

Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

www.villgc.com

ISSUE 93 November 2017

By Eva Soued

540-885-7342

You're Invited

Holiday Open House



*Friday, Saturday & Sunday
(8 am to 5 pm) (10 am to 5 pm)*

*Nov 3, 4 & 5
And again on
Nov 10, 11 & 12*



Groundcover Cotoneasters... Multipurpose Shrubs

Name a shrub that can have an attractive floral display, showy fruit production, excellent fall colour, can be used as a groundcover, foundation plant or rockery specimen and is attractive to wildlife. It's a short list but the low-growing Cotoneaster species would be one correct plant.



Certain genera of shrubby plants are staples in the garden landscape. Potentilla, Spirea and Weigela are such examples. Not all garden staples are grown for their flowers. Some like hollies, are more important for their decorative fruit production. Others, like burning bush, are grown for their excellent fall colour. A few choice garden shrubs have the potential to offer all three...blooms, fruit and excellent fall colour. The main genus to come to mind are the Cotoneaster.

Cotoneaster apiculatus is commonly called the cranberry cotoneaster. In the wild, they may reach 2 m but those which have been selected as garden ornamentals, are low, sprawling shrubs. They look nearly identical to creeping cotoneaster but their leaves are glossy, not dull, and the plants may reach 45 cm in height. Their berries are brighter red and more numerous than those of creeping cotoneaster and the fall colour is also brighter, however, this species is not as drought-tolerant as the previous. Overall, cranberry cotoneaster is more popular than the creeping. Zone 4-7.



Cotoneaster horizontalis or rockspray cotoneaster, is perhaps the handsomest and most architectural of the cotoneasters. This species produces overlapping, flat, fan-like branching pattern that is distinctly reminiscent of herringbones. In or out of leaf, this pattern is unmistakable. The small, glossy green leaves turn brilliant scarlet in autumn. The flowers are pinkish-red and not particularly noticeable but the bright red fruit is produced in vast quantities, making this species one of the most useful for berry production. Plant will reach to 1 m in height with 2 m spread. They are very wind tolerant but appreciate regular watering. The one drawback is that this species is more susceptible to fireblight than *C. adpressus* or *C. apiculatus*. This species is hardy from zones 5-8 and even into zone 4 if there is reasonable snowcover. The cultivar 'Variegatus' has grey-green leaves edged in white.



Cotoneaster microphyllus or littleleaf cotoneaster, is the smallest, slowest growing of these low cotoneasters. It is also the least common but useful for those who have limited space or are looking for good shrubs for containers, bonsai or smaller rock gardens. Plants form evergreen mounds about 60 cm in height and 1.2 m spread. The leaves are under 1 cm in length, fairly narrow and glossy deep green. The white flowers develop into a good display of red fruit. The variety 'Thymifolius' has the smallest leaves of any cotoneaster, almost needle-like. The variety 'Cochleatus' is sometime listed as a species, but is overall very similar to *C. microphyllus* except that the leaves and plant are a little larger. They are hardy from zones 5-9.



Whether you are looking for a shrub to grow as a groundcover, attractive fruit-producer, wildlife attractant or producer of good fall colour, you can find the right selection among the low cotoneasters.

How to Grow Mahonia

Mahonia, evergreen shrubs of the barberry family, save many gardeners from flower deprivation in midwinter, bearing bright yellow, fragrant winter flowers.

The species span U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 5 to 10, but two commonly grown varieties are Oregon holly grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*), suitable for zones 5 to 9, and leatherleaf mahonia (*Mahonia bealei*), which grows best in zones 6 to 9. Despite their value in providing winter interest, mahonias aren't high-maintenance plants. The first year is the most critical, after which pruning is their main requirement.



