Waterwise Shrubs Over Six Feet

by

Larry A. Sagers
Horticulture Specialist
Utah State University
Funding Assistance From A Bureau Of Reclamation Grant
Shrubs Over 6 Feet Tall
Watering Guide

Water Zone 0
No water

Water Zone 1

Water Zone 2

Water Zone 3

Water Zone 4
Water Zone 0

No irrigation
Additional irrigation needed during establishment

Grows faster with additional water
Mountain Mahogany

*Cercocarpus montanus*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft.  Spread - to 6 ft.
- Sun
- Showy blossoms, drought tolerant, grows slowly
- Leaf Spot, Mountain mahogany loopers; avoid clay soil
Smooth Sumac

*Rhus glabra*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft. Spread - 10 ft.
- Sun
- Red seed heads, suckers freely
- Avoid clay soil; drought and heat tolerant
Water Zone 1

One irrigation per month

Additional irrigation needed during establishment

Grows faster with additional water
Siberian Pea Shrub

*Caragana arborescens*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 20 ft. Spread - 15 ft.
- Sun
- Small spines, cold hardy
- Tolerates heat, drought and wind
Junipers

Juniperus sp.

- Evergreen
- Ht. - Variable  Spread - Variable
- Sun requirement is species specific
- Many varieties, avoid wet soils
- Heat and alkaline tolerant
Cutleaf Smooth Sumac

*Rhus glabra ‘Laciniata’*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft. Spread - 10 ft
- Sun
- Red seed heads, suckers, lacy foliage, bright fall color
- Avoid clay soils
Staghorn Sumac

*Rhus typhina*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft.  Spread - 10 ft.
- Sun
- Larger than smooth sumac, red seed head, red and orange fall color
- Suckers freely, avoid clay soils
Woods Rose

*Rosa woodsii*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - 6 ft.    Spread - 6 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Similar to wild rose
- Suckers freely
Water Zone 2

Two irrigations per month

May need additional water during establishment
Grows faster with additional water
Yellowtwig Dogwood

*Cornus stolonifera ‘Flavermea’*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 8 ft.  
  Spread - 8 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Reddish fall color, yellow bark
- Root weevil
Cornus stolonifera 'Nana'
Peking Cotoneaster

*Cotoneaster acutifolius*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft. Spread - 10 ft.
- Sun
- Small, persistent black fruits; turns red in fall
- Fire blight
Spreading Cotoneaster

*Cotoneaster divaricata*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 6 ft.  Spread - 6 ft.
- Sun, light shade
- Dark green leaves, turn orange to red in fall
- Avoid clay soils
Forsythia

*Forsythia sp.*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft.  Spread - to 10 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Yellow flowers, prune after flowering
- Tolerates most soil
Tatarian Honeysuckle

*Lonicera tatarica*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 12 ft. Spread - to 8 ft.
- Sun, shade
- White or pink flowers
- Aphids
Sweet Mockorange

*Philadelphus coronarius*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft.  Spread - 6 ft.
- Sun, light shade
- Fragrant white flowers
- Drought tolerant
Purple Leaf Sand Cherry

*Prunus cistena*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft. Spread - to 10 ft.
- Sun
- Purple fruits
- Aphids, borers
Rugosa Rose
*Rosa rugosa*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - 3-8 ft.  Spread - 4-8 ft.
- Sun
- White, yellow, or red flowers; tolerates clay soil, wind, drought
- Aphids, suckers freely
Blue Elderberry

*Sambucus caerulea*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft.  Spread - to 7 ft.
- Sun, light shade
- Edible blue berries after pale yellow flowers
- Needs more water in hot sun
Chinese Lilac

*Syringa chinensis*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 12 ft.  Spread - to 10 ft.
- Sun
- Delicate leaves and flowers
- Root weevil
Common Purple Lilac

*Syringa vulgaris*

- Deciduous
- Ht. to 15 ft. Spread to 15 ft.
- Sun
- Species is purple, hybrids: white, red, blue, purple; good hedge
- Root weevil, mildew
Water Zone 3

One irrigation per week
Sweet Shrub

*Calycanthus floridus*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 8 ft.  Spread - to 6 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Fragrant
- Very disease and pest resistant
Burning Bush

_Euonymus alatus_

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 8 ft. Spread - to 12 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Brilliant red leaves in fall, corky wings on new twigs.
- Avoid wet soils
Burning Bush

