

Privacy Screens



Create a living wall or fence to screen out neighbor's views or create an enclosure with these plants.

Size

Ask yourself these questions when considering a plant screen:

- How much room do you have?
- How tall does it need to be?

One way to judge the height is to hold a measured stick or a piece of cardboard to determine the privacy you desire. If the plants you choose are too large for the space, it may feel a bit claustrophobic and demand frequent pruning.

Pruning

Ask yourself these two questions:

- How much pruning do you want to commit to on a yearly basis after the plants have grown to the desired size?

The faster & larger the screen grows, the more pruning will be required.

- Can the plant be pruned and still look the way you want?

Many plants change their appearance when regularly pruned. If you want an informal look, it is best to choose plants that will not need to be pruned often.



Evergreen or Deciduous

In many cases, privacy is not needed in the winter. If so, you have a much larger selection of plants, including many summer blooming plants.

Aerial Hedges

These are plants that have one or several exposed trunks to a height of five or six feet, and then are hedged. The advantage for you is that there is room under the hedge for seasonal color and interest.

Mixed Screens

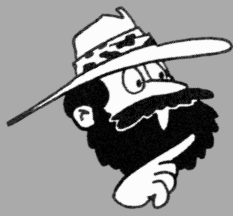
This is a mixed planting, often of small trees, large shrubs and vines that do not look like a classic "hedge" but still act as a defining barrier. When done well, you won't even notice that there was anything that needed to be screened!

Planting

Most of our selections require well drained, fertile soil.

Follow our basic shrub planting guide for best results.





Suggested Plants for Privacy Screens



Evergreen Shrubs

Texas Privet - Moderate-fast growing 6'-10' + with thick, waxy green leaves. Yellowish white flowers in spring and blue-black berries in fall.

Pineapple Guava - Moderate-fast growth 10'-20' tall and wide, if allowed. Gray foliage with attractive branch structure good for aerial hedging especially. Interesting white flowers with red stamens and may get a small crop of fruit.

Photinea - Moderate-fast growing 8'-12' and known for spectacular red spring foliage.

Black Stemmed Pittosporum - Moderate growing 8'-15' with fine textured, foliage. Makes a good hedge or informal, unpruned screen.

Pyracantha - Grows 6'-10' and known for showy red berries in winter and white flowers in spring.

Purple Hopseed - Growing 10'-15' and best for accent screens or part of a mixed screen. Dramatic purple winter color.

'Tiny Towers' or 'Totem' Italian Cypress - Tall and slender growing to 10'-20' tall. Plant closely, up to 3' apart.

'Emerald' Arborvitae - Grows 10'-20' tall & slender but more bushy than Italian Cypress. Rich green color.

Sweet Olive (Osmanthus) - Dense shrub 8'-12' tall with small very fragrant blooms.

Cherry Laurel - Large, 10'-15' or taller informal screen.

Fern Pine (Podocarpus gracilior) - Fine textured shrub 8'-12' and up to 20' tall. Hedge or allow to grow into an informal screen or aerial hedge.

Citrus - Dwarf forms grow 6'-10' tall and can make good screens. Lemons are fast growing.

Deciduous Shrubs

Crape Myrtle - Different colors and sizes 6'-20' tall, depending on variety. Attractive bark and branching. Good as a deciduous screen with summer color or part of a mixed screen or aerial hedge.

Flowering Pomegranate - Multi-trunked shrub averaging 5' tall with red-orange summer flowers and ornamental fruit in fall and winter.

Fruit "Bushes" - Nearly all deciduous fruit trees can be trained into a bush used for privacy. Planted 2'-3' apart, most grow 6'-12+' tall with summer pruning. Check out our fruit bush training guide for more info.

Climbing Roses - Growing 8'-12' tall, use to add a couple feet of height to a fence, add security (thorns), soften the look and provide color spring-fall.

Lilac, Forsythia, & Spirea - Deciduous spring bloomers growing 8'-10' tall. Flowers in yellow, purple or white depending on selection. Best used in mixed screens.

Dependable Small Trees

Arbutus Marina - 10'-15'+ Multi or single trunked evergreen tree with attractive cinnamon bark.

Grecian Bay Laurel - Dark green tree 10'-15'+ or up to 30' unpruned. Hedge or use as a tree in mixed or aerial hedges.

'Little Gem' Magnolia - Dwarf up to 20' tall. Attractive white flowers and evergreen. Prunes well.

'Purple Pony' Flowering Plum - Deciduous dwarf tree growing 10'-12' tall and wide. Spring bloomer and red-purple leaves. Good as a mixed screen or aerial hedge.

Dependable Vines

Star Jasmine - Tough, deep green evergreen vine with very fragrant white flowers.

Lavender Trumpet Vine - Showy lavender flowers in June, semi-evergreen.

Carolina Jessamine (Gelsemium) - Evergreen, fine textured vine with bright yellow flowers in early spring.

Wisteria - Fast growing, massive deciduous vine with long chain-like flowers in early spring in lavender or white.