- 1) Grow mahonias in partial shade or full sun, but they should be protected from midday sun. Mahonia species' sun requirements vary, so check your variety's particular needs. Shelter plants from wind.
- 2) Water plants deeply in their first year, not allowing the soil to dry out, to help form an extensive root system. Plants grow best in a shrub bed, not competing with turf for moisture. Apply a mulch after watering to help conserve water.
- 3) Improve soil conditions by digging in 3 to 4 inches of organic matter, taking care not to disturb plant roots.
- 4) Prune out old, damaged and diseased wood in late winter after flowering to 1 foot above the ground, removing around a third of stems. This provides new, spring growth.
- 5) Fertilize in March, using a slow-release, balanced fertilizer. Balanced fertilizers have equal amounts of nitrogen, phosphate and potash. Use a rate of 1 pound of fertilizer per 100 square feet of ground.
- 6) Check plants regularly for signs of pests or disease, such as scale insects, whiteflies, leaf spots, rusts and galls.

Mahonias make good hedges, screens, barriers and foundation plants. Birds love mahonia berries, so leave some stems to set fruit after flowering.

Warning

Mahonia leaves are spiny, so wear gloves or take care when handling plants.



Kleim's Hardy Gardenia

Gardenia jasminoides 'Kleim's Hardy'

Rubiaceae



The fragrant 2" wide starry single white flowers of Kleim's Hardy Gardenia are born in mid to late spring and early summer. This is an exceptionally cold hardy Gardenia that develops into a compact evergreen, rounded shrub to 2-3' high and wide that is well suited to container culture as well as in the ground. For the best results provide your Gardenias with a well-draining, humus rich, fertile, acid soil.

These old garden favorites are still commonly referred to as Cape Jasmine or Cape Jessamine in many southern gardens but no matter what you call them the fragrance of a Gardenia is unforgettable.

Gardenias perform best in a fertile, well-drained, humus rich, acidic soil with average moisture. They seem to do best in hot southern regions where they get some midday or afternoon shade but need good light for the best flower production. Provide your Gardenias with good air circulation to minimize pest infestations. In the northern most reaches of their range they will benefit from protection from cold, drying winter winds. Gardenias make good container plants and can be enjoyed indoors where not winter hardy. Prune after flowering.

Did you know that Gardenias attract hummingbird moths with their fragrant and easy to spot white to rarely yellow or orange flowers. Some species, like *Gardenia nitida* and *G. tubifera*, are obviously moth pollinated with their flattened corollas that open at the ends of 3-5" long arching narrow tubes. Gardenia flowers are, generally speaking, the most fragrant near sunset and during the early evening hours making them obvious choices for Moon Moth gardens as well as in containers. Site Gardenias near walks, patios, and within easy reach for indoor arrangements.

Grows To: 2-4'H x 2-4'W

USDA Cold Hardiness Zones: 7,8,9,10,(6B?)

Find your USDA Cold Hardiness Zone here

Outdoor Light: Full sun, Part sun, Part shade

Indoor Light: Direct sunlight, High

Soil pH Range: Acidic, Mildly Acidic

Soil Types & Moisture: Average moist, moderately fertile, acidic soils with good drainage.

Deer Resistance: Rarely Bothered



Red-bellied Woodpecker - *Melanerpes carolinus*

The red-bellied woodpecker has a light cream to pink chest and belly, barred black and white wings and back, reddish markings around its bill and a red crown. The male has red on the crown and on the nape of his neck.

The female has red just on the nape of her neck.

The red-bellied woodpecker can be found in most of the eastern United States, except for northern New England. Birds in the northern most part of the range may migrate in the winter.

The red-bellied woodpecker eats beetles, grasshoppers, ants and other insects. It also eats acorns, beechnuts and fruits. It uses its bill to probe for insects in trees and tree stumps. The red-bellied woodpecker sometimes stores food in a tree cavity. In the winter, the red-bellied woodpecker's diet is mostly seeds and it can often be found at birdfeeders.



The red-bellied woodpecker makes its home in open and swampy woodlands. In the winter, birds in the northern most parts of the range may move south.

