Reading Assignments

In *Landscape Plants For Texas And Environs, Third Ed.*

- Intro materials on shrubs (p. 682, 807)
- Family descriptions for:
  - Apocynaceae (p. 68), Cupressaceae (p. 78),
  - Fabaceae (p. 82), Hamamelidaceae (p. 84),
  - Myricaceae (p. 90), Pinaceae (p. 94),
  - Pittosporaceae (p. 95), Podocarpaceae (p. 96),
  - Rosaceae (p. 99), Taxaceae (p. 104), Theaceae (p. 104)
- Descriptions for individual species
  See page listings on Plant List 10 Handout
  (also available under lists on course website)
Sheared / Shorn Hedges = Man’s Need To Subdue Nature
Taxus spp.  
Yews

- Highly popular dark green needled evergreen shrubs in northern climates; extensively utilized
- Most forms are spreading, some upright, but most often sheared; best in shade in warmer climates, sun or shade in cooler regions
**Taxus spp.**

**Yews**

- Poorly adapted to most of Texas, can be useful in limited locations in northeast portions of our region
- Avoid high pH or poorly drained soils
- Classic shrubs for formal hedges & topiary
Podocarpus macrophyllus var. maki

Maki or Japanese Yew

• Narrowly upright oval crowned dense dark evergreen shrub or small tree

• Attractive shreddy bark; red fruit on females; warm climate alternative to Taxus spp.

Effective shaped or unaltered
Podocarpus macrophyllus var. maki
Maki or Japanese Yew

- Limited cold tolerance, zones 8a (7b) to 13, several related species can be useful in USDA z. 9-13 landscapes
- Tends to decline in heavy soils
- Slow growth can be frustrating
**Cephalotaxus harringtonia**  
**Japanese Plum-Yew**

- USDA z. 6(5b) to 9 substitute for *Taxus* spp., but with better heat tolerance
- Dark glossy evergreen needled foliage
- Mostly medium shrubs with spreading habits (4’ - 6’ tall), few less commonly encountered upright forms 8’ to 10’ (25’)
- Moist acidic soils, part to moderate shade
- Slow growers, dioecious, plum-like fruit
**Juniperus chinensis**
Chinese Juniper

- Evergreen awl or scale foliaged shrub to small tree adapted USDA z.4 (3) - 13
- Tolerates nearly any conditions except prolonged wet soils or shade
  - *Phomopsis* blight, bagworms and spider mites can be problems
  - Longevity is cultivar dependent
Juniperus chinensis
Chinese Juniper

• Valuable shrub for diversity of sites / uses, but often over planted or improperly sited
  – Pollen can induce allergic reactions in some people
  – If shaped, start young
Platycladus orientalis
Oriental Arborvitae

- Evergreen oval to pyramidal large shrub/small tree
  - Light/medium green becomes slightly yellow-green in winter; often narrow in youth, spreading at maturity
- Extremely site adaptable, full sun to part shade, moist to dry, acid to alkaline soils, salt tolerant
**Platycladus orientalis**
Oriental Arborvitae

- Frequently planted as a foundation plant, but becomes too large 10’-25’ (30’); tends to break up in snow & ice loads; USDA z. 6-10
  - Smaller cultivars should be used when space is limiting
- Bagworms and spider mites are significant pests
**Pinus mugo**  Mugo Pine

- A dwarf shrub to large tree, 3’ to 75’ tall
- Mostly small to medium shrub forms are available in USA nursery trade; best to use known cultivars
- Adaptable but highly variable species
  - Acidic to moderately alkaline soils, some salt spray tolerance, very cold tolerant, USDA zones 3 (2b) - 7
Pinus mugo

Mugo Pine

• Vigorous in only zone 7 & cooler, languishes in z. 8
• Highly variable form, use as foundation planting, low screen, massing, shrub borders, highway plantings, topiary work, large containers
**Myrica cerifera**  
*(Morella cerifera)*  
Southern Waxmyrtle

