



Homes & Gardens

Town Tribune Weekly Guide To Fall Living

You Can Still Plant These Seven Fast-Growing Shrubs in Fall and They'll Fill Out Your Yard



Even after the peak summer gardening season has passed, autumn presents plenty of opportunities for backyard transformations. Fall, for instance, is a particularly good time to add new shrubs to your yard. Planting shrubs with fast growth rates at least six weeks before the first frost ensures that they'll grow strong root systems before winter sets in. Even as temperatures drop, established shrubs can offer everything from landscaping borders to natural privacy.

Below, we've rounded up seven quickly growing shrubs that you can plant in fall to help fill out your yard.

Bridal Wreath Spirea:

If you're looking for a resilient shrub that will offer year-round

color, consider adding bridal wreath spirea to your garden. This medium-sized deciduous shrub grows into an upright arch with white flowers and oval green leaves, which transition into handsome purplish-brown and yellow-orange tones come fall. They grow quickly and can tolerate a wide range of weather conditions, from heat waves to frigid cold spells.

- USDA Hardiness Zones: 5-

- Light Needs: Full sun

- Mature Size: 4-8 ft. tall, 4-8 ft. wide

Flamingo Willow:

Flamingo willow is such a fast-growing shrub that it requires constant pruning. Native to East Asia, these broad-leaf shrubs' green, pink, and white foliage

offer visual appeal through both their stem and their foliage. Because it does best in moist soil, flamingo willows are a great choice for rain gardens.

- USDA Hardiness Zones: 5-7

- Light Needs: Full to partial sun

- Mature Size: 4-6 ft. tall, with a spread of 5-7 ft.

Forsythia:

With a growth rate of about two feet per year, forsythia are a popular deciduous shrub. They're often associated with their bright yellow flowers, whose blossoming marks the beginning of early spring. Depending on their variety, forsythia can grow up to 10 feet tall, making them a common pick for privacy hedges and lawn borders.

- USDA Hardiness Zones: 5-8

- Light Needs: Full or partial sun

- Mature Size: 2-10 ft. tall, 2-10 ft. wide

Ninebark:

Ninebark offers plenty of variety and color to late fall and winter gardens thanks to its eye-catching peeling bark. It will reach maturity within one growing season, especially when you start it in a 1-gallon nursery pot. In late summer and autumn, they produce a red fruit that's a popular food source for birds.

- USDA Hardiness Zones: 2-8

- Light Needs: Full or partial sun

- Mature Size: 3-10 ft. tall, 3-8 ft. wide

Red Twig Dogwood:

As its name suggests, red twig dogwoods boast striking, bright red branches even in the coldest winter months. These shrubs fill out quickly, growing at around two feet per year. They're also particularly wildlife-friendly—their branches offer shelter for birds and other animals during winter, and their blossoms attract pollinators in spring.

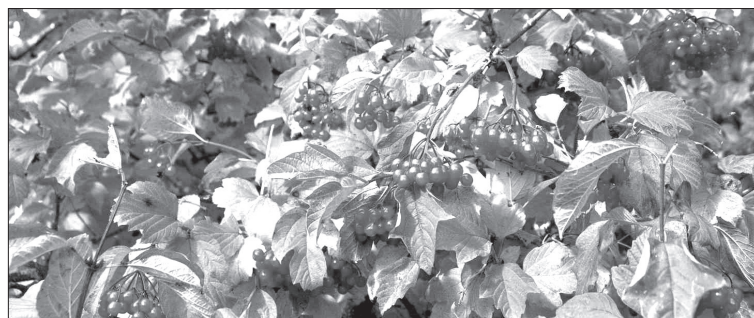
- USDA Hardiness Zones: 3-8

- Light Needs: Full or partial sun

- Mature Size: 6-9 ft. tall, 8-12 ft. wide

Viburnum:

With over 150 varieties of flowering shrubs, there's bound to be a viburnum bush that thrives in your home climate. Growing at a rate of one to two feet per year, they're low-maintenance once established. Planting viburnum in fall will allow them to establish a



strong root system before the first frost of the year arrives.

- USDA Hardiness Zones: 2-9

- Light Needs: Full or partial sun

- Mature Size: 3-20 ft. tall, 3-12 ft. wide

Weigela:

Weigela hasn't traditionally gotten the same level of attention as other members of the honeysuckle family, such as azaleas and lilacs. However, more recently,

they've gained popularity due to their versatility in ornamental landscaping. If you plant weigela bushes in late fall, they will produce small pink blossoms the following spring for pollinators like butterflies and hummingbirds to enjoy.

- USDA Hardiness Zones: 4-8

- Light Needs: Full sun

- Mature Size: 6-10 ft. tall, 9-12 ft. wide

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