

Village Garden Center & Landscape Service

www.villgc.com

ISSUE 92 October 2017

By Eva Soued

540-885-7342

Morgan Oriental Arborvitae

The very rare, “nearly perfect” plant in the landscape, the compact Morgan Oriental arborvitae (*Thuja orientalis* ‘Morgan’) is slow-growing to 3 to 4 feet and offers shimmering lime-green foliage in the summer. Foliage turns to an attractive burgundy-orange color in the fall — beginning in September and October in northern areas.

Morgan is the answer to the eternal homeowner’s dilemma of needing a tough, interesting, four-season coniferous plant in a small area near a back deck, below any window or even as a low border.

Better yet, it tolerates a mix of landscape conditions from moist to dry, takes full to part sun and requires minimal pruning, care or feeding. Hardy to Zone 5.

Full sun. Grows 2 to 4 in. per year, reaching 3 ft. tall at 10 years.

Irrigate and fertilize Morgan during the first two years to insure its longevity. Acid-based water soluble fertilizers such as Miracle Gro™ or Miracid™, or slow-release Hollytone® are good products.



Ilex verticillata 'Southern Gentleman'
Southern Gentleman Winterberry

Dark green leaves
Spring flowers
Pollinates southern varieties of winterberry
Height: 6-8 Feet
Spread: 6-8 Feet
Hardiness Zone: 3 - 7



While Ilex v. 'Southern Gentleman' is best for pollinating southern winterberry varieties, Ilex v. 'Jim Dandy' is a compact male pollinator for all northern types. One male plant can pollinate many female plants. A good rule of thumb is one male to six females. One can determine the sex of a winterberry when it is in bloom by examining the small flowers. If the flowers have projecting stamens, it is a male plant. If the flowers only have a rounded bump in the center, then it is a female plant. 'Southern Gentleman' requires no more effort to grow than any other winterberry, looking only for regular moisture, although they are quite adaptable to a range of sites. 'Southern Gentleman' was named and introduced by the nurseryman Bob Simpson, of Vincennes, Indiana.

Southern Gentleman Characteristics & Attributes

Exposure

- Full Sun
- Partial Shade

Soil Moisture Preference

- Moist, Well-Drained

Attracts Wildlife

- Butterflies

Season of Interest (Flowering)

- Spring

Season of Interest (Foliage)

- Fall

Attributes

- Wetlands and Streambank Stabilization
- Border or Bed
- Erosion Control
- Mass Planting
- Naturalizing

Foliage Color

- Red

Habit

- Perennial



Red Sprite Holly

Red Sprite Holly is a compact ornamental deciduous shrub. Plant a few in a naturalized area of your landscape or perhaps one at the border of a perennial bed where the winter color can pick up where the bright summer flowers left off.

Hollies, are the queens of the fruiting shrub world when ranked for ornamental value, and your Red Sprite is no exception. The fruiting branches on the bare stems are great for decoration in the garden or in the house.

They are extensively used for decoration, especially during the holidays. When the leaves drop off your Red Sprite in late fall to expose the beautiful red berries, you'll be amazed how decorative your plant is against the winter landscape.

Red Sprite Holly is a dense, compact plant that produces multitudes of bright red, half-inch fruit\ that persist throughout the winter. Even without the berries, your Red Sprite Holly's lovely shiny green foliage is sure to please. The deep green foliage on the shiny green plant provides fall color when it transforms to purple/bronze in autumn. Red Sprite reaches 3 feet in height with an equal spread. It prefers wet to soil, but is adaptable.

Birds love it and it's deer resistant, so you won't have to worry about it being decimated by their foraging.

You'll need both male and female plants to produce fruits for your Red Sprite. Red Sprite requires Ilex 'Jim Dandy' for pollination and berry production, so keep that in mind when acquiring a Red Sprite.

All in all, Red Sprite Holly is an outstanding choice for your yard for all-season interest.

- * Shiny Green Foliage
- * Compact 2'-3' Growth
- * Profusion of Red Berries on Female Plants



Oakland Holly

Looking for a nice, dense evergreen tree? Take a look at the Oakland™ Holly Tree... This holly tree is great for anchoring the sides of your home or planted as a privacy hedge.

