

What's Growing On in the garden?

Germantown Hills School Garden Newsletter

April 23, 2007

Add Beauty to Your Landscape with Spring-Flowering Trees

Spring-flowering trees that make a visual impact in the landscape are a welcome sight after a long, cold winter. So, why not add one or two of these beauties to your landscape this year.



Flowering dogwood

Scientific Name: *Cornus florida*

Hardiness Zones: 5-9

Habit: Deciduous

Growth Rate: Slow to moderate

Site Requirements: Partial shade; moist well drained soil

Texture: Medium

Form: Semi rounded top; horizontal low branches creating a layered look

Height: 15 to 30'

Width: 15 to 20'

Leaf: 3 to 6" opposite, simple leaf; red to reddish purple fall color

Flower/Fruit: 4" white bracts in April; glossy red fruit in fall

Comments: Native; best form and flowers in light shade; fruit attracts birds; mulch to maintain moist soil; subject to anthracnose disease if grown in western NC with high humidity, poor air circulation, and heavy shade



range of soil types but prefers moist well drained soil

Texture: Medium

Form: Most have round to spreading crown; vase shaped; varies with spp. and cultivar

Height: 15 to 25'

Width: 10 to 20'

Leaf: Alternate simple leaf

Flower/Fruit: White, pink, red flowers in spring; red, green or yellow fruit up to 2" in size

Comments: Very showy for short period in spring; some cultivars have ornamental fruit; plant only disease resistant cultivars



Eastern redbud

Scientific Name: *Cercis canadensis*

Hardiness Zones: 4-9

Habit: Deciduous

Growth Rate: Moderate

Site Requirements: Sun to partial

shade; prefers moist, well drained soil but will tolerate a range of soil types

Texture: Medium to coarse

Form: Dense; flat topped to rounded crown; often multistemmed; zig zag horizontal branches

Height: 20 to 30'

Width: 25 to 35'

Leaf: 3 to 5" alternate, simple, heart shaped leaf; yellow green fall color

Flower/Fruit: Reddish purple buds; rosy pink pea-like flowers in clusters early spring before leaves emerge; 2 to 3" brown seed pods in clusters

Comments: Native; drought tolerant; legume - produces nitrogen; best flowers in full sun



Crabapples

Scientific Name: *Malus hybrids*

Hardiness Zones: 4-8

Habit: Deciduous

Growth Rate: Moderate

Site Requirements: Sun; tolerates a



Shadbush serviceberry

Scientific Name: *Amelanchier canadensis*

Hardiness Zones: 4-7

Habit: Deciduous

Growth Rate: Moderate

Site Requirements: Sun to partial shade; moist,

well drained soil but tolerates dry soil

Texture: Medium

Form: Irregular; low, shrubby, often multitemed plant

Height: 6 to 15'

Width: 15 to 20'

Leaf: 1.5 to 2.5" alternate, simple leaves; yellow to orange fall color

Flower/Fruit: Upright, white and light pink flowers in early spring; sweet, purplish black berries

Comments: Native; flowers after A. arborea; produces suckers; occurs naturally in bogs and wet sites



Japanese tree lilac

Scientific Name: *Syringa reticulata*

Hardiness Zones: 3-7

Habit: Deciduous

Growth Rate: Moderate

Site Requirements: Sun; range of soil types including clay

Texture: Medium

Form: Upright with stiff habit; spreading branches; oval to rounded crown

Height: 20 to 30'

Width: 15 to 20'

Leaf: 2 to 6" opposite, simple leaves; nonshowy fall color

Flower/Fruit: Creamy white flowers

in loose 12" panicles in midsummer; fragrant; gold capsules in clusters last until midwinter

Common Name: Japanese tree lilac

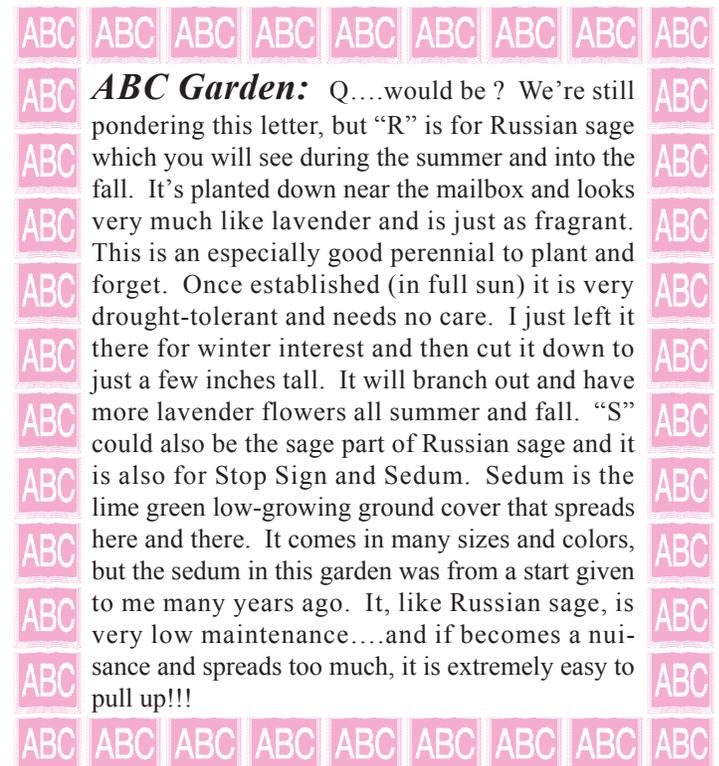
Comments: Cast medium shade; shiny cherry like bark; vigorous; high resistance to mildew, borers

In our courtyard garden you can find one newly planted white dogwood up in the corner in the Blue and White garden. When it was planted, it was covered with buds and we had hopes it would

bloom magnificently. Alas, the prolonged cold temperatures and frosts may have messed that up this year. Normally the white dogwood bud open up to small, light green blossoms which then mature and expand and whiten. Keep an eye on this tree! In the fall, the leaves are a gorgeous deep red.

The courtyard also has two small pink dogwoods, one on either side of the gazebo. Pink dogwoods are normally slower growing and it will be a while before these two dazzle us, but it will be fun watching them mature.

Our Japanese tree lilac is in the fragrant garden, above the herbs, and we can't wait until it blooms! The fragrance is intoxicating!



Websites and Resources

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/index.html>

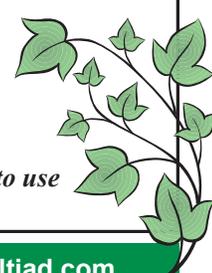
<http://www.kidsgardening.com/growingideas/projects/nov04/pg1.html> Not specifically about flowering trees, but a link for teachers with ideas for poetry and plants!

http://www.hitchams.suffolk.sch.uk/patterns_nature/index This website is produced by students and gives patterns found in nature...awesome photos! Math? Art? Science?

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/growingideas/PROJECTS/july03/pg2.html> This website gives curriculum connections, science ideas about creating a photo field guide, capturing design ideas on camera, writing about images and developing photo-rich presentations!!! Good stuff!

<http://hastings.ci.lexington.ma.us/projects/edgarden/index.html> Travel and learn through this pictorial record of a year in the life of one school's garden. This is an example of how you might record and display the progress of your own garden or habitat experiences.

Please feel free to contact either Cathy or Linda with your garden questions and comments. We encourage you to use the garden as the valuable educational resource that it can be.



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