THE Natural GARDENER
ORGANIC GARDENING HEADQUARTERS

# *Privacy Screen*
# *Plant List*

Privacy screens can be very helpful to create a sense of solitude and peace while also providing relief from the stress of the outside world. There are many ways to achieve this, from evergreen trees and vines to screens and fences. When choosing a type of plant for a privacy screen, first decide on your full desired height. Secondly, how much work am I willing to do? It is best to choose a plant that, when full grown, is close to your desired height and width. This way the maintenance will be greatly reduced as pruning will be minimal. Another consideration for minimizing work is soil type. Match your soil type to the plants with those preferred conditions. Plant a variety of species to prevent the spread of disease and potential loss of the entire screen. It is much easier to fill a single hole than to replace the entire screen.

***Spacing*** your plants so that the distance between them is just shorter than the full grown width will give optimal coverage with minimal maintenance. (Diagram #1) Initially this will leave a good deal of space between each plant. At first the spacing may not look great but the plants will grow and fill in over the next few years. If this wide spacing in the beginning is not to your liking you can plant them 2x as close together and after a couple years remove every other one. This will allow them to continue to fill out into maturity properly with plenty of space. (Diagram #2) If they are not removed they will be to overgrown and more susceptible to insects and disease. Woody plants need time to establish roots before they focus much growth above ground. An adage that is used to convey this is; 1st year Sleep, 2nd year Creep, 3rd year Leap. Trees and large shrubs need 3-5 years to become "established."

***Sun*** = minimum of 6hrs direct sun. ***Part Shade*** = 4-6 hrs direct sun. ***Shade*** = less than 3 hrs direct morning sun to dappled light.

*** Plant native to Texas**

| **Trees** | | **H x W** | **Light** | **Evergreen** | **Feature** | **Soil** | **Growth Rate** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona Cypress * | *Cupressus arizonica* | 30-50x20 | Sun | E | Blu/Gry foliage | Thin Rocky | Med/ Slow |
| Carolina Cherry Laurel * | *Prunus caroliniana* | | | | | | |
| | "Center Court" | 30x15 | Sun/ Part Shade | E | Shiny Dk Green | Rich | Med |
| | "Compact" | 10-12x 6-8 | Sun/ Shade | E | Shiny Dk Green | Rich | Med |
| Citrus, Kumquat | *Citrus japonica* | 10-12x 6-8 | Sun | E | Flower/ Fruit | Med | Fast/ Med |
| Citrus, Satsuma | *Citrus unshiu* | | Sun | E | Flower/ Fruit | Med | Fast/ Med |
| Japanese Yew | *Podocarpus macrophyllus* | 20-40x15 | Sun/ Shade | E | Thin foliage | Rich | Fast/ Med |
| Loquat | *Eriobotrya japonica* | | Sun/ Part Shade | E | Flower/ Fruit | Med | Fast/ Med |
| Olive | *Olea europaea* | 12-15x10 | Sun | E | Fruit | Thin Rocky | Slow |
| Pomegranite | *Punica granatum* | | | No | Flower/ Fruit | Med/ Thin R. | Med |
| Texas Mt Laurel * | *Sophora secundiflora* | 15-20x8-10 | Sun/ Shade | E | Purple Flowers | Thin Rocky | Slow |

