



Top Shrubs for Sun

This is a list of some of the best shrubs that will accept varying degrees of sun for East Texas. A shrub is a type of woody plant characterized by its multiple stems and shorter height compared to trees. Typically, shrubs grow to a height of 3 to 15 feet and have a dense, bushy structure. Unlike trees, which usually have a single trunk, shrubs have several branches that grow near the ground. They can be evergreen, retaining their leaves year-round, or deciduous, shedding leaves in the colder months. Shrubs are often used in landscaping for hedges, borders, or decorative accents due to their variety in size, shape, and color. Common examples include hollies, ligustrums, and loropetalum. See a Plants of Texas Garden Associate for help in determining the best plants for your landscape needs.

1. **Althea** (*Hibiscus syriacus* 'Rose of Sharon') - Commonly known as Rose of Sharon, this upright, multi-trunk, deciduous shrub grows 6 to 8 feet tall and 5 to 7 feet wide. It blooms in various colors depending on the variety, attracts pollinators, is deer and drought tolerant, and thrives in clay soil, heat, and humidity.
2. **Barberry** (*Berberis*) – A deciduous shrub with spines on the shoots and leaf margins. Barberry varieties have different leaf colors, ranging from yellow-green to deep reddish-burgundy. It produces edible berries rich in vitamin C and is used in herbal medicine. Grows 3 to 15 feet tall depending on the variety and is deer-resistant.
3. **Bridal Wreath Spirea** (*Spiraea prunifolia*) - Blooms white flowers in the spring and grows 5 to 8 feet tall and wide. Deciduous.
4. **Burford Holly** (*Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii') - An evergreen shrub with deep glossy green foliage and bright red berries. It grows 8 to 10 feet tall and

wide for the non-dwarf variety; dwarf varieties grow 6 to 8 feet tall and 8 to 10 feet wide.

5. **Butterfly Bush** (*Buddleia davidii*) - Deciduous in East Texas. Grows 1 to 3 feet per year, with dwarf sizes at 2 to 3 feet tall and wide. The average size is 5 to 10 feet tall and 4 to 10 feet wide.
6. **Compact Japanese Holly** (*Ilex crenata* 'Compacta') - Evergreen shrub with oval-shaped, compact size, growing 4 feet tall and wide. It blooms yellow flowers in spring and produces black berries in the fall.
7. **Dystilium** (*Hamamelidaceae*) - An evergreen shrub with several varieties. Grows 4 feet tall by 5 feet wide. It requires minimal upkeep, is drought and heat tolerant, and flowers in late winter.
8. **Elaeagnus** (*Elaeagnus pungens*) - An evergreen shrub used for privacy borders and landscaping. It grows 8 to 10 feet tall and wide, and in some cases can reach 15 feet.
9. **Indian Hawthorn** (*Rhaphiolepis indica*) - A dense evergreen shrub, typically growing 4 to 6 feet tall and wide. It prefers moist, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade and blooms in shades of white, pink, and red.
10. **Juniper** (*Juniperus chinensis*) - A needled evergreen with varieties ranging from tree form to ground cover. Grows 15 to 18 feet tall by 6 to 8 feet wide, depending on the variety. It is deer, drought, and erosion resistant.
11. **Loropetalum Chinese** (*Hamamelidaceae* 'Chinese Fringe Flower') – An evergreen shrub with varieties that range in size and leaf color from dark green to reddish-purple. It blooms spidery flowers in white to magenta pink. Typically grows 6 to 10 feet tall but can reach 20 feet if left untrimmed.
12. **Needlepoint Holly** (*Ilex cornuta* 'Needlepoint') - An evergreen shrub with dense lateral branches. Grows 8 to 10 feet tall by 10 to 12 feet wide and produces dark red berries.
13. **Nellie R. Stevens Holly** (*Ilex* x 'Nellie R. Stevens') - An evergreen shrub that can grow as a large shrub or small tree, reaching 15 to 25 feet tall and 7 to 15 feet wide. It produces bright red berries.

14. **Oakland Holly** (*Ilex* x 'Magland') - Evergreen foliage with dense branching and oak-shaped leaves. Grows 15 to 20 feet tall and 12 to 15 feet wide, perfect for privacy hedges.
15. **Roses** (*Rosa* spp.) - Depending on the variety, roses can grow from 1.5 feet to 13 feet, with some climbing varieties reaching 20 feet. Popular varieties include the Knockout rose (5 to 6 feet), Drift rose (2 to 3 feet), and Peggy Martin climbing rose (6 to 15 feet). Deciduous.
16. **Russian Sage** (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) - A drought-tolerant deciduous shrub that grows up to 6 feet tall and wide. It has gray-green leaves and blooms in shades of white, purple/blue, or pink, depending on the variety.
17. **Southern Wax Myrtle** (*Myrica cerifera*) – An evergreen, large shrub, growing 15 feet tall and 10 feet wide. It thrives in full sun and soggy soil conditions and is perfect for privacy.
18. **Sunshine Ligustrum** (*Ligustrum sinense* 'Sunshine') – A semi-evergreen shrub that needs at least 6 hours of sunlight daily. Grows 3 to 6 feet in height and 3 to 4 feet in width.
19. **Texas Sage** (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) - This semi-evergreen shrub grows 3 to 10 feet tall and wide, depending on the variety. It has silver/green leaves and produces small purple flowers.
20. **Vitex** (*Vitex agnus-castus*) - A large shrub or small tree, growing 15 to 20 feet tall and wide. It is drought-tolerant and produces prolific purple blooms in the spring. Deciduous.