

Lecture XVII: Shrubs

SHRUBS

Shrubs are defined as woody or semi woody perennial plants, the branches of which arise from the base of the plant and grow up to a height ranging from 50 cm to 4 m. Shrubs are used for back ground, boundary wall, screen, shade, wind breaks and foundation planting. Hence, knowledge on the form, growth habit and habitat is essential to select the shrubs for planting.

IMPORTANCE

1. Enhance aesthetic value of garden.
2. Provide fragrance in garden.
3. Act as boundary of property line and screen off unwanted sites or features.
4. Divides different areas or features in the garden.
5. Reduces winds and soil erosion and conserves moisture.
6. Reduces weed growth

Flowering shrubs: *Barleria cristata*, *Bougainvillea* spp., *Calliandra brevipes*, *C. haematocephala*, *Crossandra undulaefolia*, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, *Ixora singaporensis*, *Jasminum pubescens*, *Mussaenda erythrophylla*, *Tebernaemontana coronaria*.

Foliage shrubs: These shrubs produces beautiful foliage. Foliage of these shrubs are more attractive than their flowers e.g. *Acalypha*, *Codiaeum variegata* (Crotons), *Eranthemum*, *Euphorbia cotinifolia*, *Excoecaria bicolor*, *Manihot*, *Polyscias* (Aralia).

Fragrance shrubs: *Cestrum nocturnum*, *Jasminum auriculatum*, *J. grandiflorum*, *J. sambac*, *Gardenia jasminoides*, *Nyctanthes arbor-tistris*, *Portlandia grandiflora*, etc. produce scented flowers and emit good fragrance in the environment.

Sunny situation: *Bougainvillea*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, *Ixora chinensis*, *Jasminum sambac*

Partial or semi-shade: *Excoecaria bicolor*, *Jatropha rosea*, *Magnolia grandiflora*, *Olea fragrans*.

Hedges

For several reasons a garden should be enclosed by a good hedge or fence. It provides protection from cattle, shelter from wind and privacy. The best plant material for forming such a hedge would be a quick growing hardy shrub with attractive foliage and or handsome flowers, drought resistant and should stand trimming to shape and capable of being quickly and easily raised from seed or from cuttings to fill up the gaps promptly. Decorative internal hedges are formed of small-growing shrubs or under shrubs which have handsome foliage and bear in some cases handsome flowers as well. The usual height for an ornamental internal hedge varies from 30 to 65 cm. Its objective is to seemingly divide the garden into a number of parts, each part containing the distinctive feature of its own as a rosary or flower bed or collections of bulbs etc. As the boundary or the screen or the ornamental hedges are meant to be permanent features of a garden, proper care should be exercised in planting them. Trenches of 30 to 40cm wide and 40 to 45 cm deep should be dug and refilled with top soil, farmyard manure and red earth. Hedges are planted either with the seed or cuttings in the rainy season. Shoots should be tipped as they grow to induce them to branch out and side shoots should be cut back to the desired dimensions. A compact and a thick hedge is possible if its is trimmed as often as necessary, cutting back the overgrowing shoots strictly to the desired dimensions.

Plants suitable for ornamental internal hedges

Acalypha, Barleria, Bougainvillea, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, Duranta plumier Eranthemum, Hamelia, Hibiscus, Lantana

Plants suitable for boundary or tall hedges

Acacia farnesiana, Acalypha, Agave Americana, Aralia, Bougainvillea, *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*

Edges

Edges are plants which are employed in gardens for dividing beds, borders, roads, walks or path of demarcating spaces allotted for particular purpose, as flower beds. Mechanical edging made of bricks or rough or irregular stones embedded in the ground are also often used in gardens.

Edging plants are of dwarf growing in habit with handsome foliage and are amenable for regular trimming. The edging plants should be perennial, hardy, easily propagated and should have lasting foliage or flower or both. The height of an edge should be about 15 to 20 cm. Constant trimming is necessary to maintain proper shape and height.