The foliage on this oak leaf holly resembles oak tree leaves, making it stand out in the evergreen crowd. These leaves are 3 inches long and about 1.5 inches wide.



The upright pyramidal shape of the Oakland™

Holly is perfect for many landscape options. Plant this holly at the corner of your home for a gorgeous anchor tree. Need a privacy hedge? Plant this oak leaf holly tree every 6 feet on center. Enjoy a great looking privacy hedge in no time! Just trim the tops and the middles will fill in.

The Oakland™ Holly will reach heights up to 18 feet tall and up to 8 feet wide. It stays very dense and does not require pruning. However, if you are looking for a more manicured look, you can trim twice a year. This tree loves full sun so plant in areas that get plenty of sun. This oak leaf holly is extremely insect and disease resistant.

The Oak Leaf Holly is self fruiting so you won't need of a male pollinator.

Enjoy reddish orange berries throughout the winter months.

Oak Leaf™ Red Holly

Ilex x 'Conaf'



A hybrid holly with a tall, elegant, pyramidal form. Charming oak leaf-like foliage emerges bronze to burgundy in spring and matures to emerald green. Unlike most hollies, this selection sets small orange-red berries without needing a male pollenizer. A stunning and cold-hardy tall hedge or Specimen.

Evergreen.

Partial to full sun

Water regularly - weekly, or more often in

Quickly reaches 14 ft. tall, 8 ft. Wide.

Evergreen Hedge Plant

Blooms: Spring

Landscape Uses:

Hedge, Privacy Screen, Topiary, Urban Garden, Wildlife Garden, Windbreak, Woodland Garden

Patriot™ Red Holly

This dense shrub has dark green serrated leaves and produces loads of showy, bright red berries.

More berries with male pollenizer.

Use to flank a driveway entry or front porch steps.

Plant alone as a pivotal focal point or in a topiary garden.

Evergreen.

Sunlight Needs: Partial to Full Sun

Watering Requirements : Needs regular watering - weekly, or more often in extreme heat.

Height: About 12 ft.

Growth Rate: Slow



Robin™ Red Holly



A Thick Ornamental Tree Foundation Hedge or Privacy Fence with a Festive Flair

This is a versatile Holly that grows large naturally and takes well to pruning.

As a seasonal bonus you also get bright red berries to cheer up your winter and put you in a holiday mood.

Deep, green leaves offer sharp contrast to the multitudes of bright red berries, making them pop with wonderfully noticeable color.

Easy to grow and shade tolerant, this large, rounded shrub plays a role in every season, including spring. That's when birds will drop in to your garden to feast on the juicy berries. And the Red Holly holds up well indoors too.

Place cuttings in decorative bowls or vases throughout your home and you'll be amazed at how long they last. Red Holly adapts to clay and sandy soils and is a trouble-free plant.

Callicarpa (Beautyberry)

Callicarpa dichotoma 'Early Amethyst' (Non-Native Beautyberry)

In mid-autumn, when the floral display in the ornamental garden is winding down, shrubs and trees that bear colorful fruits and berries keep the show going well into winter. Ilex (holly), Pyracantha, Cotoneaster, Viburnum, and some species of Malus (crabapple) offer reds, oranges, yellows and even blues and blacks to the autumn palette. One plant stands out from the rest with its luminous purple berries. The genus name for this plant, *Callicarpa* (pronounced kal-lee-KAR-pah), comes from a combination of the Greek words *callos* (beauty) and *carpos* (fruit). One look at the colorful berry display and it becomes abundantly clear how this shrub got its common name of beautyberry.



If any plant can provide much appreciated bling in the autumn garden, its beautyberry. It's a showstopper that never fails to draw lots of admiring glances from passersby. Beautyberry is an ordinary looking shrub in spring and early summer. The simple, opposite, elliptical-shaped leaves are moderately attractive but nothing special. When viewed up close, the flowers are charming but small and not particularly showy. From a distance, they are barely noticeable. However, this plant undergoes an amazing transformation once the berries start to ripen in late summer. Little clusters of greenish-looking, pearl-like berries that grace the entire length of each branch start turning the most extraordinary shades of vibrant purple. Some people describe the color as metallic purple.



Others call it rosy pink, bright magenta, violet-purple or even neon violet. To my way of thinking, the color is faintly reminiscent of redbud blossoms in the spring. Regardless of what you call it, the color is stunning.

