



YORK REGION ACCEPTABLE SHRUB AND PERENNIAL SPECIES FOR REGIONAL ROAD ALLOWANCES

January 2022



FORESTRY
york.ca/standards


York Region

ACCEPTABLE SHRUB AND PERENNIAL SPECIES FOR REGIONAL ROAD ALLOWANCES

A minimum of 75% of planting should be selected from the proven performing lists (Tables 1 and 3).

A maximum of 25% of planting should be selected from the notable performing lists (Tables 2 and 4).

Table 1: Proven Performing Shrubs

Please refer to the York Region Street Tree and Horticultural Design Guidelines for design considerations.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black chokeberry	Height 120cm; Spread 180cm Requires full sun to part shade
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Northern bayberry	Height 120cm; Spread 180cm Requires full sun to part shade Fragrant leaves, bright fall colour; Spread's underground to form clumps; Native
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro-Low'	Gro-low sumac	Height 80cm; Spread 200cm Requires full to partial sun Fast growing and spreading; Tolerates poor soil
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	Fragrant sumac	Height 120cm; Spread 180cm Requires full sun to part shade Fragrant leaves, bright fall colour; Spread's underground to form clumps; Native
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Japanese shrub rose/ Salt spray rose	Height 150cm; Spread 200cm Requires full sun and well-drained soil Upright, bushy and suckering habit, extremely hardy and resistant to disease; Flowers continuously, hips/seed head good contrast
<i>Syringa meyeri</i> 'Palibin'	Dwarf Korean lilac	Height 120cm; Spread 120cm Requires full sun and well-drained soil Upright, compact habit, hardy and resistant to disease
<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>	False spirea	Height 180cm; Spread 180cm Requires full sun and well-drained soil Upright, bushy and suckering habit, extremely hardy and resistant to disease; Flowers continuously



Table 2: Notable Performing Shrubs

Please refer to the York Region Street Tree and Horticultural Design Guidelines for design considerations.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red osier dogwood	Height 150cm; Spread 120cm Requires full sun and well-drained soil Upright habit, hardy and resistant to disease
<i>Forsythia spp.</i>	Forsythia	Height 240cm; Spread 200cm Upright, bushy habit, hardy with yellow flowers in early spring.
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> <i>'Annabelle'</i>	Annabelle hydrangea	Height 120cm; Spread 120cm Requires full sun and well-drained soil Upright, bushy habit, hardy and resistant to disease; Round cluster of flowers
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> <i>'Grandiflora'</i>	PeeGee hydrangea	Height 120cm; Spread 120cm Requires full sun and well-drained soil Upright, bushy habit, hardy and resistant to disease; Cone shaped clusters of flowers
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Potentilla	Height 90cm; Spread 120cm Requires full sun and well-drained soil Upright, bushy habit, hardy and resistant to disease Acceptable varieties: <i>'Abbotswood'</i> and <i>'Goldstar'</i>
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Spirea	Height 120cm; Spread 120cm Requires full sun and well-drained soil Upright, bushy habit, hardy and resistant to disease Acceptable varieties: <i>'Goldflame'</i> and <i>'Goldmound'</i>



Table 3: Proven Performing Perennials

Please refer to the York Region Street Tree and Horticultural Design Guidelines for design considerations.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i>	Feather reed grass	Height 100cm; Spread 50cm Requires full sun Drought tolerant Preferred variety: 'Karl Foerster'
<i>Hemerocallis spp.</i>	Daylily	Varies in sizes and colour depending on variety Requires full to partial sun Once established, needs only occasional watering; requires deadheading
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switch grass	Height 100cm; Spread 100cm Requires full sun; Drought tolerant Acceptable varieties: 'Heavy metal', 'Rotsrahlbusch' or 'Shenandoah'
<i>Sedum spectabile</i> 'Autumn Joy'	'Autumn Joy' sedum	Height 35cm; Spread 45cm Requires full sun to part shade Flowers late summer/fall To be used on non-irrigated sites only (susceptible to rot)



Table 4: Notable Performing Perennials

Please refer to the York Region Street Tree and Horticultural Design Guidelines for design considerations.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Characteristics
<i>America maritime</i> 'splendens'	Sea thrift	Height 25cm; Spread 25cm Requires full to partial sun and well-drained soils Variety of flower colours
<i>Artemisia schmidtiana</i>	Silver mound	Height 30cm; Spread 40cm Requires well-drained soils Compact, semi-evergreen forming a silky cushion of finely cut silver foliage To be used on non-irrigated sites only
<i>Baptisia australis</i>	Blue false indigo	Height 90cm; Spread 70cm Requires partial sun and well-drained soils Flowers mid spring into early summer
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> 'Zagreg'	Thread-leaf coreopsis	Height 75cm; Spread 45cm Requires full to partial sun Variety of flower colours
<i>Dianthus sp.</i>	Carnations/ Pinks	Height 75cm; Spread 45cm Requires full to partial sun Variety of flower colours; Salt tolerant Acceptable varieties: 'Helen Allwood' pinks, 'Little Boy Blue' pinks or 'Spotti' pinks
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Magnus'	Purple coneflower	Height 90cm Spread 90cm Requires full sun and well-drained soils Flowers summer to fall.
<i>Geranium 'rozanne'</i>	Rozanne Cranesbill Geranium/ Hardy geranium	Height 40cm; Spread 70cm Masses of blue flowers beginning late spring to late summer; Mounded form
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	Hardy hibiscus/ Rose mallow	Height 90cm; Width 70cm Requires partial shade/sun and well-drained soils Flowers mid-summer into fall; hardy Acceptable varieties: 'Kopper king', 'Luna white' or 'Perfect storm'. To be used in medians only
<i>Liatis spicata</i> 'Blazing star'	Blazing Star gayfeather	Height 90cm; Spread 70cm Masses of spiked flowers purple or white variety.
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolis</i>	Russian sage	Height 90cm Spread 70cm Requires full sun and well-drained soils Flowers summer to fall
<i>Rudebeckia fulgida</i> 'Goldsturm'	Goldsturm Black eyed susan	Height 90cm; Width 90cm Requires full sun and well-drained soils Flowers mid-summer into fall
<i>Veronica speedwell</i>	Spike speedwell	Height 50cm; Spread 40cm Requires full sun and well-drained soils Flowers summer to fall; Multi branch purple or pink flowers; Flowers from bottom up. Acceptable varieties: 'Perfectly Picasso', 'Very van Gogh', or 'Royal candles'