Foliage plants suitable for edging

Alternanthera, *Coleus sp.*, *Eupatorium cannabinus*, *Iresine sp.*, *Santolina chamaecyparissus*

Botanical name	Common name	Family	Flower colour
<i>Acalypha hispida</i>	Acalypha	Euphorbiaceae	Red & Coloured leaf
<i>Adenium obesum</i>	Adenium	Apocynaceae	Pinkish-crimson
<i>Allmanda neriifolia</i>	Allmanda	Apocynaceae	Yellow
<i>Aphelandra fascinator</i>	-	Acanthaceae	Orange scarlet
<i>Barleria cristata</i>	Jhate	Acanthaceae	Violet-blue
<i>Bahunia acuminata</i>	Orchid Tree	Fabaceae	White
<i>Bahunia tomentosa</i>	Bell Bahunia	Fabaceae	
<i>Buddelia asiatica</i>	Bae Bei Fung	Fabaceae	White
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherima</i>	Peacock Flower	Fabaceae	Orange-scarlet
<i>Calliandra brevipes</i>	Esponja	Fabaceae	Pink
<i>Calliandra hybrid</i>	Powder puff	Fabaceae	Pink
<i>Cestrum diurnum</i>	Day Jasmine	Solanaceae	White
<i>Cestrum nocturnum</i>	Night Queen	Solanaceae	White

<i>Clerodendron inerme</i>	Forest Jasmine	Verbenaceae	White
<i>Crossandra undulaefolia</i>	Firecracker	Acanthaceae	Yellow, orange
<i>Daedalacanthus nervosus</i>	Gulsham	Acanthaceae	Blue
<i>Durenta plumier</i>	Pigeon berry	Verbanaceae	Blue
<i>Eranthemum laxiflorum</i>		Acanthaceae	Purple rose
<i>Euphorbia splendens</i>	Crown of Thorns	Euphorbiaceae	Red, yellow
<i>Galphimia gracilis</i>	Gold Shower	Malpighiaceae	Yellow
<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i>	Cape Jasmine	Rubiaceae	White
<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Firebush	Rubiaceae	Red
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	China Rose	Malvaceae	Red
<i>Ixora chinensis</i>	Pride of Orange	Rubiaceae	Pink
<i>Ixora coccinia</i>	Jungle geranium	Rubiaceae	Pink
<i>Jasminum sambac</i>	Arabian Jasmine	Oleaceae	White
<i>Jasminum multiflorum</i>	Star Jasmine	Oleaceae	White
<i>Jatropha pandurifolia</i>	Physic nut	Euphorbiaceae	Scarlet flower
<i>Justicia gendarussa</i>	Justicia	Acanthaceae	Carmine
<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>	Shravani	Lythraceae	Deep pink & white
<i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana	Verbenaceae	Orange
<i>Lantana sellowiana</i>	Weeping lantana	Verbenaceae	Blue
<i>Lawsonia enermis</i>	Henna, Mehendi	Lythraceae	White-sweet scented
<i>Malpighia coccigera</i>	Miniature holly	Malpighiaceae	Pinkish white
<i>Mussaenda corymbosa</i>	Dhoby Bush	Rubiaceae	Pale orange

<i>Nerium oleander</i>	Red Kaner	Apocynaceae	Red
<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i>	Harsingar	Oleaceae	White& orange
<i>Poinsettia pulcherima</i>		Euphorbiaceae	Ornamental bracts
<i>Russelia juncea</i>	Coral Plant	Scrophulariaceae	Red
<i>Tabernaemontana coronaria</i>	Chandni	Apocynaceae	White
<i>Tamrix dioca</i>		Tamaricaceae	Pink
<i>Tecoma gaudichaudi</i>		Bignoniaceae	Golden yellow
<i>Thevetia peruviana</i>		Apocynaceae	Yellow
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste tree	Verbenaceae	Verbenaceae