C. dichotoma is from China. This species has been cultivated to have greater cold tolerance and is hardy in Zones 5 – 8. It bears pink flowers and bright purple fruit. This graceful, more diminutive variety is a good choice for smaller gardens as it grows four feet tall and wide. Cultivars 'Issai' and 'Early Amethyst,' which blooms a little earlier than 'Issai,' are generally easy to find in local garden Centers.

Maintenance: Beautyberry flowers on current year's growth. For the best berry display, cut the shrub back in late winter or early spring to a low permanent framework about six inches high. This shrub may spread out or become rangy over time. If that becomes an issue, the plant will respond well to renovation pruning, in which all flowering stems should be cut back to the base of the plant.

Pests and Diseases: This is a mostly trouble-free plant. Potential problems may include minor leaf spot (*Atractilina callicarpae*) and black mold (*Meliola cookeana*).

Mohave pyracantha

Hardy evergreen, tolerates shade and challenging conditions

Gorgeous color from bright, red berries

Wonderful hedge, screen or freestanding shrub

The Mohave Pyracantha looks like a shrub you'd expect to see in an oasis. Exploding with color from the hordes of berries hanging in thick clusters, this gorgeous evergreen is the ultimate in eye candy. Its countless berries pop with such brightness, you almost need sunglasses to look at them. Initially the berries emerge as a deep burnt-orange, but soon turn to a bright fire-engine red. The plump, juicy berries are so tightly packed, they almost resemble giant, flaming raspberries. It's a wonderful look to usher in the fall. When spring arrives, white flowers will burst onto the scene and cover your shrub.



No wonder the Royal Horticultural Society gave it the Award of Garden Merit.

Carefree and Captivating, Mohave has it all

The Mohave's tough nature makes it a wonderful shrub for a variety of planting options. With a high tolerance to shade and wind exposure, this hardy evergreen works well when used to create a screen or hedge throughout the landscape. So appealing are the berries, the Mohave works well as a specimen all on its own. In addition to its ability to adapt to difficult conditions, the shrub is highly productive, yielding tons of flavorful fall berries, perfect for making homemade jellies and jams to enjoy throughout the holiday season.

Pyracantha Berry Jelly (Firethorn bush)

They are not REALLY poison. The thorns of the bush will cause a rash, but the berries are edible for birds and people.

Ingredients

6 cups berries, washed

3 cups water

1 pkg. powdered pectin

juice of 1 grapefruit

juice of 1 lemon

Directions

Combine the water and berries, and boil for 20 minutes in a large saucepan. Strain to make 4 1/2 cups liquid.

Add pectin and juices. Bring to a full rolling boil and hard boil for one minute, stirring constantly.

Add the sugar.

Bring to a full boil again and boil for 5 minutes. Pour into jelly glasses and seal.



Learn About The Care Of Burning Bush – How To Grow A Burning Bush Plant

Gardeners who want a burst of crimson color in fall should learn how to grow a burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*). The plant is from a large group of shrubs and small trees in the genus *Euonymus*. Native to Asia, this large bush has a natural open form that shows well in borders, beds and even containers. Almost any site and soil condition is sufficient when growing burning bush plants. Care of burning bush is minimal too, which makes the plant an excellent choice for even novice gardeners.



The arching stems are decorated with clusters of finely pointed leaves that droop appealingly from the branch. The plant is also called winged *Euonymus* because of the ridges that arise on young burning bush growth. These disappear after the stems mature. The plant will get tiny flowers in May to June that turn into tiny dangling red berries. Birds eat the berries and inadvertently plant the seeds in your garden. In rich soils, even dropped berries may sprout and become new plants. You can plant a dwarf form of the bush in small spaces or to minimize maintenance, especially since the plant's 15-foot height may be too great for some landscape applications. There are two excellent cultivars, which produce smaller, dwarf forms of this bright *Euonymus*: 'Rudy Haag' is a slow growing diminutive form of the bush that will get only 5 feet tall in 15 years. 'Compactus' is aptly named and may grow 10 feet tall over many years.

Burning bush grows well in USDA plant hardiness zones 4 to 8 but can become invasive in the warmer ranges. Burning bush plants may get 9 to 15 feet tall and are suitable for full sun to partial sun locations. Any soil type, including alkaline, may support burning bush growth. However, when growing burning bush, it's best to place the shrub in sites with excellent drainage but lightly moist soil.

