

Midtown at Cottonwood Creek Homeowners' Plant Guide

This guide is to assist homeowners in understanding the plants provided by the builder should replacements be needed. While this guide contains many plants and trees, it may not encompass everything planted as well as different plants planted by homeowners. The "Brooks " (Cedarbrook, Berrybrook, Colebrook, and Treebrook) have slightly different planting than houses along the creek side of Parkwood and the inner circle surrounding the Pavilion area. This guide does not include HOA Common Area plants which also may be different. Also noted are some ornamental species may not be identified or 100% accurate because plant identifier apps were used to get a best bet estimate of what was planted by Classic Homes. These are noted with an asterisk (*).

Flowers, Plants & Shrubbery

Aralia Sun King (*Aralia cordata*)

– The finely toothed, arching leaves emerge sunny yellow and retain their color. Clusters of tiny white flowers in summer are followed by purple fruit. The berries are adored by birds, but inedible by humans. Excellent cold hardiness is an added bonus. Heavy shade yields lime-green foliage. Pollinators love the flowers.



Barberry – Sunjoy Really Red Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) - glossy purple foliage, vibrant yellow flowers, and a tidy growth pattern, this non-invasive plant adds low-maintenance color to any sun-soaked area. Its semi-evergreen nature offers year-round interest, while its deer-resistant trait ensures long-lasting beauty.



Common Ninebark

(*Physocarpus opulifolius*) – The Common Ninebark is a hardy, fast-growing native shrub prized for its exfoliating bark, spring blooms, and adaptability to a wide range of conditions.

Perfect for pollinator gardens, hedgerows, and erosion control projects, Common Ninebark is drought-tolerant, deer-resistant, and incredibly easy to grow, making it a favorite among landscape professionals and native plant enthusiasts alike



Coneflower (Purple)

(*Echinacea purpurea*) – The ever-popular Purple Coneflower, blooms profusely for up to two months in mid to late summer and sometimes re-blooms in the fall. Perfect for both small gardens and large prairie meadows, the showy flowers are a favorite nectar source for butterflies, bees and myriad pollinators including hummingbirds. In late summer the large seed heads attract Goldfinches and other birds. Easy to grow, Echinacea purpurea prefers full to partial sun and medium soil conditions.



Creeping Juniper or Cedar

(*Juniperus horizontalis*) – The Creeping Juniper or Cedar is a drought-tolerant groundcover and hardy evergreen with silvery-blue foliage that takes on a purplish tone in winter. It prefers bright, sunny, well-drained slopes where water runs off quickly. It doesn't require pruning unless its growth has become unruly or portions of the plant are damaged or diseased and trimming it can prevent the juniper from spreading outside its boundaries.



Notes:



Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Globosa') – This charming, globe-shaped evergreen shrub is dwarf, flat-topped and densely branched. This little beauty is like a shining sapphire in gardens of hardy green dwarf shrubs. The bright blue needles hold their color all year long, but are a brighter hue in summer. Provides a unique accent for that special spot in the garden.

Dwarf Daylily (*Hemerocallis* x 'Stella de Oro') – A sensational, award-winning selection that blooms with heavy clusters of large, yellow flowers. Reblooms freely into early fall if spent flower stalks are promptly removed. This easy to care for plant forms neat, compact foliage clumps. An herbaceous perennial that may remain evergreen in mild winter regions.



Dwarf Mugo Pine (*Pinus mugo* var. *pumilio*) – A popular dwarf conifer displaying dark green needles on dense branches. A very useful, slow growing evergreen for rock gardens, mass plantings, and in mixed groupings with broadleaf plants.



Fernleaf Yarrow 'Coronation' (*Achillea filipendulina* 'Coronation Gold') – A sturdy perennial forming a mat of large, fern-like leaves spreading to 3 ft. wide. Flat topped, bright golden-yellow flowers up to 4 inches wide appear on long stems 2 - 3 ft. high. Makes excellent cut flowers both fresh and dried. This selection is noted for being more compact than the typical species. Yarrows are a good nectar source for bees, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. Tough and both drought tolerant and deer resistant.