| **Shrubs** | | **H x W** | **Light** | **Evergreen** | **Feature** | **Soil** | **Growth Rate** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bay Laurel | *Laurus nobilis* | | Sun/ Part Shade | E | Dk Green | Med/ Thin R. | Med/ Slow |
| Burford Holly | *Ilex cornuta* | 10-15x 4-8 | Sun/ Shade | E | Shiny Dk Green | Rich | Med |
| Cenizo * | *Luecophyllum fructescens* | 8-10x6 | Sun | E | Gry leaf/ flower | Thin Rocky | Slow |
| Elaegnus | *Elaeagnus ebbingei* | 12x6-8 | Sun/ Part Shade | E | Silver foliage | Med/ Thin R. | Med |
| Evergreen Sumac * | *Rhus virens* | 6-10x6-8 | Sun/ Part Shade | E | Very tough | Thin Rocky | Slow |
| Greek Myrtle | *Myrtus comminus* | 6-10x5 | Sun/ Part Shade | E | Dk Green | Med | Slow |
| Pineapple Guava | *Feijoa sellowiana* | 8-15x8-15 | Sun/ Part Shade | E | Flower/ fruit | Med/ Rich | Med |
| Primrose Jasmine | *Jasminum mesnyi* | | Sun/ Shade | E | Yellow flowers | Med | Fast/ Med |
| Prickley Pear | *Optunia sp.* | 5-8x5-8 | Sun | E | Flowers/fruit | Thin Rocky | Fast/ Med |
| Rose, Mutabilis | *Rosa "*Mutabilis" | | Sun | SE | Showy Flowers | Med/ Thin R. | Med |
| Sweet Olive | *Osmanthus fragrans* | | Sun/ Part Shade | E | White flowers | Med/ Rich | Med |
| Viburnum, Awabuki | *Viburnum odor. awabuki* | 10-15x4-8 | Sun/ Part Shade | E | White flowers | Med/ Rich | Fast/ Med |
| Viburnum, Chindo | *Viburnum odor. "*Chindo" | 10-15x6-8 | Sun/ Part Shade | E | White flowers | Med/ Rich | Fast/ Med |
| Viburnum, Sweet | *Viburnum odoratissimum* | 10-15x10 | Sun/ Part Shade | E | White flowers | Med/ Rich | Fast/ Med |
| Viburnum, Walter's | *Viburnum obovatum* | | Sun/ Part Shade | E | White flowers | Med/ Rich | Fast/ Med |
| Wax Myrtle * | *Morella cerifera* | 10-15x6-8 | Sun/ Part Shade | E | Thin foliage | Med/ Rich | Fast/ Med |
| Xylosma | *Xylosma congestum* | | Sun/ Shade | E | Shiny Dk Green | Med/ Rich | Fast/ Med |
| Yaupon * | *Ilex vomitoria* | | | | | | |
| | "Pride of Houston" | 10-15x6 | Sun/ Shade | E | Red berries | Med | Fast/ Med |
| | "Scarlet Peak" | 20x4 | Sun/ Shade | E | Red Berries | Med | Fast/ Med |
| | "Will Fleming" | 15-20x 5 | Sun/ Shade | E | No berries | Med | Fast/ Med |

| **Vines** | | **H x W** | **Light** | **Evergreen** | **Feature** | **Soil** | **Growth Rate** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carolina Jessamine * | *Gelsemium sempervirens* | 10-15. | Sun/ Shade | E | Yellow Flower | Med | Med |
| Coral Honeysuckle | Lonicera semipervirens | 10 | Sun/ Part Shade | SE | Coral Flower | Med | Med |
| Cross Vine * | *Bignonia capreolata* | 15-20 | Sun/ Part Shade | SE | Orange Flower | Med/ Thin R. | Med |
| Rose, Lady Banks | *Rosa banksiae* | 15-20 | Sun/ Part Shade | SE | Yel/ Wht Flower | Med/ Thin R. | Med |
| Star Jasmine | *Trachelospermum jasminoides* | 20 + | Sun/ Shade | E | White Flower | Med/ Rich | Fast/ Med |

***Pruning*** is best to do in regular small prunings rather than big major cuts. These frequent prunings slow down wood formation. This is preferable because cut woody growth does not readily sprout new shoots. On evergreens you should always leave some foliage beneath the cut. **(**Diagram #3) Cut the stems just above the spot where a leaf attaches to the stem. This point is called a node. New growth will arise from the upper-most nodes left on the stems. This encourages more branching and denser foliage. The best overall shape to maintain is a slight cone narrower on the top. (Diagram #4) This shape allows sunlight to reach all the waydown to the lower branches. This light will make the branches fill out with more dense foliage. Plants that shade their lower branches will have fewer leaves or be completely devoid of foliage on the lower portions of the plant.

***Watering*** - We are looking for deep thorough watering over the entire root zone with a chance to dry in between the next watering. On average soak deeply once to twice a week to start. As they mature it maybe once every few weeks depending on species and maturity.

