

Better Shrubs & Trees for the Shade

Dave Wanninger – Boerner Botanical Gardens

Shrubs

Aesculus parviflora – Bottlebrush Buckeye. Forms a slowly spreading patch. Great yellow fall color.

'Iroquois Beauty' Black Chokeberry. Flowers, fruit, fall color. 'Autumn Magic' is also good.

Fringetree - *Chionanthus virginicus* (light shade).

Bush-honeysuckle – *Diervilla sessilifolia*. Cool Splash Variegated Bush-honeysuckle (*Diervilla sessilifolia* 'LDPC Podaras') - tough, easy, shade tolerant, clean, sharp variegation. Also: Kodiak™ Orange and Kodiak™ Black (*Diervilla rivularis* 'G2X88544' and 'S MNDRSF').

Neon Burst Dogwood (*Cornus alba* 'ByB oughten') – bright gold leaves', good leaf spot resistance.

Irish Setter™ Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*) – Wisconsin native, tough, shade tolerant, better leaf spot resistance than the species.

Dwarf Burning Bush – *Euonymus alata*. Many older varieties now banned in Wisconsin (DNR 40). 'Compacta' is still legal, but varieties like 'Rudy Haag' and 'Little Moses' fruit less than 'Compacta'.

Blue Shadow Fothergilla (*Fothergilla x intermedia* 'Blue Shadow') holds its remarkably blue color all through the growing season, great fall color.

Endless Summer™ Bloomstruck® Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla* 'PIIHM-II'). A cross between the original Endless Summer and Twist and Shout. Is it more reliable than the original? Also: Summer Crush.

Hydrangea arborescens Invincibelle Spirit® and *Hydrangea arborescens* Bella Anna™ - pink flowering 'Annabelle?' – not quite. There is now also a "new and improved" Invincibelle Spirit II. New "Annabelle" types: Invincibelle Ruby, Invincibelle Limetta, Invincibelle Wee White, and InvincibelleMini Mauvette. – very promising.

Panicle Hydrangeas – 'Limelight', Quickfire™, Pinky Winky™ – excellent newer panicle hydrangeas.

Vanilla Strawberry™ Panicle Hydrangea has looked very good in the Earth-Kind Hydrangea Trials. Sort of like Limelight with more pink in the flowers. Also: Zinfin Doll™.

New, "dwarf" panicle hydrangeas: Little Lime™, Bobo®, Strawberry Sundae™, Little Quick Fire™. Also: 'Sky Light', Bombshell™, 'Silver Dollar', Tickled Pink™.

'Ruby Slippers' Oakleaf Hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*) - a heavy flowering, dense, compact cross of 'Snow Queen' x 'Pee Wee'. Similar (smaller?) – 'Munchkin' oakleaf hydrangea.

Little Devil™ Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius* 'Donna May') - compact (4'), upright habit. A Wisconsin-bred winner! Proven Winners offers Tiny Wine™. Summer Wine is a good larger variety as is 'Center Glow', with amber leaves. A new intro is Fireside, a compact purple leaf variety.

Glow Girl™ Spirea (*S. betulifolia* 'Tor Gold') – Looks good in container, good parentage.

Sugar 'n Spice™ Korean Spice Viburnum (*V. carlesii* 'Select S') – heavier flowering than the species; full, even plant form.

Spice Island™ Korean Spice Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii* 'Select A') – a better version of 'Compacta' Korean Spice Viburnum.

Evergreens

Yew – *Taxus x media*. Basic shade shrub.

Hybrid Boxwood – 'Green Velvet' 'Green Gem', 'Green Mountain' all good. Some concerns with boxwood blight now in Wisconsin.

Canadian Hemlock – *Tsuga canadensis*. Huge variety of plant forms and sizes.

Russian Cypress – *Microbiota decussata*. Quality groundcover but needs good drainage.

Ornamental Trees

Japanese Maples (As Clint Eastwood said, "Are you feeling lucky?") 'Red Emperor' aka 'Emperor One' Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*) – the hardiest of the Japanese maples. Also: 'Bloodgood'.

Fullmoon Maple – *Acer japonicum* 'Aconitifolium'

Northern Glow® Hybrid Korean Maple (*Acer pseudosieboldianum* x *palmatum* 'Hasselkus')
-much hardier than Japanese maple (*A palmatum*)

Also: two plants with similar parentage and promise from Iseli Nursery:

'North Wind' - finer textured with with bronzy red new growth that lasts into summer

'Arctic Jade' – less divided, green leaves. .

Three Flowered Maple – *Acer triflorum*. Peeling bark, fall color.

Serviceberry – *Amelanchier canadensis*. Flowers, fruit, fall color.

Standing Ovation™ Serviceberry (*A. alnifolia* 'Obelisk') – very upright, tight and compact.

Musclewood, aka Blue Beech, aka American Hornbeam - (*Carpinus caroliniana*) The "JN Strain" seed strain has improved plant vigor and fall color, as do the cultivars Firespire™ and Ball O'Fire™.

Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*). 'Golden Shadows' is a variegated cultivar, 'Gold Bullion' is all gold leaved. Both need some afternoon shade.

Shade Trees

Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple® (*Acer saccharum* 'Bailista')

-vigorous grower with good form and less frost cracking

- thick, large leaves resistant to tatter

-reliable orange red fall color