- Medium shrubs/small trees, evergreen USDA zones 8 - 13, deciduous z. 7, under-utilized
- Foliage with bayberry scent; natural N fixation
Myrica cerifera
Southern Waxmyrtle

- Dioecious, attractive fragrant waxy silver-gray fruit on female plants
- Few limitations: borers, somewhat leggy, and brittle branches; good limbed-up as a small tree
**Myrica pussilla**

**Dwarf Waxmyrtle**

- Smaller compact version of *Myrica cerifera*; bit lighter green in color
- Perhaps more drought tolerant than *Myrica cerifera*, good cold tolerance, USDA z. 7 - 9
- Good medium shrub, stays more in bounds than the *Myrica cerifera*
- Should be promoted more in the trade
Myrica pensylvanica
Northern Bayberry

- Northern counterpart to *M. cerifera*
  - More shrubby, less tendency to tree form
- Deciduous to semi-evergreen
- More showy in fruit than *M. cerifera*
- Tolerates infertile sites; N fixing
- Useful USDA zones 4 (3b) to 7a and perhaps further south?
**Pittosporum tobira**
Japanese Pittosporum

- Uniform rounded dense mound of evergreen foliage, variable 3’ to 15’ tall
- Medium shrub to small tree with an umbrella-like crown, foliage confined to branch tips; fragrant flowers
- Dark lustrous green or creamy white variegated leaves; variable size plants
Pittosporum tobira
Japanese Pittosporum

- Good branch structure and light tan to silver-gray trunk
- Limited cold hardiness, USDA z. 8-13; intolerant of poor drainage; scale insects are problematic
- Tolerates soil & foliar salts, high pH soils, & high temperatures
**Ternstroemia gymnanthera**

Japanese Ternstroemia

- Rounded to upright oval evergreen shrub typically 4’ to 8’ (10’) tall; may be sold as *Cleyera japonica*
- Bright green new growth matures to lustrous dark green; fairly dense canopy without pruning
- Adapted USDA hardiness zones 7b (7a) to 10
- Needs acidic soils with steady moisture; best I-45 east, some spots in Central TX
- Best in morning sun with afternoon shade
- General purpose shrub for foundation plantings, woodland edges, low to medium background
Eriobotrya japonica
Japanese Loquat

Moth pollinators

- Broad-leaved evergreen shrubs or small trees, 10’ to 15’(30’), USDA z. 8b(8a) - 13
- Loose well drained moist acidic soils are best; avoid poorly drained locations
- Coarse leaves not suitable for shearing
- Tropical effect, fragrant flowers, edible fruit
- Limitations: fireblight, cold tolerance, messiness, salinity
- Screening, backgrounds, home orchards, Asian garden
Prunus caroliniana

Cherry-Laurel

- Large, 15’ - 20’ tall, upright oval to rounded evergreen shrub / small tree; white flowers; excellent evergreen screen for USDA z. 7-10
- Intolerant of poor drainage and salinity, becomes chlorotic on high pH soils, leaf spots can be troublesome; foliage is poisonous
- Best on woodland edge, nice background screen for shady sites
Photinia × fraseri
Red Tip Photinia

• Large broad-leaved evergreen 10’-15’ tall useful in USDA zones 7 – 10 landscapes with low RH

• Primary feature is red newly emerged foliage, flowers in late spring

• Over-planted, suggest choosing other taxa where conditions permit
Photinia × fraseri
Red Tip Photinia

- Tolerant of various soil types
  - Best in sun but tolerates shade
  - Has a high N requirement
  - Good heat & drought tolerance
  - May develop chlorosis on infertile soils
  - *Entomosporium* leaf spot in high RH, cotton root rot, and aphids are significant problems
Photinia serratifolia
Chinese Photinia

