

# Garden for Hot Spots

This plan establishes a sun-screening, cooling microclimate around the southwest corner of the house – typically the hottest spot. The home faces south onto a fairly busy road. The driveway and entrance are on the southwest side. The design goals are:

- ❑ Shade and cool the house from hot sun
- ❑ Be attractive from inside the house and from the patio
- ❑ Be welcoming from the street
- ❑ Reduce lawn area
- ❑ Screen the street traffic
- ❑ Use drought tolerant plants; use native plants, primarily, to encourage birds and butterflies
- ❑ Be easy care

Instead of foundation plantings, there is a crushed stone drainage strip. Beyond the walkway is a sweep of trees, shrubs and ground covers to be enjoyed from the dining and living room areas. Along the west side, the walkway passes under an arbor with deciduous vines that screen the house from hot west sun in the summer but allow winter sunshine. The arbor continues as a pergola over part of the patio at the northwest corner. Along the street are graceful, salt-tolerant trees and shrubs.

For the perennials and ornamental grasses, pick your favorite drought-tolerant varieties. Go to [www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact\\_sheets/plant\\_culture/drought\\_perennials.pdf](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/plant_culture/drought_perennials.pdf) and [www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact\\_sheets/plant\\_culture/drought\\_tolerant\\_plants.pdf](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/plant_culture/drought_tolerant_plants.pdf) for suggestions.

| Key  | Botanical name                        | Common                    | Height | Width  | Moisture  | Value  |
|------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|--|
| 1    | Quercus palustris                     | Pin oak                   | 50'    | 25-35' | Adaptable | Attractive pyramidal tree; bird cover; fall color                              |
| 2    | Physocarpus opulifolius 'Summer Wine' | Ninebark                  | 4-6'   | 4-6'   | Low       | Drought-tolerant shrub, burgundy foliage, pinkish flowers                      |
| 3 or | Lonicera sempervirens                 | Coral honeysuckle         | 10-20' |        | Medium    | Woody vine; attracts hummingbirds; red or yellow trumpet flowers               |
| 3    | Parthenocissus quinquefolia           | Virginia creeper          | 30-50' |        | Adaptable | Fast-growing woody vine with fabulous red fall color; blue bird fruit          |
| 4    | Myrica pennsylvanica                  | Bayberry                  | 2-6'   | 6-10'  | Low       | Salt-tolerant, nitrogen fixing, semi-evergreen shrub; bird berries             |
| 5    | Acer rubrum 'Red Sunset'              | Red maple                 | 40-75' | 20-50' | Adaptable | Brilliant fall color; fast growing   |
| 6    | Betula nigra 'Dura Heat'              | River birch               | 40'    | 40'    | Adaptable | Graceful multi-stemmed tree, peeling bark; yellow fall color                   |
| 7    | Juniperus virginiana 'Grey Owl'       | Grey owl red cedar        | 3'     | 8'     | Low       | Low mounding evergreen; berries for birds                                      |
| 8    | Microbiota decussata                  | Siberian arborvitae       | 1'     | 10'    | Low       | Feathery evergreen ground cover; takes part shade                              |
| 9    | Crataegus viridis 'Winter King'       | Green hawthorn            | 20-35' | 20-35' | Adaptable | June white flowers, fall color, winter red berries for birds; mostly thornless |
| 10   | Malus 'Prairie Fire'                  | Crabapple                 | 20'    | 20'    | Low       | Fuschia flowers, red-tinged leaves; bird fruit; resistant to apple scab        |
| 11   | Ilex glabra 'Shamrock'                | Inkberry                  | 3-5'   | 3-5'   | Adaptable | Shrub with shiny small evergreen leaves; somewhat shade tolerant               |
| 12   | Prunus x cistena                      | Purple-leaved sand cherry | 7'     | 7'     | Low       | Small shrub with pink flowers, purple fruit; burgundy leaf; salt tolerant      |
| 13   | Prunus maritima                       | Beach plum                | 6'     | 6'     | Low       | White flowering small shrub; edible fruits; salt tolerant                      |
| 14   | Ilex verticillata 'Winter Red'        | Winterberry`              | 8      | 8      | Adaptable | Winter red berries feed birds; female; need one male pollinator                |



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