

Plants for Screening and Privacy

Plant	Height	Width	Spacing	Comments
Thuja Green Giant	20-40'	12-20'	5-10'	Disease rest.
Emerald Thuja	8-12'	3-4'	2-5'	Disease rest.
Chindo Viburnum	12-20'	8-10'	4-6'	White bloom/red berry
Wax Myrtle	15-20'	15'	5-10'	Drought/sand/sun tolerant
Thorny Eleagnus	10-15'	10-15'	6-10'	Drought/sand/sun tolerant
Nellie Stevens Holly	15-20'	8-10'	4-6'	Drought tolerant
Oakleaf Holly	15-20'	8-10'	4-6'	Drought tolerant
Emily Bruner Holly	15-20'	8-10'	4-6'	Drought tolerant
Cleyera	10-15'	6-8'	4-6'	Drought tolerant
Sasanqua Camellia	10'	6-8'	4-6'	Flowering/slow grower
Fortune's tea olive	15-20'	15-20'	8-12'	Fragrant/deer resistant

To promote quick growth with any tree or shrub the most important things you can do are:

- Remove grass from the planting area since turf is extremely competitive with tree and shrub roots for water and nutrients.
- Water plants once a week from April through November if it does not rain – drip systems or soaker hoses work best.
- Prepare the soil well before planting. This includes incorporating compost into the soil, tilling in any lime or nutrients recommended by soil test results, and cultivating the soil to a depth of 6" to 8". Apply a slow release fertilizer (example, Osmocote) or an organic fertilizer (example, Plant-tone) in March following the rate listed on the directions.

Screening Plants

This time of the year you can see farther through the woods than any other time of the year. In some cases you find you can see too far. Fortunately the local nursery industry has a solution for you. I wouldn't recommend choosing just one type of plant and planting a row of them. I might repeat a plant 3 or 5 times before swapping. If the area to be screened is long enough I might repeat the same plant later in the screen.

Choosing a variety of plants provides more disease and insect resistance. It also keeps all your plants from aging out at the same time. The current unpopularity of the redbtip photinia comes from its extensive use in solid rows. Once the disease got started, rain spattered the disease right down the row. If a different plant had been in the middle of the row, the disease wouldn't have been able to keep going as bad. I don't know of any disease severely affecting the plants in my first string list but who knows what the future holds.

Here's my first string roster.

Nellie Stevens Holly *Ilex* x 'Nellie R Stevens',
 Fosteri Holly *Ilex* x *attenuata* 'Fosteri'
 Carolina Sapphire Cypress *Cupress glabra* 'Carolina Sapphire'
 Cherry Laurel *Prunus caroliniana*
 Thorny Eleagnus *Eleagnus pungens*
 Wax Myrtle *Myrica cerifera*
 Fragrant Tea Olive *Osmanthus fragrans*
 Holly Tea Olive *Osmanthus heterophyllus*
 Ligustrum *Ligustrum japonica*
 Glossy Privet *Ligustrum lucidum*
 Chinese Privet *Ligustrum sinesis*
 Savannah Holly *Ilex* x 'Savannah'
 Anise Tree *Illicium* sp.
 Burford Holly *Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordi'

These are the traditional screening plants. You wouldn't go wrong with any of these plants in most any of the conditions we face in Cabarrus County. You should be able to find any of those in local nurseries.

While putting together the traditional screening plants, I also came up with a non traditional list. These are just as good and are also available in local nurseries, but we sometimes forget them when it comes to screening.

- Japanese Camellia *Camellia japonica*
- Sasanqua Camellia *Camellia sasanqua*
- Southern Magnolia *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem'

A first string demands a second string. These are good plants but don't have the across the board performance you would see from the other ones. Leyland cypress didn't make my first list due to a couple of disease problems I have seen. Cleyera is supposed to readily get 8 feet high. I have seen it that high a number of times but the one at the arboretum has stalled at about 3 feet. Rhododendron and hemlock require special siting for good performance. I don't know if the redbtip should be on the list or not. I personally would only use it for a specimen plant. It's kind of a moot point since right now you can't buy it any way.

- Loropetalum *Loropetalum chinense*
- Leyland Cypress x *Cupressocyparis leylandii*
- Deodar Cedar *Cedrus deodara*
- Cleyera *Ternstroemia gymnanthera*
- Japanese Cryptomeria *Cryptomeria japonica*
- Catawba Rhododendron *Rhododendron catawbiense* 'Roseum Elegans'
- Canadian Hemlock *Tsuga canadensis*
- Redtip Photinia frazier