



Lael's Moon Garden Nursery
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Trees for Small Gardens

“Small garden” is a relative term. In this short list, we are mentioning only trees under 10 feet that can be seen full size in the front display garden at Lael’s Moon Garden. There are many more fine cultivars of small trees available in the nursery.

Camellias (*Camilla japonica*, *C. sinensis*): These are usually grown as shrubs, but they can be pruned into a flowering evergreen tree by removing the lower limbs and shaping the top. Best in morning sun and afternoon shade. Prune immediately after flowering to allow development of buds for next year’s bloom.

Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*, *A. shirasawanum*, *A. japonicum*): There are many cultivars of Japanese maple that will remain small and provide a great variety of leaf colors, shapes, and sizes. Many have bright fall colors. In our display garden you will see “Golden Full Moon” (Aureum) interesting golden summer leaf color with fall color being gold and red. Must be grown in shade to avoid sunburn).

“Shaina” a dwarf shrub with tiny bright red leaves.

“Dancing Peacock” (Acontifolium) - 10’ tall after 25 years with interesting leaf shape and bright red fall color.

“Floating Cloud” (Ukigumo) - dusty white variegation and small size.

“Sagara Nishiki” bright yellow variegation, 7’ tall after 25 years, requires shade.

“Peaches and Cream” - white netted variegation.

“Pixie” - dark red summer foliage and smaller stature than “Bloodgood.”,

“Atrolinear” - red strap leaf with small stature.

Japanese maples take well to pruning to keep them small and compact. Many make fine container plants.

Seven Sons Flower (*Heptacodium miconoides*): Normally grown as a shrub, but can be pruned into a small tree by removing lower limbs. Leaves are narrow heart-shaped with interesting texture. Creamy, white fragrant flowers in late summer followed by purple-red calyses. White exfoliating bark and yellow fall color. Best in morning sun afternoon shade.

Hydrangea Trees: There are several varieties of *Hydrangea paniculata* “Grandiflora” or “Pee Gee” that can be pruned into a small deciduous flowering tree by removing the lower limbs and training to a single trunk. All can and should be pruned back heavily in winter to increase branching because every branch will have a large panicle of white fragrant long-lasting flowers that turn pink. “Pink Diamond” turns a strong pink slowly and “Quickfire” turns a strong pink very quickly. Extremely windy sites and overhead watering should be avoided because the flowers are so large that limbs can be broken. Full to half day sun is preferred.

Shrubs for Small Gardens

With space for only a few plants we have selected some that we think are the most dramatic and have year round interest.

“Summer Ice” – (*Daphne transatlantica*) – Evergreen shrub with fragrant white-pink flowers that blooms in spring and intermittently through the summer. Grows to about 3-4’ tall and wide. We find it does best with afternoon shade.

“Hakuro Nishiki” or Dappled willow (*Salix integra*) – Has bright variegated leaves with white pink and green on the new growth. Prune regularly to promote new growth. Moist soil with afternoon shade. This can also be trained into a small tree by pruning or grafting. Winter look has a silhouette with reddish bark.

“Burgundy Bay” Heavenly Bamboo – (*Nandina domestica*) Dwarf evergreen with bamboo-like leaves that spreads to make a small clump. This variety has good red color year round and gets about 30-36” tall and wide. Nandinas will grow in full sun to part-shade; most have white flowers in summer followed by red berries in fall. There are many varieties ranging from ground cover types to ones that get 7-8’ tall. They also do well in containers and take pruning well if you want a more formal look.

“Papoose” (*Picea sitchensis*) Dwarf Sitka spruce. Slow growing evergreen with short branches and stubby scrub brush like arms. Nice bluish cast. Grows to about 4’ x 4’.

‘Flaming Silver’ Lily of the valley shrub (*Pieris japonica*) - Variegated foliage of green and white. New growth is bright flaming red in spring and again in mid-summer. Has white bell flowers in the late winter early spring. Grows to about 3-5’ x same.

Sweet Box (*Sarcococca confusa*, *S. hookerana humilis* or *S. ruscifolia*) – Evergreen shrub with glossy green leaves. White vanilla scented flowers in February. Part to full shade. Confusa and ruscifolia will get 4-6’ tall; humilis is a ground hugging dwarf about 18” tall spreading by underground runners.