Red-bellied woodpeckers tap their bills together when they are courting. The nest cavity is built by both the male and the female. The cavity is lined with wood chips and is about a foot deep. It is usually built in a dead or dying tree. The female lays three to eight eggs and both the male and female incubate the eggs and care for the young. The male incubates at night. The chicks hatch in about three weeks and they fledge in about a month. The chicks usually stay with their parents until the fall.

Red-bellied woodpeckers aggressively defend their nesting cavities, but starlings frequently take over their nesting sites.



Plant These Hardy Boxwood Varieties

Keep your shrubs healthy with these planting tips.

According to a recent survey boxwood (*Buxus*) is the most popular shrub in America.

A tip to keep boxwood healthy is to avoid planting them too deeply. If anything, plant the crown—the spot where the roots flare from the stems—an inch higher than it grew in the nursery. They prefer well-drained soil that is neutral to slightly alkaline. Mulch with an inch or so of chopped leaves to help keep soil cool (but don't heap mulch against the stems). Once established, boxwood shrubs are very drought-tolerant. Most cultivars will grow in full sun to a half day of shade. And many, despite their malodorous reputation, have delightfully fragrant little flowers.

Japanese Boxwood

Buxus microphylla var. *Japonica*

Green Beauty: deep green, responds well to pruning, a good substitute for English box; 3 × 3 feet; zones 6–8

Morris Dwarf: slow, formal hedge for sun; 1 × 1 foot; zones 6–8

Morris Midget: very dwarf, small leaves, sun tolerant; 1 × 1 foot; zones 6–8

Wintergreen: cold-hardy, good for hedge, fast-growing 4 × 4 feet; zones 5–8



Common or American Boxwood

Buxus sempervirens

B. sempervirens: called American boxwood, tall, true species; 5 × 4 feet; zones 5–8

Dee Runk: upright fast growth; 8 × 2 feet; zones 6–8

Elegantissima: best variegated gray-green and cream, disease-resistant; 3 × 2.5 feet; zones 6–8

Fastigiata: bluish-green upright growth for hedge; 8 × 3 feet; zones 6–8

Graham Blandy: most narrow columnar, better in cold climates, may need tying or pruning; 7 × 1 feet; zones 5–6

Jensen: similar to English; 2 × 2 feet; zones 6–8

Newport Blue: globular, quite blue-green foliage; 4 × 3 feet; zones 6–8

Pyramidalis: upright cone; 8 × 4 feet; zones 6–8

Rotundifolia: fast growing, largest leaves, shade tolerant; 5 × 4 feet; zone 6

Vardar Valley: disease-resistant, bluish new growth, hardy; 1 × 3 feet; zones 5–8

Wanford Page: long-lasting chartreuse new growth then leaves mottled green and yellow, dwarf; 2 × 1.5 feet; zones 6–8



Korean Boxwood

Buxus sinica var. *insularis* (*B. microphylla* var. *Koreana*)

Justin Brouwers: sun to shade, natural globe; 2 × 2 feet; zones 6–8

Nana: spreading dwarf with narrow leaves, chartreuse in spring, slow; 1 × 3 feet; zones 6–8

Hybrid Boxwood

Buxus hybrids

Glencoe: selected at Chicago Botanic Garden, container plant, edging, hardy; 4 × 5 feet; zones 4–8

