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Euonymus

(*yew-ahn-ih-muss*)

As a species, euonymus encompasses a somewhat diverse group of evergreen and deciduous shrubs. Good for specimens, accents, hedges and borders, these shrubs are generally quite colorful and prized for their interesting foliage, either seasonally or year round. As a rule, Euonymus are quite salt-tolerant and perform well at the North Carolina coast. All euonymus prefer full sun to light shade.

GOLDEN EUONYMUS: *E. japonicus* 'Aureo-Marginatus' is a broad-leaved evergreen shrub that grows to 6 feet high and 3 feet wide (or somewhat larger.) The leaves of this variety are variegated with a wide bright yellow band at the edge of each leaf. Because of its dense foliage that responds well to shearing, Golden Euonymus makes a good choice for a colorful hedge or accent plant.

GREENSPIRE EUONYMUS: *E. japonicus* 'Green Spire' makes an interesting specimen. Its small dark green leaves and tight habit accent a very formal shape of 6-8 feet tall and only 1-2 feet wide. Would also make a nice narrow hedge for confined spaces.

BOXLEAF EUONYMUS: *E. japonicus* 'Microphyllus' is a dwarf form that has small, dark green leaves and distinctly erect branches. Grows slowly to about 3 feet high and 1 foot wide. Does well in heat and difficult soils.

VARIEGATED BOXLEAF EUONYMUS: *E. jap.* 'Microphyllus Variegatus' is identical to boxleaf euonymus except that its dark green leaves are highlighted with white margins. SILVER PRINCESS is a similar shrub with slightly larger leaves.

SILVER KING EUONYMUS: *E. jap.* 'Silver King' is an upright grower with pale green leaves that have a silvery white margin. Grows similar to Golden Euonymus and reaches about 6 feet high and 3 feet wide. Another good medium hedge or accent plant.

MANHATTEN EUONYMUS: *E. kiautschauicus* 'Manhattan' makes a good evergreen to semi/evergreen sheared hedge or informal screen. Fast-growing to 6 or 8 feet tall and 5 feet wide, this plant's dark green foliage makes a nice backdrop for its pinkish fall fruit. Flowers appear in July and August and do attract bees, so avoid patio and similar locations.

EMERALD GAIETY: *E. fortunei* 'Emerald Gaiety' is an erect evergreen shrub that grows to about 4 or 5 feet tall and 3 feet wide and will climb if planted next to a structure. Its small dark green leaves are accented by white edges that turn pink in

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Euonymus cont.

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winter. Good for small hedges, foundation plantings or accents.

EMERALD 'N GOLD: *E. fortunei* 'Emerald 'n Gold' is very similar to Emerald Gaiety except that its bright green leaves are accented by a gold edge year round.

DWARF BURNING BUSH: *E. alatus* 'Compactus' is also known as Dwarf Winged Euonymus but is familiar to most of us simply as "Burning Bush." Some care is need here when selecting plants because the 'regular' or full-sized burning bush can easily reach 15-20 feet in height and width. Dwarf Burning bush is a deciduous shrub with corky bark that slowly grows to 6 or 8 feet tall and wide (or larger). Its light green leaves turn a fiery scarlet in fall, giving it its name.

