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Ahh – To Grow A Garden – So Get Up and Get Growing –Taylorsville City - Tree Of The Month Article – June 2009 - The Beauty of Spring Flowering Trees and Shrubs - For reference Taylorsville City is USDA Hardiness zone 7A. Perhaps the best part of gardening is to share your garden, with your friends, family, and animals. My dogs love my yard, just ask them!

Flowering Currents, these beautiful shrubs are hummingbird magnets attracting them in droves in the spring. They are native to British Columbia, Canada down the west coast of the United States (US) to California over the Cascade Mountains, and into Idaho. They have beautiful fragrant flowers in the spring. The drooping flower clusters lend an elegant beauty to the early springtime landscape. Dark blue berries are small and will be eaten by the birds. Red Flowering Currents grow up to eight (8) feet high. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) hardiness zones 7 to 9, (maybe borderline hardy), (Photos 2 and 3).

Lilac Trees, an all time favorite shrub is now available in tree form, and is a small hardy tree. Its claim to fame is the mass of flowers produced in mid to late spring. Most of the cultivars have a delicious scent, powerful but not overpowering. Lilacs have one of the most unforgettable aromas of the plant world. Lilac trees bloom a bit later than Lilac bushes and are not as aromatic. Lilac trees have an attractive shedding bark like Paper Bark Birches. Each tree will have very large beautiful flowers that cover the entire tree, in shades of dark purple, purple, reddish purple, lavender, pink, or white. Large green leaves soon follow. Lilacs attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Some Lilac bush cultivars will re-bloom sporadically the entire summer. Cities with Lilac Festivals include Rochester, NY; Spokane, WA; Pine Mountain, CA; Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Lombard, IL; and Boston, MA, Height fifteen (15) feet, and ten (10) feet wide, USDA zones 3 to 9, (Tree Photo 5), (Shrub Photos 4 and 6).

Serviceberries, are native to most of the US but predominately to western US and Canada. Two species also occur in Asia, and one species occurs in Europe. Serviceberries are valued for their importance to birds and wildlife. In the spring they create a beautiful showy display of small white flowers. In the fall they have bright yellow, orange, and red leaves, with edible berries which are great for birds and human eating. They are a member of the Rose family. Height twelve (12) to thirty (30) feet, and ten (10) to twenty (20) feet wide, USDA zones 3 to 8, (Photos 7 and 8).

Dogwoods, are native to the eastern US, and are relatively small trees even in maturity. Dogwood trees are the ideal flowering trees for homeowners with space issues with beautiful fragrant flowers in colors of red, white, or pink, and in a variety of sizes too, so there is a Dogwood tree for any landscape. A Dogwood tree in the spring is surely a sight to behold, but this genus consists of more than just flowering trees. Dogwood trees are typically grown for their showy spring flowers, known as "bracts" that surround the true flower. Dogwood shrubs are mainly grown for their peculiar leaf colors and brilliant winter bark, with their own characteristics that set them apart in the landscape. Dogwood leaves turn red in the fall. Some species produce red fruit in fall for birds and wildlife. Cities that celebrate Dogwood Festivals are Atlanta, GA; Fayetteville, NC; Knoxville, TN; Charlottesville, NC; Winchester, TN; and Tyler, TX. Height is ten (10) to forty (40) feet, USDA zones 5 to 9, (Photos 9 and 10).

Eastern Redbuds, are native to the eastern US and are an understory tree in the eastern hardwood forests. They produce masses of small pink fragrant flowers in the spring with interesting seed pods in the fall that attract wildlife. They have pretty heart shaped leaves, with a round canopy, and are used successfully in hedgerow plantings. Some cities that celebrate Redbud Festivals are Honaker, VA; Barbourville, KY; and Denton, TX. Height is twenty (20) to thirty-five (35) feet, USDA zones 4 to 9, (Photos 11 and 12). [See Taylorsville City Tree of the Month Article, May 2009 for a complete discussion.](#)

Witch Hazels, are one of the earliest trees to bloom with showy wonderfully fragrant yellow or copper inch-wide flowers. The fall color is also exceptional with orange to red leaves. Flowers appear after the coldest winters, usually in February. Witch Hazels are native to the eastern US and Canada from Nova Scotia west to Ontario, and south to Florida, and are an understory tree in the eastern hardwood forests like Dogwoods and Redbuds. The leaves and bark have been widely used for medicinal purposes by Native American Indians. Aboretum Kalthout, Netherlands is the world center, with the largest collection of Witch Hazels, celebrating a Witch Hazel Festival in February. Height (12) to (20) feet, USDA zones 4 to 10, (Photo 13 and 14).



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Cornelian Cherries, is also known as the Dog Cherry or the Siberian Cherry, and is another early bloomer. It is a unique member of the Dogwood family, and is one of the earliest shrubs or small trees to bloom after the Witch Hazels, but before the Forsythias. Cornelian Cherry Dogwoods are native to central and southern Europe and Asia. It was introduced into the US in the early 1800s, and now several varieties have been developed. It grows well in a variety of soil conditions, and it reportedly the longest-lived of the Dogwood trees. The early yellow flowers and many arching branches make the tree an excellent ornamental tree in your landscape. It will grow in partial shade, and has an attractive exfoliating bark. For fruit production plant two or more. This Dogwood has berries that will attract the birds. The fruit is similar to tart pie cherries, which ripens in late summer and is used in jellies, preserves and wine making. The only Cornelian Cherry celebrated in the US is by Wooster, Ohio. Height twelve (12) to fifteen (15) feet USDA zones 4 to 8, (Photos 15 and 16).

Forsythias, come spring will burst into vivid golden yellow blooms so spectacular they seem to smother the stems. You can plant them as a colorful hedge, or as foundation shrubbery. Forsythias bloom ahead of most spring blooming trees and shrubs to chase away your winter blahs. Forsythias are a deciduous shrub native to China, Korea and Europe. The four-petal flowers vary from light yellow to bright golden yellow that persist for ten (10) to fourteen (14) days. Forsythias are one of the last deciduous shrubs to drop their leaves in fall. Forsythias are grown for their attractive yellow flowers, are easy to grow, and are hardy; but do require some maintenance. Pruning is the most important chore. Proper pruning produces healthy, vigorous, heavily blooming shrubs. Since they bloom on old wood, Forsythias should be pruned immediately after flowering in the early spring. Forsythias are now available in a tree form. The only Forsythia Festival celebrated in the US is by Forsyth, Georgia around mid March. Height eight (8) to ten (10) feet, USDA zones 4 to 8, (Photos 17 and 18).

White Forsythias, have small fragrant white flowers with the scent of almonds. They open from purplish buds in the early spring before the leaves emerge. White Forsythias belong to the Olive family as does the common Forsythia. It is a small shrub, with a graceful arching habit, grown primarily for its white to pale pink star shaped flowers that cluster on bare stems at the beginning of spring at least two (2) weeks before the true Forsythia. Height (3) to (5) feet, USDA zones 5 to 8, (Photo 19).

Japanese Cherries, produce masses of fragrant white to dark pink flowers before the leaves open, and give a superlative blooming display in spring, with rich fall color. Every spring when the flowering cherries burst into bloom in Washington DC in the Tidal Basin of East Potomac Park on the Washington Monument Grounds; people flock in droves into the city, to marvel at the showy display of waves of pink and white. Japan gave 3,020 Sakura Cherry trees as a gift to the US, in 1912 to celebrate the friendship. The gift was renewed from Japan to the US, with another 3,800 trees in 1956. The Washington DC Cherry trees are the subject of the National Cherry Blossom Festival each spring when they reach full bloom. Philadelphia, PA is also home to over 2000 flowering Japanese Cherry trees, half of which were a gift from Japan, in 1926 in honor of the 150th anniversary of American independence, the other half were planted by the Japanese America Society in 1998. Philadelphia, PA also has a Cherry Blossom Festival along with Brooklyn, NY; Los Angeles, CA, Macon, GA; Bellville, Bloomfield, and Newark, NJ; and the University of Washington in Seattle, WA. Japan is the home of the Cherry Blossom Festivals with many festivals throughout Japan in the spring. Other countries with Cherry Blossom Festivals are Germany, Great Britain, Canada, and the Philippines. Japan also gave several thousand Cherry trees to Canada in 1959. Some Japanese Cherry trees species can grow forty (40) to fifty (50) feet tall. However the dwarf trees that have been developed will grow ten (10) to twenty (20) feet tall. So plant a Japanese Cherry tree and create your own Cherry Blossom Festival, USDA zones 5 to 9, (Photos 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24).

Quince Trees, are often dismissed by gardeners because they have a short display, ten (10) to fourteen (14) days. But, if you have a sunny spot and want a shrub that will outlive you, it is a good choice for a vibrant spring display of flowers. They are available in shrub or tree form. For a complete discussion on the Quince Trees, see Taylorville City Tree of the Month article, May 2009. Full bloom is in early April, about the time the Forsythias flower. The shrubs almost always have single, pinkish-orange blossoms that are about the size of a quarter. Newer forms are often double flowered with blooms in shades of pink, red or white. Quince bushes are usually three (3) to seven (7) feet tall, and are a member of the Rose family. They are native to eastern Asia in Japan, China and Korea. The suggested uses for this plant include specimen plant, border, barrier, hedge, and attracting wildlife. The only Quince Festival is celebrated in Cheshire, England. The yellow-green fruits are apple-like, that attracts wildlife, USDA zones 5 to 9, (Photos 25, 26, and 27).



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