

# Healthy Hedges

Recommended privacy screen replacements, following removal of European buckthorn

## Key

Species in boxes are our top picks and are highlighted with a photo.

**W** = Tolerates wet conditions

**D** = Tolerates dry conditions

= Prefers sunny locations

= Prefers shade

<http://chicagorti.org/HealthyHedges>

## Grass, Ground, and Herbaceous

**Canada Anemone**  
*Anemone canadensis*  
(1-2' H x 1' W)

**Wild Ginger**  
*Asarum canadense*  
(6" H x 6-12" W)

**Butterfly Weed**  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
(2-3' H x 2-4' W)

One of the showiest milkweeds, it has orange clusters of flowers and long, narrow leaves. It is drought-tolerant, will not move around much in the garden, and is a host for many pollinators.

**Swamp Milkweed**  
*Asclepias incarnata*  
(2-5' H x 2-3' W)

**Lady Fern**  
*Athyrium filix-femina*  
(2' H x 1' W)

This hardy fern is great for perennial borders and woodlands.

**Hairy Wood Mint**  
*Blephilia hirsutus*  
(3' H x 18" W)

**Wild Hyacinth**  
*Camassia schilloides*  
(6-12" H x 12" W)

**Palm Sedge**  
*Carex muskingumensis*  
(2-3' H x 1-2' W)

**Curly Wood Sedge**  
*Carex rosea*  
(12" H x 12" W)

**Beak Grass**  
*Diarrhena obovata*  
(2' H x 1' W)

**Pale Purple Coneflower**  
*Echinacea pallida*  
(2-3' H x 1-2' W)

**Bottlebrush Grass**  
*Elymus hystrix*  
(3-4' H x 1" W)

**Purple Lovegrass**  
*Eragrostis spectabilis*  
(1-2' H x 1-2' W)

**Big-leaf Aster**  
*Eurybia macrophylla*  
(1' H x 1' W)

**Wild Geranium**  
*Geranium maculatum*  
(1' H x 1' W)

Colony-forming forb with showy pink-purple flowers.

**Rough Blazing Star**  
*Liatris aspera*  
(2-3' H x 1-2' W)

**Virginia Bluebells**  
*Mertensia virginica*  
(2' H x 1-2' W)

**Solomon's Seal**  
*Polygonatum biflorum*  
(2-4' H x 1-2' W)

**Wild Petunia**  
*Ruellia humilis*  
(1-2' H x 1-3' W)

**Little Bluestem**  
*Schizachyrium scoparium*  
(2-4' H x 1-2' W)

**Prairie Dropseed**  
*Sporobolus heterolepis*  
(1-2' H x 2-3' W)

Dense tufts of sprawling narrow-leaved grass that turn golden in fall with a lovely sweet scent.

**Sky Blue Aster**  
*Symphotrichum oolentangiense*  
(2-3' H x 1-2' W)

**Golden Alexanders**  
*Zizia aurea*  
(1-3' H x 2-3' W)

## Shrubs

**Lead Plant**  
*Amorpha canescens*  
(1-3' H x 1-3' W)

**Shrub Indigo**  
*Amorpha fruticosa*  
(10-15' H x 15-20' W)

**New Jersey Tea**  
*Ceanothus americanus*  
(2-4' H x 2-4' W)

Posies of white flowers transform into unique seed heads for winter interest on this densely rounded shrub.

**Buttonbush**  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*  
(6-12' H x 12-18' W)

**Hazelnut**  
*Corylus americana*  
(5-8' H x 5-10' W)

**Witchhazel**  
*Hamamelis virginiana*  
(10-20' H x 15-20' W)

**Wild Hydrangea**  
*Hydrangea arborescens*  
(3-5' H x 3-5' W)

**Shrubby St. John's Wort**  
*Hypericum prolificum*  
(3-5' H x 3-5' W)

**Winterberry**  
*Ilex verticillata*  
(6-12' H x 6-8' W)

**Spicebush**  
*Lindera benzoin*  
(6-12' H x 6-12' W)

**Ninebark**  
*Physocarpus opulifolius*  
(5-10' H x 5-10' W)

**Fragrant Sumac**  
*Rhus aromatica*  
(5-8' H x 8-10' W)

**American Currant**  
*Ribes americanum*  
(3-5' H x 3-5' W)

Fast-growing shrub with arching stems. Drooping yellow flowers mature into sweet-tart, edible fruit. Fall foliage is a lovely red.

