

WHY REPLACE BUCKTHORN AND HONEYSUCKLE IN YOUR YARD?

Woody invasive plants, such as common and glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *Rhamnus frangula*) or Eurasian bush-honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.), form dense thickets and reproduce aggressively, shading out other plants and disrupting ecosystems in forest preserves and other natural areas. In woodlands, they can completely replace young trees and understory plants, including native wildflowers. Buckthorn also causes long-lasting damage to the soil and wildlife habitat where it grows.

Unfortunately, they are also commonly found in residential landscaping. This guide suggests shrubs that can be planted to replace invasive hedges or screens being removed.

HOW TO GROW A SCREEN OR HEDGE

Freeform screening – Shrub species can be grown without “formal pruning” using their natural structure.

Formal hedges – Start with 18"-24" plants, cutting back to 6" to cause low branching. Cut off half the new growth over the next two years. Start shaping the hedge the third year, making the base broader than the top. Formal hedges must be sheared 2 or more times each year.

Naturalistic hedges – Informal hedges grow best when plants are kept at about ¾ of their full size. Start with shrubs that will get a little bigger than the size of the hedge you want. Once a year, these hedges need a light overall pruning and a renewal pruning (cutting ⅓ of the older canes off at ground level).



Photo Credit: Peter O'Connor

Do I have buckthorn on my property?

Common buckthorn
Rhamnus cathartica
(8-25ft)



Buckthorn is a large shrub or tall tree with glossy oval leaves that can easily be recognized in fall, when it remains green after most other leaves have fallen. Buckthorn has berries that are spread by birds. Under the Illinois Exotic Weed Act, buckthorn cannot be sold in Illinois.

HEALTHY HEDGES

Healthy Hedges is a collaborative campaign to reduce the damage caused by invasive woody plants in the Chicago Region. As of 2010, invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle made up 30% of all the trees in the seven county region. Land managers in the region fight a constant—and expensive—battle to protect our shared natural areas from the effects of these woody plants. Help them protect our forests and prairies by replacing invasive hedges in your yard with shrubs from this guide!

- ▶ *Learn how to identify and eradicate invasive species and where to purchase replacement shrubs at:*

ChicagoRTI.org/HealthyHedges

- ▶ *Join the conversation on social media with:*

#HealthyHedges

Provided by:



HEALTHY HEDGES

Invasive Hedge and Screen Replacement Guide: *Non-Native Shrubs*

Healthy Hedges

Recommended privacy screen replacements, following removal of European Woody Invasive Species

KEY: Habitat Icons

Shrubs are divided into deciduous and conifer sections, then sorted by common name.

☀ = Full sun

☁ = Full shade

☾ = Part shade

🦌 = Deer Resistant

S = Screen (Landscape use)

H = Hedge (Landscape use)

💧 = Range of soil wetness tolerated, from dry to standing water

Non-Native, Deciduous Shrubs

Non-Native, Evergreen Shrubs



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

Alpine currant
Ribes alpinum
(3-6ft)

☀ ☁ **H** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

common flowering quince
Chaenomeles speciosa
(6-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Dguendel, CC BY 4.0, creativecommons.org

fragrant snowball
Viburnum x carlcephalum
(6-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



P. Credit: Breuil Aroche, CC BY-SA 3.0 creativecommons.org

Manchurian lilac
Syringa pubescens subsp. *patula* (5-9ft)

☀ ☾ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



(Photo shows fall color) Photo Credit: Andrey Zharkikh

red chokeberry
Aronia arbutifolia
(5-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

smooth arrowwood viburnum
Viburnum dentatum (6-10ft)

☀ ☾ **S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

Anglojap yew
Taxus x media
(8-40ft*)

☀ ☁ **H S**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

Chinese juniper
Juniperus chinensis
(varies widely)

☀ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Phillip Merritt

Inkberry
Ilex glabra
(5-8ft)

☀ ☁ **H** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Rhonda Tardif

bridalwreath spirea
Spirea prunifolia
(6-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

common lilac
Syringa vulgaris
(8-12ft)

☀ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: F.D. Richards

golden vicary privet
Ligustrum x vicaryi
(6-12ft)

☀ ☾ **H**

💧 to 💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Uwe Thobae

oakleaved hydrangea
Hydrangea quercifolia
(4-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H S**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

Sargent's crabapple
Malus sargentii
(6-10ft)

☀ **H**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Agnieszka Kwiecien, creativecommons.org

spreading cotoneaster
Cotoneaster divaricatus
(5-8ft)

☀ ☾ **H S**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

bayberry
Myrica pensylvanica
(5-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Phillip Merritt

common boxwood
Buxus sempervirens
(3-4ft)

☀ ☁ **H** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

Japanese yew
Taxus cuspidata
(5-40ft*)

☀ ☁ **H**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

Canada serviceberry
Amelanchier canadensis
(8-25ft)

☀ ☾ **S** 🦌

💧💧💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

cut-leaved stephanandra
Stephanandra incisa
(4-7ft)

☀ ☾ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

hedge cotoneaster
Cotoneaster lucida
(8-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H S**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

purple basket willow
Salix purpurea
(8-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H S**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Mark Dwyer, Rotary Botanical Gardens

Siebold's shrub-ginseng
Eleutherococcus sieboldianus
(8-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

vernal witchhazel
Hamamelis vernalis
(6-10ft)

☀ ☾ **H** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

boxwood hybrids
Buxus hybrids
(3-5ft)

☀ ☾ **H** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

giant arborvitae
Thuja plicata
(50-70ft*)

☀ ☾ **H S**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

scarlet firethorn
Pyracantha coccinea
(6-18ft)

☀ ☾ **S**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

clove currant
Ribes odoratum
(6-8ft)

☀ ☾ **S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

flowering almond
Prunus triloba
(10-15ft)

☀ ☾ **H**

💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Richard Webb, Bugwood.org, CC2

Lemoine's deutzia
Deutzia x lemoine
(5-8ft)

☀ **H S** 🦌

💧 to 💧💧💧💧

Provided by:



* Although the standard form of this species is a large, single-stemmed tree, it can be trained from a young age to form a hedge at a smaller height.
** Plants shown are not to scale and represent various seasonal characteristics.