

Medium Shrubs

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This group of shrubs gets around 4 to 6-7 feet in height and should be given a minimum of 4-6 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.

If used next to the foundations of the house give them room to spread, planting no closer than 4 feet from the house. Good for corner plantings, gardens and shrub borders. 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 group
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
 - brown – 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

Amelanchier stolonifera (Prince Williams Amelancheir)	
5-6 feet plus tall white flowers in early spring edible red fruit nice fall color can sucker and form colonies size is in the upper limits of medium shrubs	
Aronia melanocarpa (Black Choke Berry***)	
5-6 plus feet tall, can sucker and form thickets full to part sun white flowers clusters of black fruit nice fall foliage of oranges, reds, yellows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn Magic*** – has larger fruit than the species, mine is growing by the edge of a swamp, it loves it there

tolerates wet	
<u>Berberis koreana</u> (Korean Barberry)	
4-6 feet tall by equal spread full sun yellow flowers, one of the showiest I have seen green leaves red fall color thorns	
<u>Berberis thunbergii</u> (Japanese Barberry^{***})	
5-6 plus tall by equal spread full sun green leaves spines red fruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow Barberry-yellow foliage, tolerates part sun 4 by 4 • Sunsation-leaves open greenish yellow than change to golden, upright 4 by 4 plus • Red Barberry^{***}-red foliage, 5-6 by 5-6 feet I have old plants in a job that are pushing these size limits • Marshall Upright-burgundy to purple foliage, upright growth habit • Rosy Glow^{***}-4-5 by 4-5, burgundy to purple foliage, new growth has a pink mottling
Buddleia – (Butterfly Bush^{**})	
this could be put in the small shrub chart usually dies back to the ground n the winter regrows in the next year down south I have seen 6 by 6 and greater does attract butterfly's	
<u>Cornus pumila</u> (Dwarf Dogwood^{***})	
4-5- by 4-5 I have never personally grown this plant but have seen the same plants for many years in the same place tolerates some shade white flowers red stems red to purple tinge in the leaves	
<u>Cornus Isanti</u> (Isanti Dogwood^{***})	
5 plus by 5 plus white flowers red twigs seems to live up to the compact trait that is attached to this Dogwood	
<u>Cotoneaster apiculatus</u> (Cranberry Cotoneaster^{***})	
1-3 feet by 4-6 foot spread I have old plantings easily reach this size full to part sun ornamental red fruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackburn-reported to be an improved Cranberry Cotoneaster • Wish Bone Cotoneaster-not as hardy as Cranberry, branches are wish bone shaped
<u>Cotoneaster lucidus</u> (Hedge Cotoneaster^{***})	
commonly used as hedges, I have seen a lot of	

<p>these and all are heavily pruned listed as 6-8 feet small flowers good "parking lot" plant could also be used as a large shrub</p>	
<p>Euonymus alatus compacta (Compact Burning Bush^{***})</p>	
<p>a compact version of its larger cousin one in my yard is 6 by 6 and still growing can reach 8 by 8 fiery red foliage in the fall could also be used as a small large shrub</p>	
<p>Fothergilla gardenia (Mount Airy Fothergilla^{***})</p>	
<p>5-6 feet tall sun to part sun white flowers lacking petals look like bottle brushes blooms early spring before the leaves</p>	
<p>Hydrangea arborescence (Annabelle Hydrangea^{***})</p>	
<p>4-5 by 4-5 large white mop head flowers blooms mid summer cut to the ground in the late fall or spring I have used this plant many times and can be found in my garden, we love to use them for cut flowers A heirloom plant</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Dome-5-6 feet tall, large flat white flowers
<p>Hydrangea macrophylla (Endless Summer)</p>	
<p>A marketing rip off!!! Close to impossible to get it to perform as predicted Wait till the new improved version of the new improved version comes out Or try to duplicate the exacting requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lemon Daddy*- I have been growing this for two years and it is nowhere as vigorous as predicted • Nikko Blue-a pre Endless Summer
<p>Hydrangea paniculata (PG Hydrangea^{***})</p>	
<p>4-6 by 4-6 plus feet white triangular flowers prune in late fall or early spring I have used this plant and its cultivars many times in my landscape jobs very dependable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dharuma-4-5 plus height and spread • Lime Light^{***}-even though it never gets as lime color in early bloom as marketed, still a great plant, one of my favorites, may get larger
<p>Ilex verticillata (Michigan Holly^{***})</p>	
<p>reported to reach over 6 by 6 feet mine have stayed much smaller small inconspicuous flowers ornamental red berries plant 3 female to 1 male plant likes a moist acidic site can have nice yellow fall foliage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Sprite^{***}-larger and more red berries
<p>Lonicera xylosteum. (Claveys Dwarf Honeysuckle^{***})</p>	
<p>4-6 by 4-6 gray/green foliage sparse bloom of small yellow flowers can be kept smaller by pruning</p>	