Green Mound: sun to shade, globular, hardy; 2 × 2 feet; zones 4–8

Green Mountain: upright, conical, hardy; 4 × 3 feet; zones 4–8

Green Velvet: lime green spring growth, mounding, hardy, 2 × 2.5 feet; zones 4–8

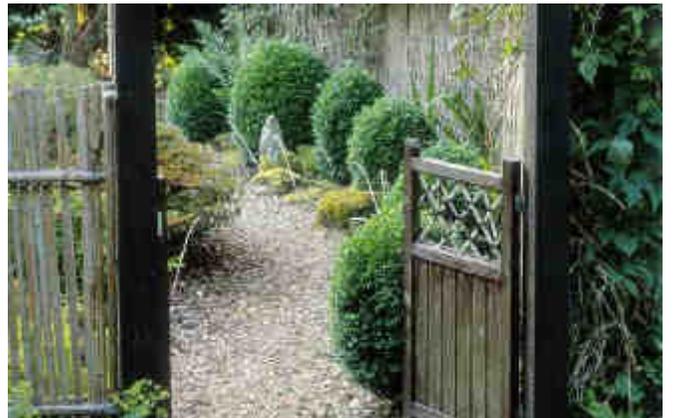
Small-Leaved Boxwood

Buxus microphylla

Grace Hendrick Phillips: very dwarf; 1 × 2 foot; zones 6–8

Compacta (Kingsville Dwarf): the smallest of them all, tiny leaves, dense, very slow; 1 × 1.5 foot; zones 6–8

Height and spread are approximate for plants at maturity, about 15 years of age. The American Boxwood Society has more information on growing boxwood.



Clay Flower pots are not just for plants! Be creative!

Simple-a clay pot and dish, just paint them black & decorate.
Makes a great center piece.



Blue Star Juniper

These plants are classified botanically as needled evergreen shrubs. The needles are awl-shaped, unlike the long, slender needles with which many people are most familiar that grow on eastern white pine trees. These bushes are also considered conifers and are members of the cypress family.



Blue Star juniper is a needled evergreen with silvery-blue foliage. The shrub has densely-packed foliage

This slow-growing plant is a dwarf, forming a compact mound that reaches just 1 to 3 feet in height at maturity. It tends to grow out rather than up. For example, one reader reports that hers has a width of 5 feet after growing in her yard for over a decade. Another gardener speaks of a 10-year-old bush that measures about a 1.5 feet tall and 3 feet wide. For several years, its size increased hardly at all. Once it had been around for 7 or 8 years, though, he noticed that the bush seemed to spread at a more rapid rate than it had previously.

So if you are seeking to fit it into a tight spot and then just forget about it (that is, no pruning) for years and years, be aware that it may sneak up on you, size-wise, after a certain point in time.

Plant this small evergreen bush in full sun and in a well-drained soil.

Their slow growth rate means that Blue Star juniper shrubs hardly ever have to be pruned, unless you are trying to fit them into an area with very little room. Along with certain types of wildflowers and native plants, this may be one of the lowest-maintenance plants you could possibly choose to grow in the landscape. Just make sure to water these dwarf evergreen shrubs properly their first year in the yard so that they can become established, then let them go! They are relatively drought-tolerant shrubs once mature.

Any disease or bug-pest problems will generally occur on these shrubs only in hot, humid regions. One such problem is spider mites. If you detect spider mites on your plant in time, you can simply hose the bush down with a very strong spray. This may knock the pests off. Check your bush regularly thereafter to ensure that the spider mites do not return. Repeat the hosing-down as needed.

Deer pests do not eat them (probably because the foliage is so bristly), making them one of the deer-resistant shrubs valued in deer-infested areas such as Connecticut (USA). Fertilize your plants by applying compost to the soil.

planting zones 4 to 8.

Blue Star juniper
on a standard



Apple Slab Pie

Ingredients

Pie

- 1 box Pillsbury™ refrigerated pie crusts, softened as directed on box
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons apple pie spice or ground cinnamon
- 9 cups thinly sliced peeled apples (9 medium)



Streusel

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ cup quick-cooking or old-fashioned oats
- ½ cup cold butter, cut into small pieces

1) Heat oven to 425°F. Remove pie crusts from pouches. On lightly floured surface, unroll and stack crusts one on top of the other. Roll to 17x12-inch rectangle



2) Fit crust into ungreased 15x10x1-inch pan, pressing into corners. Fold extra crust even with edges of pan.



