

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>

Healthy Hedges

Recommended privacy screen replacements, following removal of European buckthorn



Grass, Ground, and Herbaceous

Canada Anemone <i>Anemone canadensis</i> (1-2' H x 1' W)	Palm Sedge <i>Carex muskingumensis</i> (2-3' H x 1-2' W)	Virginia Bluebells <i>Mertensia virginica</i> (2' H x 1-2' W)
Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i> (6" H x 6-12" W)	Curly Wood Sedge <i>Carex rosea</i> (12" H x 12" W)	Solomon's Seal <i>Polygonatum biflorum</i> (2-4' H x 1-2' W)
Butterfly Weed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> (2-3' H x 2-4' W)	Beak Grass <i>Diarrhena obovata</i> (2' H x 1' W)	Wild Petunia <i>Ruellia humilis</i> (1-2' H x 1-3' 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.	Pale Purple Coneflower <i>Echinacea pallida</i> (2-3' H x 1-2' W)	Little Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (2-4' H x 1-2' W)
Swamp Milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> (2-5' H x 2-3' W)	Bottlebrush Grass <i>Elymus hystrix</i> (3-4' H x 1" W)	Prairie Dropseed <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> (1-2' H x 2-3' W)
Lady Fern <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i> (2' H x 1' W)	Purple Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> (1-2' H x 1-2' W)	Dense tufts of sprawling narrow-leaved grass that turn golden in fall with a lovely sweet scent.
Hairy Wood Mint <i>Blephilia hirsutus</i> (3' H x 18" W)	Big-leaf Aster <i>Eurybia macrophylla</i> (1' H x 1' W)	Sky Blue Aster <i>Symphyotrichum oolentangiense</i> (2-3' H x 1-2' W)
Wild Hyacinth <i>Camassia schilloides</i> (6-12" H x 12" W)	Wild Geranium <i>Geranium maculatum</i> (1' H x 1' W)	Golden Alexanders <i>Zizia aurea</i> (1-3' H x 2-3' W)
	Colony-forming forb with showy pink-purple flowers.	
	Rough Blazing Star <i>Liatris aspera</i> (2-3' H x 1-2' W)	

Shrubs

Lead Plant <i>Amorpha canescens</i> (1-3' H x 1-3' W)	Shrubby St. John's Wort <i>Hypericum prolificum</i> (3-5' H x 3-5' W)	Prairie Willow <i>Salix humilis</i> (5-8' H x 2-5' W)
Shrub Indigo <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> (10-15' H x 15-20' W)	Winterberry <i>Ilex verticillata</i> (6-12' H x 6-8' W)	Elderberry <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> (5-10' H x 5-10' W)
New Jersey Tea <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> (2-4' H x 2-4' W)	Spicebush <i>Lindera benzoin</i> (6-12' H x 6-12' W)	Bladdernut <i>Staphylea trifolia</i> (10-15' H x 8-12' W)
Posies of white flowers transform into unique seed heads for winter interest on this densely rounded shrub.	Ninebark <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (5-10' H x 5-10' W)	Early Low Blueberry <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i> (2-3' H x 2-4' W)
Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> (6-12' H x 12-18' W)	Fragrant Sumac <i>Rhus aromatica</i> (5-8' H x 8-10' W)	This is one tough little shrub. White flowers in spring attract insects. Fruits appear in June and attract birds when ripe.
Hazelnut <i>Corylus americana</i> (5-8' H x 5-10' W)	American Currant <i>Ribes americanum</i> (3-5' H x 3-5' W)	Nannyberry <i>Viburnum lentago</i> (15-20' H x 8-10' W)
Witchhazel <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (10-20' H x 15-20' W)	Fast-growing shrub with arching stems. Drooping yellow flowers mature into sweet-tart, edible fruit. Fall foliage is a lovely red.	Excellent privacy hedge replacement. Has clusters of white flowers in summer and lovely red foliage in fall.
Wild Hydrangea <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> (3-5' H x 3-5' W)	Carolina Rose <i>Rosa carolina</i> (3-8' H x 4-6' W)	Blackhaw <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> (12-15' H x 12-20' W)

Understory/Small Trees

Downy Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i> (15-25' H x 10-12' W)	Cockspur Hawthorn <i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> (20-25' H x 20-25' W)	American Beech <i>Fagus grandifolia</i> (50-80' H x 50-70' W)
Allegheny Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier laevis</i> (15-25' H x 15-25' W)	Downy Hawthorn <i>Crataegus mollis</i> (20-30' H x 20-40' W)	White Pine <i>Pinus strobus</i> (80-120' H x 20-40' W)
Blue Beech <i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (20-25' H x 15-20' W)	Hardy hawthorn with distinct lateral branching, soft fuzzy leaves, and showy white flowers followed by red fruits.	White Oak <i>Quercus alba</i> (60-100' H x 100' W)
Mid-sized trees with smooth, gray bark. This tree grows well in different soils and pH.	Ironwood <i>Ostrya virginiana</i> (40-45' H x 20-30' 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.
Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i> (20-30' H x 25-35' W)	Chokecherry <i>Prunus virginiana</i> (20-25' H x 15-20' W)	Red Oak <i>Quercus rubra</i> (60-100' H x 100' W)
Attractive multi-stemmed tree with heart-shaped leaves. Magenta flowers in spring transform into unique peapods.	Staghorn Sumac <i>Rhus typhina</i> (15-25' H x 15-25' W)	Basswood/Linden <i>Tilia americana</i> (60-90' H x 30-60' W)
Pagoda Dogwood <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> (15-25' H x 20-30' W)	Arborvitae <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> (30-60' H x 10-15' W)	Canadian Hemlock <i>Tsuga canadensis</i> (40-70' H x 25-35' 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.	

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

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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

Recommended privacy screen replacements, following removal of European buckthorn

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!"

Learn more online at:
chicagorti.org/HealthyHedges

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