



10 Shrubs for a Small Southern Yard

A mobile-friendly, fillable guide for choosing compact shrubs in Southern landscapes.

Phone users: If this opens in your browser, tap Share and choose Open in Adobe Acrobat or Save to Files.

Before You Choose a Shrub

Use these fields to think through the planting spot before you shop. Small shrubs are easier to place when you know your sun, space, and main goal ahead of time.

Planting area or bed name

How much sun does this spot get?

Available space: width and depth

Soil/drainage notes

What Do You Want This Shrub to Do?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Add blooms | ☐ Stay evergreen |
| ☐ Help pollinators | ☐ Add foliage color |
| ☐ Stay compact with less pruning | ☐ Soften a foundation bed |

Bobby & Lynn's Plant Farm

Real Plants. Real People. Real Passion.

Why Small Shrubs Work



Why Small Shrubs Work

- They fit better near walkways, porches, patios, and foundation beds.
- They usually need less pruning to stay in scale with a smaller yard.
- They add color and structure without crowding the rest of the landscape.
- Many compact shrubs still offer blooms, evergreen foliage, fragrance, or pollinator value.

Quick Yard Fit Checklist

- ☐ The mature width fits without constant pruning.
- ☐ The sunlight matches the plant tag.
- ☐ The shrub will not block windows, steps, or walkways.
- ☐ There is room to water and mulch around the plant.
- ☐ The plant matches the look I want: blooms, evergreen, fragrance, or color.

Notes for This Planting Spot

10 Great Choices: 1-5



Compact Shrub Choices for Southern Yards

1. Little Lime Hydrangea

Light: Full sun to part sun | Mature size: 3-5 ft x 3-5 ft

Big blooms in an easier size.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

2. Bobo Hydrangea

Light: Full sun to part sun | Mature size: 2.5-3 ft x 3-4 ft

Heavy white blooms on a compact plant.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

3. Dwarf Abelia

Light: Full sun to part sun | Mature size: 2-4 ft x 3-4 ft

Long bloom season and pollinator friendly.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

4. Encore Azalea

Light: Part sun | Mature size: 2.5-4 ft x 3-4 ft

Repeat blooms in spring, summer, and fall.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

5. Soft Touch Holly

Light: Full sun to part sun | Mature size: 2-3 ft x 3-4 ft

Evergreen, rounded, and tidy.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

10 Great Choices: 6-10



More Compact Shrub Choices

6. Spirea Magic Carpet

Light: Full sun | Mature size: 1.5-2 ft x 2-3 ft

Bright foliage with pink spring blooms.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

7. Dwarf Loropetalum

Light: Full sun to part sun | Mature size: 3-5 ft x 3-5 ft

Colorful foliage and spring flowers.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

8. Frostproof Gardenia

Light: Part sun | Mature size: 3-4 ft x 3-4 ft

Fragrant white blooms and evergreen leaves.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

9. Obsession Nandina

Light: Full sun to part sun | Mature size: 3-4 ft x 3-4 ft

Rich red new growth and low maintenance.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

10. Vintage Jade Distylium

Light: Full sun to part sun | Mature size: 2-3 ft x 3-4 ft

Tough evergreen for Southern heat.

☐ Consider this shrub

My note:

Bobby & Lynn's Plant Farm

Real Plants. Real People. Real Passion.

Best Fits and My Favorites

Best Fits

- ☐ Want repeat blooms? Try Encore Azalea.
- ☐ Need evergreen structure? Start with Soft Touch Holly or Distylium.
- ☐ Love hydrangeas? Little Lime and Bobo are strong choices.
- ☐ Need pollinator appeal? Dwarf Abelia is a great pick.
- ☐ Want foliage color? Look at Loropetalum, Nandina, or Spirea.

My Favorites for My Yard

Shrub	Where I'll Plant It	Sun/Shade	Notes

Final Notes