**Shrubs that merit attention**

**Underused and Hardy Shrubs for the Kansas City Area**

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<tr>
<th>Size</th>
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| **BAYBERRY** | *Myrica pensylvanica*                | • Extremely adaptable  
• Grows in full sun to half shade  
• Upright growing shrub  
• Excellent plant for mass planting or borders  
• Leaves have a leathery texture and are aromatic when crushed  
• Produces small, gray waxy fruits  
• Male and female plants required for good fruiting |
| Height: 6-8'  | Spread: 5-6'                         |                                                                            |
| **BEAUTYBERRY** | *Callicarpa dichotoma*               | • Well-drained soil  
• Grows in full sun or light shade  
• Flowers produced on new growth  
• For best appearance, prune back to 6-18' in spring  
• Graceful, rounded shrub with arching branches that touch the ground  
• Small, lavender-pink blooms in June-August followed in September by bright violet berries |
| Height: 3-5'  | Spread: 4-6'                         |                                                                            |
| **BOTTLEBRUSH BUCKEYE** | *Aesculus parviflora*             | • Plant in early spring  
• Prefers acid soil, but is adaptable  
• Will grow in full sun or partial shade, but growth is more prolific in shade  
• Pruning seldom needed  
• Outstanding flowering shrub with wide-spreading, suckering growth  
• Leaves are medium to dark green, turning soft yellow in fall  
• 8-12" white “bottlebrush” blooms produced June -July |
| Height: 8-12' | Spread: 8-15'                        |                                                                            |
| **BUCKTHORN** | *Rhamnus frangula* ‘Asplenifolia’   | • Adaptable  
• Prefers well-drained soil  
• Will grow in sun or partial shade  
• Outstanding specimen plant  
• Leaves are narrow like a willow adding a ferny appearance to the landscape |
| Height: 10-12' | Spread: 6-10'                        |                                                                            |
| **CAROLINA ALLSPICE** | *Calycanthus floridus*             | • Adaptable to many soils  
• Will grow in sun or shade, but becomes tall and straggly in shade  
• Dense, bushy rounded shrub  
• Worthwhile for every garden  
• Produces reddish-brown flowers with a fruity fragrance in May (best to purchase plants in bloom as scent can be different on plants grown from seed) |
<p>| Height: 6-9'  | Spread: 8-10'                        |                                                                            |</p>
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| **CHOKEBERRY** *Aronia arbutifolia* *Aronia melanocarpa*  
Height: 3-5’ or 6-8’  
Spread: 2-4’ or 6-8’ | • Tolerant of a wide range of soils and conditions  
• Best fruit production in full sun | • Ornamental shrub with a spreading-suckering growth habit  
• Best used in mass plantings  
• Leaves dark green in summer, changing to red, crimson or purple in fall |
| **CLETHRA** *Clethra alnifolia*  
Height: 3-6’  
Spread: 3-6’ | • Prefers moist, acid soil rich in organic matter  
• Very tolerant of wet soils and shade, but will grow in full sun  
• One of the easiest plants to grow | • Excellent fragrant, summer flowering shrub  
• Leaves are glossy, dark green in summer, turning soft yellow in fall  
• Late to leaf out in spring  
• White flowers in May followed by red or purplish-black fruits |
| **FOTHERGILLA** *Fothergilla gardenii* ‘Blue Mist’  
*Fothergilla gardenii* ‘Mount Airy’  
Height: 2-3’ or 3-5’  
Spread: 2-3’ | • Prefers moist, well-drained acid soil  
• Does well in part shade, but flowers and colors best in full sun | • A great native American shrub for fall color  
• Bluish-green summer foliage that turns a combination of red, orange and yellow in fall  
• White, honey-scented “bottlebrush” blooms in April |
| **HARRY LAUDER’S WALKING STICK** *Corylus avellana* ‘Contorta’  
Height: 6-9’  
Spread: 6-10’ | • Prefers well-drained soil  
• pH adaptable  
• Usually grafted and suckers need to be cut | • Good specimen shrub  
• Stems and leaves are twisted, creating great winter interest  
• Produces catkins in early spring |
| **HYPERICUM** *Hypericum* ‘Hidcote’  
*Hypericum frondosum* ‘Sunburst’  
Height: 2-3’  
Spread: 2-4’ | • Does well in dry soils  
• pH adaptable  
• Grows in full sun or partial shade | • Splendid golden yellow flowers are borne profusely in spring with sporadic flowers into fall  
• Foliage bluish-green  
• ‘Hidcote’ may die back to ground in winter, but sends up new shoots in spring that flower in July |
| **INKBERRY** *Ilex x glabra*  
Height: 3-6’  
Spread: 3-5’ | • Prefers moist, acid soils  
• Tolerates shade and will grow in full sun with adequate moisture  
• Hardest evergreen holly | • Excellent plant for foundation plantings or hedges  
• Dark green, shiny leaves all year long  
• More deer-resistant than other hollies |
| **KERRIA** *Kerria japonica* ‘Pleniflora’  
Height: 3-5’  
Spread: 4-6’ | • Requires well-drained soil  
