

July, 14 2023 Scent-sational Leaves



Common Name: Sweet Shrub

Botanical Name: Calycanthus floridus

Sweet Shrub, also called Carolina Allspice, is a North America native that typically grows from six to nine feet tall. Burgundy flowers appear in May and are followed by brown fruit, which persist late into the year to provide winter interest. On one side, the foliage is a deep green and underneath there is a paler color. The leaves are aromatic when bruised, releasing spicy and savory scent. Sweetshrub is best used where the fragrance can be enjoyed such as a border, patio or used as a naturalized planting.



Common Name: Fragrant Sumac

Botanical Name: Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low'

Gro-low fragrant sumac is a deciduous low growing north American native shrub. This shrub grows two to four feet tall, and heavily suckers, which can form dense clusters of growth extending outwards of 8'. In early spring, it has tiny yellow flowers. Clusters of fuzzy red fruit appear later in the season, which are very sour but edible for wildlife. Dependable displays of red to orange autumn foliage are vibrant. The branches and leaves are quite aromatic when crushed and bruised giving an odor resembling the inner rind of an orange peel, and has also been described as a skunky odor.



Common Name: Chinese Pistache

Botanical Name: Pistacia chinensis

Chinese Pistache is a relatively small deciduous tree growing to about 30 feet tall. It is a very adaptable tree for urban planting; it can thrive in poor quality soil, heat, and harsh conditions. It is native to China, Taiwan and the Philippines, but has escaped cultivation and begun to naturalize in California, Texas, Alabama and Georgia. It's colorful fruit, called drupes, are inedible, but the related species Pistacia vera produces the edible pistachio nuts. It has a dependable display of scarlet, yellow and orange autumn foliage. The leaves give off a sweet and spiced smell when crushed and bruised.



Common Name: Chinese Wild Ginger

Botanical Name: Asarum splendens

Wild ginger is a wonderful groundcover for any shade garden with well drained, moist soil. It stays under eight inches tall and spreads about a foot and a half. It is cultivated for its variegated foliage which has attractive silvery splotches. Chinese ginger is semi evergreen in a mild winter but typically dies back to its roots underground. While it's commonly called a ginger, it is not related to culinary ginger, although it's roots have a ginger like smell and taste.



Common Name: Betony

Botanical Name: Stachys officinalis 'Hummelo'

This betony cultivar is a very tidy and steady performing perennial. It grows up to two feet and stays in a tight clump. The bright pink inflorescences are dense with flowers and grow all summer long into the fall. 'Hummelo' was named Perennial Plant of the Year in 2019 by the Perennial Plant Association. The foliage has a scalloped edge, long petioles and a pungent, metallic scent when crushed.



Common Name: Beebalm

Botanical Name: Monarda didyma 'Jacob Cline'

This variety of beebalm is a popular perennial that reaches three to four feet high. The cultivar 'Jacob Cline' produces tightly clustered two inch scarlet bloom. Beebalm is native to North America and can be found growing in moist open woods, meadows, low mountain ranges and stream banks. Most species of beebalm are susceptible to powdery mildew, but 'Jacob Cline' has some noted resistance. The plant's stems and leaves have a minty, earl grey tea fragrance.



Common Name: Grassy-leaved Sweet Flag

Botanical Name: Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'

This tough perennial can be used as a groundcover and provide a bright focus for a shaded garden. Individual plants will stay under ten inches high and slowly spread to a foot or more wide. When planted in mass, acorus will form a solid mat of light green, nearly yellow, grassy foliage. The leaves have a sweet and spicy smell, similar to frankincense, when crushed. Sweet Flag is semi ever-green and will provide bright color during a mild winter.



Common Name: Sweetbay Magnolia

Botanical Name: Magnolia virginiana

Another small, yet sturdy tree is the Sweet bay magnolia. Growing upwards of 35' tall, this magnolia can tolerate a wide range of hardships, including heavy wet soils and boggy conditions. Magnolias are often grown for the flowers and ornamental value; they are also popular rain garden trees. Native to the eastern United states, the foliage is semi evergreen in warmer climates and deciduous in colder climates. This magnolia blooms in late spring and sporadically through the summer, its flowers are much smaller than the more popular southern magnolia but just a fragrant. The leaves and twigs have a unique sweet, bayberry scent when crushed.



Common Name: Beautyberry

Botanical Name: Callicarpa Americana

This deciduous shrub is native to central and southeastern United States and can be found in woodland areas, hills, and along the edges of meadows. Beautyberry has small, frilly lavender flowers in the summer. This shrub produces a vibrant purple fruit that is edible for wildlife. Fruits start showing color in August and will stay on through the winter until birds have eaten them. Beautyberry is a good addition to pollinator and bird gardens in zones 6 to 12. The foliage has a sharp, soapy scent when crushed.



Common Name: Chastetree

Botanical Name: Vitex agnus-castus Blue PuffballTM

This summer flowering shrub is a drought tolerant and low-care plant. The Blue PuffballTM variety has a compact and distinctly globe shape of four to six feet. Which differs greatly from other varieties which can reach 20 feet high. The lilac colored flowers appear in abundance and the clusters of seeds that follow are an attractive gray color. When Vitex leaves are crushed they have an unforgettable smell similar to tomato leaves.



Common Name: Giant Hyssop

Botanical Name: Agastache 'Blue Fortune'

This herbaceous perennial forms spikes of small lavender-blue tubular flowers, which are attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies. This plant is most commonly used in patio containers or mixed perennial plantings and flowers during the summer time. The foliage is pleasantly aromatic when brushed against or crushed. It's been described as a peppermint-lemon scent and licorice



Common Name: Jerusalem Sage

Botanical Name: **Phlomis fruticosa**

This distinct, shrubby perennial is sure to draw attention. The buttery-yellow flowers form a series of ball-shaped clusters on the stems which complement the soft silver-grey foliage nicely. Jerusalem sage is a tough plant, easy to grow and drought tolerant. It can reach 4 feet in height and width and blooms in late spring and summer. Leaves are aromatic when crushed, smelling like mint and apples.

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Myriad Guided Tours are at 10AM, last Saturday of the month. Please check our web calendar or social media for additional tour dates and times.