- Larger (15’-20’) & coarser, but useful over a similar range as *P. × fraseri*, USDA zones 7(6b)-13
- One of *P. × fraseri* hybrid’s parental species
- Not as susceptible to *Entomosporium* leaf spot
- Susceptible to cotton root rot, may escape cultivation; does not tolerate shearing well
**Pyracantha coccinea**
Scarlet Firethorn

- Upright evergreen medium / large shrub, 6’-10’ tall
- Creamy white spring flowers, but malodorous
- Excellent fall / winter red, orange, or yellow fruit
- Somewhat particular as to soils / siting, fireblight, cotton root rot, & thorns may be problematic
- Espaliers, screens, hedges, barriers; z. 6(5)-10(11)
**Pyracantha koidzumii**

**Formosa Firethorn**

- Larger, coarser textured, more heat tolerant, but less cold tolerant than *P. coccinea*, hardy in USDA z. 8 (7b) - 13

- Hybrids, with *P. coccinea*, like ‘Mohave’, are popular regionally
Vauquelinia angustifolia
Chisos Rosewood

- A medium shrub to small tree, 8’ to 12’ (20’) tall, hardy to USDA z. 7 – 9 (10)
- Handsome dark glossy evergreen leaves
- Fragrant cyme-like clusters of small white flowers in late spring
Vauquelinia angustifolia
Chisos Rosewood

- Very heat, wind, & drought tolerant, most any well drained soil, good West TX & SW US landscape shrub
- Fireblight can be serious in humid climates
Loropetalum chinense
Chinese Fringe Flower

- Large 6’ to 8’ (12’) evergreen shrub, useful in USDA zones 8 (7b) -10
  - Irregularly upright oval to rounded crown; tolerates pruning well
  - Blue-green, green, to red-bronze foliage, medium-fine in texture
- Flowers, strap-like white to pink petals, mostly spring, occasionally in fall/winter
Loropetalum chinense
Chinese Fringe Flower

- Problems with salty soils/water & chlorosis on high pH soils
- Hedges, screens, large containers
- Mature size is often underestimated

Interveinal Chlorosis
Nerium oleander
Common Oleander

- Medium/large, 8’ - 10’ (20’) teardrop-shaped suckering evergreen shrubs, sparse branching
- Beautiful late spring / early summer flowers; some with recurrent bloom
- Tolerates salt spray, drought, heat, soil salts, various soil pH, and seasonally poor drainage
Nerium oleander
Common Oleander

- Caution all plant parts are very poisonous!!!
- Cultivars are highly variable in cold hardiness, z. 7b to 9a, heat to z. 13
- Aphids, scale, bacterial wilt (FXIB!), aggressive roots
America’s favorite genus of shrubs

- Small to large (2’ - 10’+) broad-leaved evergreen shrubs with rounded crowns, variably hardy z. 4 - 9
- “Azaleas” taxa tend to be smaller leaved, deciduous to evergreen, smaller clusters of blooms & finer textured growth habit
Rhododendron spp.
Azaleas or Rhododendrons

• “Rhododendrons” taxa tend to have larger leaves that are mostly evergreen, and fewer larger clusters of blooms, somewhat coarser growth habit
  – Require moist acidic soils, best only in East TX; use Rhododendron taxa in cooler climates
  – Most commercial taxa are hybrids, wide array of spectacular spring flower colors, a few in summer

Winter injury
Chlorosis on high pH soil
Sophora secundiflora
Texas Mountain Laurel

- Medium / large evergreen shrub / small tree
- Sun to part shade, requires good drainage, z. 8 - 10, Texas native, best on alkaline soils
**Sophora secundiflora**  
**Texas Mountain Laurel**

- Dark glossy green foliage, racemes of blue-purple to pink-purple spring flowers
- Strong fragrance, grape bubble-gum scent
  - Poisonous bright red seeds, used in crafts
  - Drought, heat, salt, & wind tolerant
Questions / Comments?

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