Meadowsweets or Spirea (*Spiraea japonica*) – Spirea is one of the most commonly used landscape plants, and for good reason. This hardy deciduous shrub has captivating three-season interest, with a graceful habit, attractive foliage and flowers that bloom over a long time. Spirea bushes are easy-to-grow, low-maintenance, plants that provide a handful of other characteristics gardeners look for in a shrub for their landscape.

Spirea flowers in the spring or summer and will provide visual interest to your landscape with clusters of colorful flowers.

Nepeta 'Little Trudy' or Catmint (*Nepeta x psfike* 'Little Trudy') – Nepeta 'Little Trudy' (Catmint) is a compact, long-blooming Catmint with warm purple flowers that bloom from late spring through summer, attracting bees and butterflies. Finely textured aromatic foliage will help to deter deer and rabbits. Bee friendly, attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, deer resistant, rabbit resistant, groundcover, with long bloom time.



Ornamental Grass (Var.) – One of the most widely distributed species of grass in the US, Little Bluestem is very drought-tolerant. Little Bluestem is valued for its blue-green color in the summer and, after the first frost, it turns beautiful shades of brown, copper, and crimson that will remain all winter. Little Bluestem is an excellent plant for wildlife.

Notes:

Potentilla 'Happy Face'

Yellow (*Potentilla fruticosa* 'Yellow Lundy' also known as *Dasiphora fruticosa*) – A very cold-hardy native plant, Potentilla is a durable, low-maintenance choice for landscapes. It will tolerate poor soils and clay soils, and has good rabbit-resistance. Established plants will tolerate some drought. Happy Face White has extra-large, pure white flowers cover this plant from spring to late summer. This constant stream of flowers delights pollinators and visitors.

**Potentilla 'Happy Face' Pink**

Beauty (*Potentilla fruticosa* 'Pink Beauty' also known as *Dasiphora fruticosa*) – A very cold-hardy native plant, Potentilla is a durable, low-maintenance choice for landscapes. It will tolerate poor soils and clay soils, and has good rabbit-resistance. Established plants will tolerate some drought. Happy Face White has extra-large, pure white flowers cover this plant from spring to late summer. This constant stream of flowers delights pollinators and visitors.

**Potentilla 'Happy Face'**

White (*Dasiphora fruticosa* 'White Lundy' also known as *Dasiphora fruticosa*) – A very cold-hardy native plant, Potentilla is a durable, low-maintenance choice for landscapes. It will tolerate poor soils and clay soils, and has good rabbit-resistance. Established plants will tolerate some drought. Happy Face White has extra-large, pure white flowers cover this plant from spring to late summer. This constant stream of flowers delights pollinators and visitors.

Rose Marvel Salvia or

Meadow Sage (*Salvia nemorosa* 'Rose Marvel') – 'Rose Marvel' Salvia (Meadow Sage) is a colorful shout out to summer with dense, large-flowered spikes in rich, deep rose-magenta. This perennial flowers from early-to-mid summer and even into late summer and autumn with repeat blooms. Drought resistant and deer resistant, it is a real magnet for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds!



Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*) – Silky dogwood is a large to medium-sized shrub with creamy white spring flowers, dark green foliage, and reddish stems and burgundy fall color. Silky dogwood has been marked as a pollinator plant, supporting and attracting bees, butterflies, and flies. It is a host plant for butterflies, providing food during their larval stage.



***Unknown – TBD – Shrub** with non-distinguishing leaves or fruit. No flowers visible at this time. Will update once identified

Trees

Flowering Crabapple (Var) (*Malus species*) – Several varieties of Crabapple have been planted in M@CC. Most prevalent are the Spring Snow Crabapple trees. Crabapples are their most magnificent in Spring. These trees have buds and flowers that line their limbs and act as profile pollinators for apples and other crabapples. Their fragrant blooms give way to colorful leaves through Summer and usually produce colorful, if tiny, fruit in Autumn. These flowering trees add intense color in landscaping. Crabapples are fairly drought-tolerant once established. Crabapple varieties are usually bud grafted onto one of several different apple rootstocks. As a result, suckering at the base is common. It is important to prune out suckers or use a 'sucker-stopper' product annually.