Burning Bush Care There is little to know about caring for burning bush, as this plant is versatile and hardy. In fact, no special care of burning bush is required for a splendid color display. The plant produces only on early flush of new growth in spring, so you should apply fertilizer very early to maximize the effect. Burning bush care also includes occasional pruning to keep the size down and remove any broken or damaged branches. The natural shape of the bush is appealing, so pruning is not necessary, but if you wish to trim the plant, do so in very early spring before leaves appear.

The plant has few pest problems or disease except some foliar fungal issues. Reduce overhead watering to combat fungal problems. Burning bush plants are occasionally susceptible to scale insects. These are scab-like white insects that only move around during the development phase. They are sucking insects that can reduce the vigor of the plant if they are in large populations. Scrape, rinse and control them with horticultural oil sprays or neem oil.

Firepower Nandina

Firepower Nandina is a dwarf bush species that was developed in New Zealand by the New Zealand's Nurserymen's Association. This shrub is hardy and disease resistant, and is specifically known for its lime green leaves and superior red color that shows in the fall. This bush needs minimal care, which is great for the busy home gardener.

Firepower Nandina is a very compact bush, only 2 feet wide by 2 feet tall at maturity. It grows well in either direct or partial sunlight, but its colors will be noticeably brighter with the greater amount of sun. The soil requirements for this bush are a reasonably rich, humus, acid soil, with a pH Range: 3.7 to 6.4 . Preferably the soil should be kept moist at all times, but Nandinas will survive a drought quite well. Once established, this is one of the toughest plants, adapting itself to a wide variety of conditions.

One single Firepower Nandina can be used as a focal point in your smaller garden or flower bed due to its brilliant color in the fall, or can be planted in groups for a more dramatic effect.

How to plant a Firepower Nandina

The first thing you want to do is pick the spot where you want your Nandina Plant. Once the location is picked out, you can begin to dig.

Dig the hole at least 2 times as deep as the pot the plant came in, and also 2-3 times as wide as well.

Now that your hole is dug, fill the base of the hole with your top soil. This provides soft dirt for the roots of the plant to spread and grow much easier. Carefully lift the plant out of its container and gently beat the bottom of the plant on the ground to loosen up the roots. When you first pull the plant out, the roots will be tightly packed from being stuck in the tight container

Place the plant in the hole, and fill around the edges with some more topsoil. It is recommended that you place mulch around each plant to help retain moisture and keeps the weeds away. Water your plant generously for the first couple of days to help it establish itself in its new home.



Emerald Green Arborvitae

Averaging 10 to 15 feet tall and 3 to 4 feet wide, "Emerald Green" arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* "Emerald Green" or "Smaragd") can become natural privacy fences. Prized for their shape, slow growth and long life -- and hardy in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 4 to 8 they are one of the most widely planted arborvitae varieties. Once established, they require only basic care to maintain.

Plant "Emerald Green" arborvitae approximately 2 to 3 feet apart when planting more than one to create a natural hedge. This spacing allows mature plants to spread out slightly, but prevents root crowding and competition of nutrients and water. The "Emerald Green" grows 6 to 9 inches a year once established.

Position the arborvitae in full sun; while it can live in partial shade, the evergreen cannot withstand full shade and will begin to turn brown, eventually dying from lack of sunlight.

Provide well-drained soil, and water the trees thoroughly at planting. The soil can slightly dry out between water applications, but this variety of evergreen is not drought-resistant and must receive plenty of moisture during the growing season. Water more frequently and deeply during drought Conditions.

Apply a 10-10-10 fertilizer -- the numbers indicate the percentages of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in the product -- in early spring to boost the arborvitae's health for the coming growing season. Fertilize it again in mid-fall after the summer heat is over. Avoid fertilizing when the tree is being planted, as well.

Prune only the sides of the arborvitae if stray branches become too long, or a dead stem needs removed. Pruning the top of the tree is not recommended, as this can ruin its natural, pointed shape. However, it can be done to control the height of the plant. If deer mar the evergreen's look, pruning can be used to reshape the arborvitae, but do not overprune.