Euonymus alatus ‘compacta’

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 6 ft. Spread - to 6 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Brilliant red leaves in fall
- Avoid wet soils
Japanese Euonymus

Euonymus japonica

- Evergreen
- Ht. - to 10 ft. Spread - 6 ft.
- Partial sun, shade
- Inconspicuous flowers, umbrella spread top
- Avoid wet soils
Manhattan Euonymus

*Euonymus kiautschovica*

- Evergreen
- Height - to 8 ft.  Spread - to 12 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Inconspicuous flowers
- Protect from winter wind
Rose of Sharon

*Hibiscus syriacus*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft    Spread - to 8 ft.
- Sun, light shade
- White, red or purple flowers; single and double varieties
- Prefers moist soil
Beauty Bush

*Kolkwitzia amabilis*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - 10 ft  Spread - 8 ft
- Sun
- Yellow/pink blossoms, tough plants
- No serious insects or diseases
Golden Privet

*Liguistrum vicaryi*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 4 ft. Spread - to 3 ft.
- Sun, light shade
- Yellow foliage
- Avoid wet soils; does not develop color if clipped
Cheyenne Privet

*Ligustrum vulgare*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 15 ft.  Spread -  to 10 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Light green leaves are moderately glossy; good for hedges
- Root weevil; avoid wet soils
Oregon Grape

Mahonia aquifolium

- Evergreen;
- Ht. - to 6 ft. Spread - to 4 ft.
- Shade, sun
- Yellow blossoms; purple or bronze leaves in winter
- Winter burns
Eastern Pussywillow

*Salix discolor*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 20 ft.  Spread - to 15 ft.
- Sun
- Likes water but drought tolerant
- Unruly
American Elderberry

*Sambucus canadensis*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 8 ft.  Spread - to 6 ft.
- Sun
- Edible purple fruit
- Suckers freely
Bridal Wreath Spiraea

*Spiraea vanhouttei*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 6 ft.  Spread - to 8 ft.
- Sun
- Pink to lavender blooms in summer
- Avoid wet soils
Spiraea

Spiraea bumalda

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 3 ft. Spread - to 3 ft.
- Sun
- Pink to lavender blooms in summer
- Avoid wet soils
Japanese Yew
*Taxus cuspidata*

- Evergreen
- Ht. - to 10 ft. Spread - to 6 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Red berries; grown as a compact shrub
- Spider mites, scale, vine weevils
Upright Yew

*Taxus media*

- Evergreen
- Ht. - to 10 ft.  Spread - to 4 ft.
- Prefer shade
- Hybrid of Japanese and English Yew
- Spider mites, scale, vine weevils
English Yew

*Taxus baccata*

- Evergreen
- Ht. - to 20 ft. Spread - to 15 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Red berries
- Avoid clay soils
- Slow growing
American Arborvitae

*Thuja occidentalis*

- Evergreen
- Ht. - to 15 ft. Spread - to 6 ft.
- Sun
- Globe shaped
- Pull down in snow
Burkwood Viburnum

Viburnum burkwoodii

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 6 ft.  Spread - to 6 ft.
- Sun, light shade
- Fragrant white flowers, leaves silver underneath
- Avoid clay soils
Snowball Bush

*Viburnum opulus roseum*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 12 ft. Spread - to 12 ft.
- Sun, light shade
- Avoid clay soils
- Aphids
Leatherleaf Viburnum

*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*

- Evergreen
- Ht. - to 15 ft.  Spread - to 6 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Big textured leaves;
- Avoid clay soils, protect from winter winds
American Highbush Cranberry

*Viburnum trilobum*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 10 ft.  Spread - to 8 ft.
- Sun, light shade
- Edible red berries
- Avoid clay soils
High Water Table

No irrigation
Red Twig Dogwood

*Cornus sericea*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - 1 to 6 ft.  Spread - 1 to 6 ft.
- Sun, shade
- Red bark; reddish fall color
- Prefers water, tolerates drought shade, and cold
Sandbar Willow

*Salix exigua*

- Deciduous
- Ht. - to 8 ft. Spread - variable
- Sun
- Slender silvery gray leaves
- Spreads to thickets; sucker freely
For More Information Contact Your Local Utah State University Extension Office
Check Them Out At
http://extension.usu.edu/