• Full shade  
• Will sucker | • Interesting free flowering shrub  
• Bright golden yellow flowers in May  
• Bright green twigs attractive in winter |
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<td>NINEBARK</td>
<td>Physocarpus opulifolius ‘Dart’s Golden’ or ‘Diabolo’</td>
<td>Height: 4-5’ or 4-8’ or 4-8’; Spread: 4-5’ or 4-8’; Adaptable; Full sun; Tolerates dry conditions; Renew by cutting to ground in late winter or early spring; White flowers in spring, but planted for foliage; ‘Dart’s Golden’ has bright golden spring foliage and ‘Diabolo’ has brilliant reddish-purple spring foliage</td>
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<td>OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA</td>
<td>Hydrangea quercifolia ‘Alice,’ ‘Snow Queen,’ ‘Snowflake’ or ‘Sikes Dwarf’</td>
<td>Height: 3-4 to 10-12’; Spread: 3-4 to 10-12’; Requires moist, well-drained soil; Grows in sun or partial shade; Large leathery green leaves develop wonderful fall colors ranging from wine-red to purple to deep burgundy; White, 4-12” flower panicles appear in late May; Bloom color changes to pinkish-beige by fall</td>
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<td>OREGON GRAPEHOLLY</td>
<td>Mahonia aquifolium Mahonia aquifolium ‘Compacta’</td>
<td>Height: 2-3’ or 4-6’; Spread: 3-4’ or 4-6’; Prefers moist, well-drained acid soil; Avoid hot, dry soils; Protect from wind; Prefers shade; Good shrub for shady areas with glossy dark evergreen foliage that turns purple-bronze in winter; Bright yellow flowers in April followed by blue-black fruit in July-September</td>
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<td>PANICLE HYDRANGEA</td>
<td>Hydrangea paniculata ‘Angel’s Blush’, ‘Brussles Lace’, ‘Burgundy Lace’, ‘Tardiva’ or ‘Grandiflora’</td>
<td>Height: 6-8’; Spread: 6-8’; Prefers moist, well-drained soil; Sun or partial shade; Very hardy; Most adaptable; An excellent shrub for late summer interest; Very large flowers produced in late summer; Beautiful when planted in mass</td>
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<td>PINK HYDRANGEA</td>
<td>Hydrangea serrata ‘Preziosa’ or ‘Bluebird’</td>
<td>Height: 2-3’; Spread: 3-4’; Does well in sun or half shade; Plants die to the ground in winter, but bloom freely on new growth in summer; Mulch well; A hardy, free-flowering, pink hydrangea with thick, dark green leaves; An alternative to ‘Nikko Blue’</td>
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<td>SERVICEBERRY</td>
<td>Amelanchier alnifolia ‘Regent’</td>
<td>Height: 4-6’; Spread: 4-5’; Prefers moist, well-drained, acid soil, but tolerant of most soils; Tolerates full sun or part shade; White flowers in spring are followed by red fruits that change to a bluish-purple; Stunning fall display as leaves change to gold, orange and red; Edible fruit</td>
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<td>INDIAN CURRANT</td>
<td>Symphoricarpos x doorenbosii ‘Magic Berry’</td>
<td>Height: 3-4’; Spread: 4-5’; Tolerant of any soil; Native on limestone and clay; Full sun to heavy shade; Suckers profusely; Flowers produced on new wood; Compact, arching shrub with dull blue-green leaves and white, rose tinged flowers in June; Abundant rose-pink fruits follow in the fall</td>
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| **SUMAC Rhus aromatica ‘Gro-low’** | • Prefers acid, well-drained soil, but will grow in dry soils  
• Grows in half shade or full sun | • Low-growing shrub with glossy foliage  
• Great groundcover  
• Produces yellow flowers in spring followed by red, hairy fruit  
• Good orange-red fall color |
| **SWEETSPIRE Itea virginica ‘Little Henry,’ Itea virginica ‘Henry’s Garnet’** | • Prefers moist, fertile soils, but will tolerate wet soils and is drought tolerant  
• Will grow in full sun or shade  
• pH adaptable | • Pride of Kansas selection  
• Beautiful, fragrant white flowers with bright green, shiny foliage that turns shades of crimson, scarlet and purple in the fall |
| **WEIGELA Weigela florida “Wine & Roses,” Weigela florida “Midnight Wine,” Weigela florida “French Lace”** | • Very adaptable, but prefers well-drained soil and full sun  
• Pruning after flowering is usually needed to maintain good shape | • Spreading, dense shrub with arching branches  
• Brilliantly colored, funnel-shaped flowers appear in late spring with a second lighter bloom in late summer  
• Selected varieties display beautiful variegated or burgundy colored foliage |
| **WINTERBERRY Ilex verticillata (many varieties)** | • Very adaptable  
• Tolerates wet soils as well as light and heavy soils  
• Full sun or partial shade | • Deciduous holly  
• Bright red to orange berries in fall which are loved by birds  
• Male and female plants required for berry production |
| **WITCH HAZEL Hamamelis x intermedia ‘Arnold Promise’ or ‘Diane’** | • Prefers partial shade and moist, well-drained soils | • Can be used as a small tree  
• Flowers emerge as early as February and often last until April  
• Excellent fall color of yellow, orange, red and purple |

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