Newport Plum (*Prunus*

cerasifera 'Newport') – Plum-purple leaves make this tree a winner if you're looking to add a surprising blast of color in your landscape. The Newport Flowering Plum comes alive in the spring with sweet, delicate light pink flowers. As the temperature warms the purple foliage deepens to that distinctive Newport Plum deep purple. Rounded dark purple fruits about the size of a cherry tomato are produced in late summer. These unique fruits attract wildlife like squirrels and birds and add even more interest to this exciting tree.

**Hawthorn (Var.) (*Crataegus* species) –**

These trees have a graceful, irregular shape formed by slender spreading branches. Extremely hardy, it is an excellent xeriscape plant, and offers outstanding fall color. Wildlife relish the abundant small fruits, which may hang on the trees into late January if they are not eaten.

**Tree Care Tips:****Remove Original Planting Stakes ASAP!**

Staking is a practice used to anchor, support, and protect recently planted trees. Staking helps protect newly planted trees from leaning or bending over in high wind areas like M@CC. Stakes should be maintained **for no more than one year from the initial planting**. Issues arise when stakes are not removed as the tie around the tree becomes too tight and basically “strangles” or girdles the tree trunk or branch it encircles. Other drawbacks of tree staking are: Less taper of the trunk, resulting in a weaker and smaller tree overall; Stressed trunk at point of tying (making it more subject to breaking).

Staked Tree**Results of leaving stakes****Pruning Tips:**

Remove Older Branches First - To rejuvenate a shrub or keep it at a certain height, remove older branches that have become thick and gnarled. These large branches are often out of scale with new growth, so cut them off to make room for new stems.

Prune at the Right Time - It's better to skip pruning one year than risk losing the seasonal value of a specimen plant. For example, if you wait until winter to prune a spring-flowering shrub or tree, you'll be cutting off next spring's flower show.

Watering:

Trees need water too! Turning on the sprinkler system helps more than the shrubbery and flowers. Trees, especially newly planted trees, need water to prevent stress, pests, and more. Water deeply at the base of the tree, ensuring the water reaches the roots for deep watering. A good way to water is to use a hose with a diffuser nozzle on a slow trickle for 1-2 hours, rotating it around the tree every 20 minutes or so.

**Mulching:**

Mulching can help roots retain water. Mulch around the base of your tree: Mulching helps to retain moisture in the soil, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature. Mulch helps conserve and extend available water, protects the soil from erosion, reduces competition by suppressing weeds, moderates temperature extremes, and acts as a barrier or visible marker of gardening beds to limit damage by landscape maintenance equipment.

Do Not Top Trees:

As tempting as it might be to 'round out' your tree's aesthetics, tree topping significantly impacts tree health, often leading to detrimental consequences. This practice reduces a tree's ability to produce food via photosynthesis, placing it under considerable stress. Such stress increases the tree's vulnerability to diseases, decay, and pests.

**Regularly Remove Shoots and Suckers**

When trees are stressed or have suffered some sort of trauma, they often respond by producing upright shoots called water sprouts and suckers. By most definitions, water sprouts are shoots that develop on the trunk and branches of trees, while suckers are shoots that grow from roots or the base of a tree.

Ornamental trees typically come from grafted stock. When you prune grafted trees or shrubs, remove any suckering growth that comes from the trunk below the graft. Rootstock growth won't look the same and will use energy that should be sent to the grafted branches.

Some ornamental trees, such as crabapples, produce water sprouts (thin, whip-like branches that grow straight up). Similar to suckers, these unsightly growths should also be pruned off.

Shoots & Suckers**Results of Shoots & Suckers**