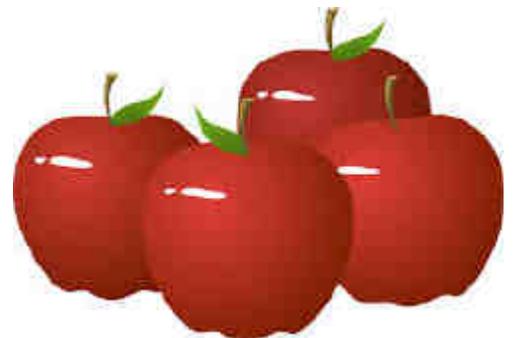
3) In large bowl, mix ½ cup sugar, 3 tablespoons flour and apple pie spice. Stir in apples to coat. Spoon apple mixture into crust-lined pan.



4) In medium bowl, mix Streusel ingredients, cutting in butter with fork or pastry blender until crumbly. Sprinkle evenly over apples.

5) Bake 33 to 38 minutes or until crust is golden brown, filling is bubbling and streusel is browned. Cool on cooling rack 45 minutes before serving

Make apple pie for a crowd with this streamlined, streuseled version of the classic American favorite.



LIBBY'S® PUMPKIN ROLL

INGREDIENTS

CAKE:

- 1/4 cup powdered sugar (to sprinkle on towel)
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup LIBBY'S® 100% Pure Pumpkin
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped (optional)

FOR CAKE:

PREHEAT oven to 375° F. Grease 15 x 10-inch jelly-roll pan; line with wax paper. Grease and flour paper. Sprinkle a thin, cotton kitchen towel with powdered sugar.

COMBINE flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and salt in small bowl. Beat eggs and granulated sugar in large mixer bowl until thick. Beat in pumpkin. Stir in flour mixture. Spread evenly into prepared pan. Sprinkle with nuts.

BAKE for 13 to 15 minutes or until top of cake springs back when touched. (If using a dark-colored pan, begin checking for doneness at 11 minutes.) Immediately loosen and turn cake onto prepared towel. Carefully peel off paper. Roll up cake and towel together, starting with narrow end. Cool on wire rack.

FILLING:

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 cup powdered sugar, sifted
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Powdered sugar (optional for decoration)

FOR FILLING:

BEAT cream cheese, 1 cup powdered sugar, butter and vanilla extract in small mixer bowl until smooth. Carefully unroll cake. Spread cream cheese mixture over cake. Reroll cake. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate at least one hour. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving, if desired.

COOKING TIP:

Be sure to put enough powdered sugar on the towel when rolling up the cake so it will not stick.

Dazzle family and friends with Libby's® Pumpkin Roll; moist and creamy, with a tantalizing aroma and beautiful presentation.



A THANKSGIVING BOAT DRINK



CRUZAN PILGRIM PUNCH

After one sip, you'll be ready to cross an ocean.

Ingredients:

1/2 Bottle Cruzan® 9 Spiced Rum
1/2 Bottle Cruzan® Aged Dark Rum
1/2 can Cranberry Sauce
1/2 cup Sugar
2 Bottles Sparkling Apple Cider
Apple Slices

Mixing Instructions: Combine rums, cranberry sauce and sugar in a bowl and stir until well combined. Refrigerate for 1 hour. When ready to serve, add sparkling apple cider, and drop in apple slices to garnish. Serve over ice in punch glass, making sure to scoop out an apple slice with each drink. Raise glass and toast.



Amaretto Cider

Ingredients

1 1/2 oz Amaretto
1/2 oz Triple Sec
1/2 Cup Apple Cider

Directions

In a shaker with ice add all ingredients and shake well. Strain into highball glass and garnish with an apple slice and cinnamon stick.





*Sign up on our web page to receive
our newsletter every month!*

*We publish a monthly Newsletter to inform you of our
specials and to share planting information for
the current season. Join us @*

www.villgc.com



Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter