



Evergreen Flowering Plants

What flowers and keeps its leaves all year? It's a question we get often at Homewood. And so, here is a list of evergreen shrubs whose flowers range from being as showy as a can-can girl to those whose flowers might be more modest but whose other virtues merit consideration nevertheless.

Perennials

Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*) - Masses of bright white flowers in spring. Plant in full to part sun. Grows to 6"-12". Lightly shear back after bloom to promote bushier growth.

Coral Bells (*Heuchera* hybrids 'Plum Pudding', 'Amethyst Mist') - Mounded perennials with attractive rounded and scalloped leaves in burgundy. Dainty sprays of whitish bell-shaped flowers in summer. Plant in shade. Foliage grows to about 1', with flowers to about 2'. While the varieties listed above seem to do well over winter, please note that not all varieties are evergreen.

Germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys*) - Loose spike of reddish purple or white flowers in summer. Grows to about 1'. Nice for front of the border. Drought tolerant. Plant in full sun.

Hellebore, Lenten Rose (*Helleborus* spp.) - Divided, fan-shaped leaves and inch wide flowers in varying colors, usually green, white, pink, mauve, and burgundy bloom for several months in winter to spring. Can bloom for up to 3-4 months. Long-lived plants. Grows to about 1 1/2'. Plant in partial to full shade.

Lavender (*Lavandula* spp.) - Aromatic gray-green foliage sports small spikes of fragrant purple flowers. Grows to about 1 1/2' to 3' tall depending on variety. Plant in full sun in a raised bed of very well-drained, lean soil amended with Permatill. Do not fertilize. A bit of compost over the root zone in spring is sufficient.

Creeping Phlox/Moss Phlox (*Phlox subulata*) - Needlelike leaves on creeping stems form 6" tall mats. Brilliant flowers in pinks, lavender, white, and rose cover plants in spring. Plant in full sun or light shade.

Euphorbia (*Euphorbia* spp.) - Close set dark green leaves with pale apple green flower clusters in late winter to early spring. Some have coral to burgundy winter color. Grows to about 1' or under. Plant in part sun to shade.

Pulmonaria spp. - Plants have a rosette type habit with tapered spade shaped leaves of minty green with silver freckles, splashes, or veining. Lovely electric blue or bright pink flowers in early spring. Plant in part to full shade. Grows to about 6"-10" tall and wide.

Rain Lily (*Zephyranthes* spp., *Habranthus* spp.) - Low, clumping grass-like leaves are bright emerald green. Beautiful and dainty lily-like flowers in late summer, often after rains, are generally pink, white, or peachy pink. Grows to 10".

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) - Available as a rounded, upright small shrub (to 3'-4') or creeping groundcover (to 2'). Aromatic, needle-like leaves wonderful in cooking. Small, lavender-blue flowers in winter and early spring. Drought tolerant. Plant in full sun.

Strawberry Geranium (*Saxifraga stolonifera*) - A nice groundcover with rounded leaves that are green with silver veining above & reddish pink below. Dainty, loose clusters of pretty white flowers in summer. Plant in shade. To 4"-6".

Yarrow (*Achillea* spp.) - Pretty, flat-topped flower clusters bloom in summer in a variety of colors. Butterfly plant. Forms attractive mat of basal leaves in winter. Grows 1 1/2' to 4' depending on variety. Plant in sun.

Yucca spp. - Evergreen perennials, shrubs, or trees with striking sword-shaped foliage. Clusters of white or creamy bell-shaped flowers, usually in summer, borne above foliage. Drought tolerant. Plant in sun.

Shrubs

Azalea/Rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp.) - Well-known spring blooming shrubs in a variety of colors. Plant in bright filtered light or part sun to light shade. Grows to 1'-10' depending on cultivar.

Camellia (*Camellia* spp.) - Spectacular flowers in an array of colors bloom in fall, winter, or early spring. Plant in part sun to light shade. Grows on average to 6'-8'. Sasanqua varieties are more sun tolerant.

Chinese Fringe Bush (*Loropetalum chinense*) - Attractive shrub features deep pink fringed flowers in spring typically with burgundy-colored foliage or white flowers and green foliage. Plant in full sun or light shade. Grows to 4'-10'

depending on cultivar.

Gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*) - Beautiful, intensely fragrant white flowers in summer. Give rich, well-drained soil. Plant in full sun or bright filtered light. Height ranges from 1'- 6' depending on cultivar.

Indian Hawthorn (*Raphiolepis indica*) - Profuse clusters of small white or pink flowers from midwinter to late spring. Plant in full sun to light shade. Grows to 3'- 10' depending on cultivar.

Japanese Pieris (*Pieris japonica*) - Pendulous clusters of small, urn-shaped flowers in white, pink, or red in spring. Plant where it will receive afternoon shade. New foliage is bronzy red. Grows to 3'- 4' or more.

Michelia (Magnolia) (*Michelia figo*, *M. yunnanensis*, now *Magnolia*) - Not the magnolias you are probably thinking of. Spring to late spring white flowers resembling smaller magnolia flowers, usually fragrant. New varieties include 'Free Spirit', a heavy blooming low, spreader good for foundations, 'Inspiration' which gets 8-10' tall and 5' wide, and 'Warm Fuzzies' which gets 6-8' tall by 5-6' wide. There is also the classic "banana shrub" which bears creamy yellow flowers with brownish purple shadings and which have a delicious ripe banana scent. Grows to 6'- 8'. Trainable as small tree. Plant in full sun to part shade.

Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) - Showy white, pink-rose, or deep rose flower clusters in late spring. Plant in part sun to light shade. Prefers a cool, moist, well-drained soil. Grows to 6'- 8'.

Oregon Grape (*Mahonia spp.*) - Bright yellow rounded or spiky clusters of flowers in late winter or spring followed by powdery blue-black berries. Leaves resemble holly. Grows to 2'-12' depending on species.

'Otto Luyken', 'Schipka', or 'Zabel' Laurels (*Prunus laurocerasus*) - Free flowering spikes of white flowers in summer. Plant in sun or shade. Grows to 3'-5' depending on cultivar.

Viburnum (*Viburnum spp.*) **Chinese Snowball** (*Viburnum macrocephalum*) - Semi-evergreen. Gorgeous, fat clusters of flowers emerge apple green and turn white in spring. Grows to 12'-20'. Plant in sun to part sun. **Laurustinus** (*Viburnum tinus* 'Compacta') - Attractive bud clusters open to pink-tinged flowers in late winter. Plant in part shade. Grows to 4'-5'.

Winter Daphne (*Daphne odora*) - Deliciously fragrant clusters of purple and white flowers in February to March. Plant in part shade to shade. Requires well-drained soil. Facilitate drainage by planting top of root ball higher than the soil line. Grows 4'-6'.

Groundcovers

Bearberry (*Cotoneaster dammeri*) - Small white flowers in May followed by bright red berries. Fast, prostrate growth to 4"-6" tall. Good selections for groundcovers include 'Strieb's Findling' & Canadian Creeper™. Drought tolerant.

Carpet Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*) - Foliage comes in a variety of colors. Small spikes of purple blooms in spring. Spreads quickly and can escape into lawns. Plant in part sun to shade.

Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) - Purple or white flowers over long runners of bright green leaves. Plant in part to full shade.

Star/Confederate Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) - Profusions of fragrant, star-shaped flowers May through June and some in summer. Can be used as a groundcover. Plant in part to full shade. Grows 10'- 12'.



Vines

Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) - Bright yellow trumpet flowers in spring. Plant in sun or shade (best flowering in sun). Fast growing to 20'. Plant with *G. rankinii* for bonus fall flower show.

Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata* 'Tangerine Beauty') - Bright orange trumpet flowers in spring and some in summer. Plant in full sun to part shade (best flowering in sun). Grows 10'- 30'.

Evergreen Clematis (*Clematis armandii*) - Fragrant, white 2 1/2" flowers in branched clusters spring. Plant so that the top of the plant will receive sun and the roots will be cool (mulch helps). Some protection from afternoon sun is best. Prune after flowering to prevent tangling and buildup of dead thatch. Fast growing to 20'. Frequent pinching can keep plants (and flowers) at eye-level.

Trees

Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) - Stately evergreen tree generally with a columnar-pyramidal habit. Large, creamy white flowers of stunning fragrance bloom in spring and fall and sporadically through summer. Sizes vary with large trees growing to 60'-80' and smaller cultivars such as 'Little Gem' to about 20'. Plant in sun.