**Carolina Rose**  
*Rosa carolina*  
(3-8' H x 4-6' W)

**Prairie Willow**  
*Salix humilis*  
(5-8' H x 2-5' W)

**Elderberry**  
*Sambucus canadensis*  
(5-10' H x 5-10' W)

**Bladdernut**  
*Staphylea trifolia*  
(10-15' H x 8-12' W)

**Early Low Blueberry**  
*Vaccinium angustifolium*  
(2-3' H x 2-4' W)

This is one tough little shrub. White flowers in spring attract insects. Fruits appear in June and attract birds when ripe.

**Nannyberry**  
*Viburnum lentago*  
(15-20' H x 8-10' W)

Excellent privacy hedge replacement. Has clusters of white flowers in summer and lovely red foliage in fall.

**Blackhaw**  
*Viburnum prunifolium*  
(12-15' H x 12-20' W)

## Understory/Small Trees

**Downy Serviceberry**  
*Amelanchier arborea*  
(15-25' H x 10-12' W)

**Allegheny Serviceberry**  
*Amelanchier laevis*  
(15-25' H x 15-25' W)

**Blue Beech**  
*Carpinus caroliniana*  
(20-25' H x 15-20' W)

Mid-sized trees with smooth, gray bark. This tree grows well in different soils and pH.

**Redbud**  
*Cercis canadensis*  
(20-30' H x 25-35' W)

Attractive multi-stemmed tree with heart-shaped leaves. Magenta flowers in spring transform into unique peapods.

**Pagoda Dogwood**  
*Cornus alternifolia*  
(15-25' H x 20-30' W)

**Cockspur Hawthorn**  
*Crataegus crus-galli*  
(20-25' H x 20-25' W)

**Downy Hawthorn**  
*Crataegus mollis*  
(20-30' H x 20-40' W)

Hardy hawthorn with distinct lateral branching, soft fuzzy leaves, and showy white flowers followed by red fruits.

**Ironwood**  
*Ostrya virginiana*  
(40-45' H x 20-30' W)

**Chokecherry**  
*Prunus virginiana*  
(20-25' H x 15-20' W)

**Staghorn Sumac**  
*Rhus typhina*  
(15-25' H x 15-25' W)

**Arborvitae**  
*Thuja occidentalis*  
(30-60' H x 10-15' W)

This is a hardy, versatile evergreen. The narrow profile makes it a nice choice for windbreaks. It requires very little care when used as a hedge.

## Canopy

**American Beech**  
*Fagus grandifolia*  
(50-80' H x 50-70' W)

**White Pine**  
*Pinus strobus*  
(80-120' H x 20-40' W)

**White Oak**  
*Quercus alba*  
(60-100' H x 100' W)

Stately long-lived oak found in every county of Illinois. Features light gray bark and rounded leaves that turn a rich red in fall.

**Red Oak**  
*Quercus rubra*  
(60-100' H x 100' W)

**Basswood/Linden**  
*Tilia americana*  
(60-90' H x 30-60' W)

**Canadian Hemlock**  
*Tsuga canadensis*  
(40-70' H x 25-35' W)

Provided by:



\*Plants shown are not to scale and represent various seasonal characteristics.

## TIPS FROM OUR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS & BEST PRACTICES

- Identify invasive species and remove them. Buckthorn is best controlled by cutting the stem a few inches above the soil, then applying herbicide to the cut stump.
- Assess what you have. Bare spots? Trees? Low areas with water? Have your soil tested. Learn the right plants for the right yard.
- Consider planting native species.
- Reduce turf grass and pesticide use.
- Eliminate insecticide use.
- Conserve water and collect rainwater.
- Use a mulching mower instead of a bagger. Alternatively, rake and compost leaves and clippings to redistribute on gardens for nature's free fertilizer.

# Healthy Hedges

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Learn more online at  
[chicagorti.org/HealthyHedges](http://chicagorti.org/HealthyHedges)

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By developing a network of critical landscapes, everyone can work together to safeguard the resources and places that benefit people, wildlife, and the economy.

Buckthorn is the most common tree in the Chicago region, making up approximately 40 percent of our canopy, according to a 2010 tree census conducted by the U.S. Forest Service and The Morton Arboretum.

It will continue to be an issue until the whole community is involved: from private landowners to homeowner associations, golf courses to garden clubs, businesses to school districts.

But momentum is building and will continue to build. See the reverse page for recommended species to plant in place of invasive buckthorn. Together, public and private partners are working toward a buckthorn-free Chicago region.

Let's tell this invader: "The BUCKTHORN stops here!"