I have had old plants never prune reach 5 by 5 a tough "parking lot" plant	
<u>Physocarpus</u> (Summer Wine^{***})	
5-6+ by 5-6+ deep burgundy red foliage whitish pink flowers red fruit one of my favorite Physocarpus I use this whenever possible in landscape designs	
<u>Rhus aromatic</u> (Lo Gro Fragrant Sumac^{***})	
Center stems reach 2 feet tall and then tapers to the edge, the plants in my yard have spread at least up to 6-8 feet green fragrant foliage if crushed can have bright red fall color a "Parking Lot" plant great ground cover for difficult sites	
<u>Rhododendron</u> (PJM Rhododendron^{**})	
4-6 by 4 feet will get larger in warmer areas in Zone #5 I have seldom seen large plants can be picky about the site best part sun, moist, acidic soil well worth the effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gibraltar-vivid orange, I have seen this bloom many years at the Boerner Botanical Gardens • Korean-I have seen this bloom many years at the Chicago Botanical Gardens
<u>Ribes alpinum</u> (Alpine Current^{**})	
4-6 by 4-6 feet I have never seen them this big because they are commonly used as hedge plants I go past an old hedge of this plant and many areas defoliate very early, while others stay green much longer the definitely is a difference in resistance between strains	
<u>Salix purpurea nana</u> (Dwarf Arctic Blue Willow^{***})	
reaches 5 by 5 or more I have seen them this size willow-like branches bluish leaves can be cut flat to the ground and will regrow	
<u>Spiraea fritschiana</u> (Korean Spirea^{***})	
3 feet high with a spread of 4-5 full sun nice white flowers this is a big small or a small medium plant	
<u>Spiraea nipponica</u> (Snowmound Spirea^{***})	
3-5 by 3-5 feet white flowers reminiscent of the old Bridal Wreath Spirea full sun	
<u>Spiraea prunifolia</u> (Bridal Wreath Spirea^{**})	
5-6 by 5-6 or greater I have seen very large old plants (guestimate 8	

<p>by 8) open with weeping branches white flowers heritage shrub could also be used as a small large shrub</p>	
<u>Spiraea x arguta (Garland Spirea**)</u>	
<p>5-6 by 5-6 reminds me a lot of Bridal Wreath, maybe more compact white flowers</p>	
<u>Spiraea x cinerea (Grefsheim Spirea)</u>	
<p>4-5 by 4-5 reminds me of a Bridal Wreath Spirea but more compact and not as pendulous white flowers</p>	
<u>Syringia (Lilac)</u>	
<p>there are some nice medium size lilac cultivars available 5-6 by 5-6 feet full sun I am rating them a **, since they seem to last only 5-6 years for me and then some decline I will still use them, problems may be site related could also be used as a small large shrub</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Miss Kim**</u>- have used this many times, the one in my yard was beautiful, 5-6 by 5-6, lasted about 6 years than declined • <u>Tinker Bell**</u>-wine red buds changing to a deep rosy pink, once again mine lasted only 4-5 years • <u>Dwarf Korean**</u>-similar to Miss Kim but flowers and leaves are smaller
<u>Viburnum dentatum (Blue Muffin Viburnum)</u>	
<p>5-7 tall by 4-5 foot spread full to part sun white flowers blue fruit a compact version of the Arrowwod Viburnum</p>	
<u>Viburnum opulus compactum (Compact European Cranberry Bush***)</u>	
<p>about ½ to ¾ the size of regular European Cranberry Bush 5-6 by 5-6 white flowers red berries can be a bit open in form</p>	
<u>Viburnum trilobum compactum (Compact American Cranberry Bush***)</u>	
<p>about ½ to ¾ the size of the regular American Cranberry Bush 5-6 plus feet tall with a spread of about ¾ the height seems to be more compact, upright in form white flowers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Alfredo**</u>- a better selection of the species, seems to be a shy bloomer, lots of erect stems, I have had some problems with sections of the plant dying and the rest living
<u>Weigela (Weigela***)</u>	
<p>there are many different medium size cultivars of Weigela and many more being developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>French Lace***</u>-deep pink flower, leaves with yellow variegation • <u>Wine and Roses***</u>-burgundy to red foliage , deep pink flowers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White Knight-green foliage with white flowers• Variegated-similar to French Lace but with lighter pink flowers

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