From the Garden of Eva

Sweet n' Sour Chicken

Ingredients:

1 can of Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce
1 package of Lipton Onion Soup Mix
1 bottle of French Salad Dressing
5 to 6 boneless skinless chicken breasts
trimmed and cut in halves
Non Stick cooking spray
1 9X13 baking dish either Pyrex or metal

Directions:

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and spray one 9X13 inch or larger baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. Open the cranberry sauce, the soup mix and the salad dressing and combine these three in a large mixing bowl until well mixed. The sauce mixture should be orangish red in color. Place the pieces of chicken in the bowl and mix them until they are well coated. Pour the entire contents of the bowl into your baking dish. Move the chicken around until the pieces are evenly spread across the baking dish. Place this on the middle rack of your oven and bake for 35 minutes. After 35 minutes carefully use a large spoon to pour the sauce over each chicken piece from the sauce in the baking dish and bake another 10 to 20 minutes or until the chicken is done and firm to the touch. Remove from the oven and serve. This dish goes well over rice.



Mushroom Chicken

Ingredients:

1 can of cream of mushroom soup
1 can of cream of chicken soup
1 8oz container of fresh white button mushrooms OR 2 small cans of mushrooms
1/2 cup of sweet or dry vermouth
1/2 cup of heavy cream or half and half
5 to 6 boneless skinless chicken breasts
trimmed and cut into halves
Salt and pepper
Nonstick cooking spray
1 9X13 baking dish either Pyrex or metal

Directions:

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Clean and slice mushrooms thinly. Trim the chicken and cut it into halves then set aside. Combine the cream of mushroom soup, cream of chicken soup, sliced mushrooms, vermouth and heavy cream or half and half in a bowl until well combined. Put the chicken into the bowl and toss until the chicken is well coated. Pour entire contents of bowl into the baking dish and use a spoon to spread everything around so all of the chicken pieces are evenly spread across the dish. Place in the oven and bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes. When chicken is firm to the touch it is done. Remove it from the oven and spoon sauce from the pan over each piece of chicken. Serve immediately. Goes well with oven roasted potatoes or mashed potatoes.



Kentucky Mulled Cider

Recipe:

1.25 oz Bourbon

Hot apple cider

Dash of allspice

Tall cinnamon stick

Lemon slice

Directions:

Add bourbon to a mug. Fill mug with hot apple cider and dash of allspice. Garnish with tall cinnamon stick and lemon slice.



Apple Cider Mimosas

Recipe:

1 bottle champagne

1 cup apple cider

2 tbsp sugar

1 tbsp ground cinnamon

Directions:

On a small plate, combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip champagne flutes in water to wet the rims, then dip in cinnamon sugar mixture. Fill champagne flutes 1/4 full with apple cider, then top off with champagne.



Recipe:

2 oz pear brandy

2 oz pear nectar / fresh pear juice

.75 oz fresh lemon juice

.5 oz simple syrup

1 pear slice

Directions:

Combine pear brandy, pear nectar, lemon juice and simple syrup into cocktail shaker with ice. Shake and mix well. Strain into martini or coupe glass. Garnish with pear slice.

Pear Cocktail



Wine bottle craft ideas

Turn your wine bottles into gorgeous centerpieces you can display in your room or during your next dinner party.

To create this project, simply spray paint your bottles in your preferred color. Once dried, put on a light coating of glue and sprinkle on a few pinches of glitter.



What makes this bird feeder self-feeding is the L hook placed on the mouth of the bottle. These can be found in your local hardware store



Cut off one of the sides of a wine bottle to make a succulent terrarium. To make sure the plants don't shift, fill both the body and the neck of the bottle with soil. This will stop the plants from budging.



You won't need to worry about forgetting to take care of your plant with this self-watering planter. Now, all you have to do is remember to refill the water once it runs out.



Show off your artistic side with this hand painted centerpiece. Start off by coating a layer of frost paint on the bottle. Once dried, begin creating your tree. Add a few embellishments with a glue gun and sequins, and then finish off by placing some string lights inside.



For the month of OCTOBER 2017

SALE

All Container trees Now

30% off!

All Butterfly bushes Now

30% off!

All Pottery Now

30% off!



This sale DOES NOT include Evergreens,

Japanese Maples, or Shrubs

See store for full details.

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