***Vines*** have a faster growth rate and offer faster coverage and establishment than most shrubs and trees. There is more in upfront cost for vines due to the trellis but for many the faster growth rate makes up for it. When planting the vine unstake the plant and entwine the stems horizontally through the trellis. (Diagram #5) Once the stems begin to sprout they will grow up vertically, covering the trellis more throughly. (Diagram #6)

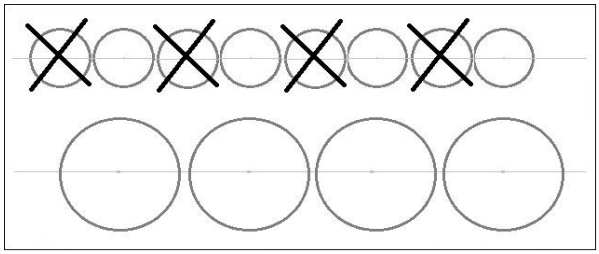

*Diagram #1*- Dense plant spacing for privacy screening. More full in the beginning but eventually every other plant

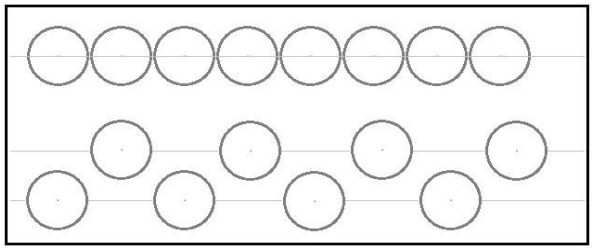

*Diagram #2*- Plant spacing for privacy screening in a single line or staggered. Size shown is the full size width of the species.

*Diagram #3* - Pruning cuts that leave some foliage below the cut and encourage branching and thick dense growth as a result.

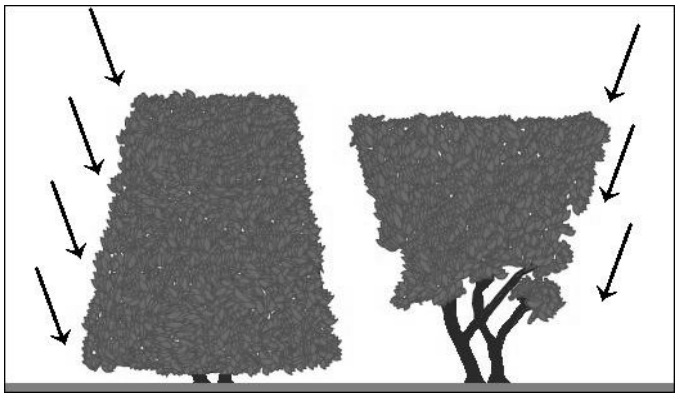

*Diagram #4*- Plant shape for dense thick foliage to the bottom of the plant.

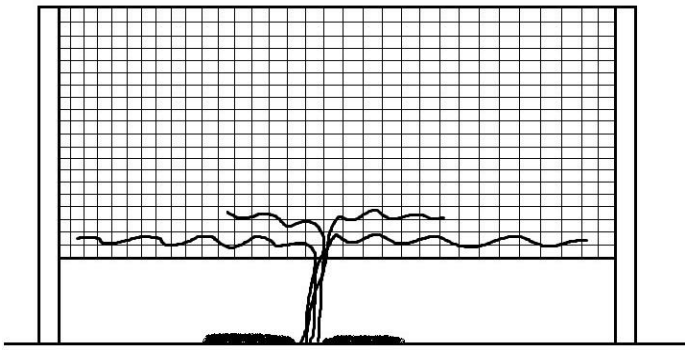

*Diagram #5*- At planting unstake the vine and entwine its stems horizontality through the trellis as far as possible.

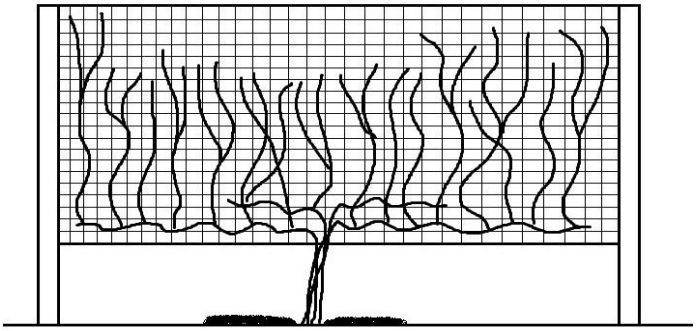

*Diagram #6*- Over the next few years the plant will sprout all along the original stems, these new shoot grow upward eventually filling the entire trellis.