<u>Prunus cistena</u> (Purple Leaf Sand Cherry*)	
large shrub almost a single stem tree full sun reddish leaves pink short lived lots of problems trying using some Physocarpus cultivars as replacements	
<u>Rhus copallina var. latifolia</u> Morton (Prairie Flame Shining Sumac)	
5-7 feet by up to 10 spread green leaves during the growing season brilliant red in the fall suckers	
<u>Rhamnus frangula Asplenifolia</u> (Fernleaf Buckthorn***)	
10-12 feet tall by ¾ or more spread full sun don't get this confused with the invasive Buckthorn!! fern-like foliage	
<u>Rhus typhina</u> (Tiger Eyes***)	
a selection of Sumac with bright yellow leaves full sun, tolerates some shade I have seen large plants the ones in my yard only get about 3 by 5, some critter keeps on snacking on the tips will sucker stunning plant	
<u>Rhus typhina Laciniata</u> (Fern Leaf Sumac)	
a selection of the sumac with deeply cut leaflets brilliant red fall foliage	

<u>Sambus Canadensis (American Elder^{***})</u>	
10-12 by 10-12 feet full sun white flowers purple fruit birds love the edible fruit prefers moist sites I have a large 10 plus Sambucus in a fence line by my house could also be used as a very large shrub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Beauty Elderberry-purple black foliage changing to dark olive green • American Red Elderberry-red berries, could also be used as a very large shrub
<u>Syringa(Lilac^{**})</u>	
8-12 by ¾ of height or greater needs full sun for best flower production I have seen plants with full bloom on the full sun side a few if any blooms on the shaded side many flower colors many different cultivars can have some mildew leaf problems could also be used as a very large shrub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Purple Lilac-the old stay by, heritage shrub • Edith Cave-double white flowers • Sensation – purple flowers with a white edge • Many more cultivars
<u>Viburnum dentatum (Arrowood Viburnum^{***})</u>	
6-8 by ¾ spread white flowers dark blue berries fall color not reliable the 6 shrubs in a shrub border at my house are 6-7 by 6-7 after 12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Burgundy-10 by 10, great fall foliage, could also be used as a small very large shrub • Cardinal-cardinal red fall color • Red Feather-two tone new growth
<u>Viburnum x juddi (Judd Viburnum^{***})</u>	
6-8 by 6-8 I have a 15 year old plant in a garden and it is 8 by 8 feet grows best in semi-shade fragrant flowers I loved the one on our patio until it crocked	
<u>Viburnum lantana (Viburnum Mohican^{***})</u>	
6-8 by 6-8 grayish green foliage white creamy flowers red berries changing to black compact form of V. lantana	
<u>Viburnum trilobum (American Cranberry Bush Viburnum^{***})</u>	
8-10 tall by 6-8 one in my back yard is this size full sun white flowers followed by red berries edible but not tasty unreliable fall color	
<u>Viburnum sargentii (Viburnum Onondaga)</u>	
6 by 6 and larger white flowers with a flush of pink bronze red foliage in the spring and fall green in between	

<u>Weigelia florida (Weigelia)</u>	
6 by 6 or larger funnel shaped flowers not reliable fall color	

rev. 03/10
ver. 2.0