

**Suggested Foundation Plants and Foundation Garden Resources**  
**Southern New England native plants noted with “N”**

**Broadleaf shrubs, evergreens and semi-evergreens, full sun to part shade.**

- Holly family (*Ilex spp.*): Prefer acidic soil.
  - Meserve hollies. Several dwarf forms available.
  - N Inkberries, *Ilex glabra*. Several dwarf forms available.
  - N Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata*. Dwarf: ‘Red sprite’ (female), ‘Jim Dandy’ or ‘Skipjack’ (male)
- N Mountainlaurel: *Kalmia latifolia*. A few dwarf forms are available, such as ‘Tiddlywinks’.
- N Rhododendron and azalea: *R. carolinianum* (Carolina), *R. maximum* (rosebay), *R. viscosum* (swamp), *R. periclymenoides* (pinxterbloom), *R. prinophyllum* (mountain).
- Winter heath: *Calluna vulgaris* (February and March bloom) (acidic soil, needs excellent drainage)
- Pieris (AKA Andromeda): Many available. *Pieris japonica* ‘Cavatine’ is a dwarf variety.

**Small, rounded or low-growing needled evergreens. Best in part to full sun.**

- N Dwarf white pine, *Pinus strobus*: ‘Sea Urchin’; ‘nana’; ‘prostrata’; ‘pendula’; ‘globosa’; ‘blue jay’
- N Balsam fir, *Abies balsamia*: ‘nana’; ‘hudsonia’
- N Arborvitae, dwarf, *Thuja occidentalis*: ‘Hetz midget’; ‘Rheingold’; ‘Golden Globe’ (not deer-resistant)
- N Common juniper, *Juniperus communis*: Naturally compact
- N Creeping juniper, *Juniperis horizontalis*: Naturally low-growing; 70 types or more available
- N Eastern red cedar, *Juniperus virginiana* ‘Gray Owl’
- Garden Juniper, *Juniperus procumbens*
- Savin Juniper, *Juniperus sabina*,
- Shore juniper, *Juniperus conferta*
- Bird’s nest spruce: *Picea abies* ‘Nidiformis’
- King’s Gold Falsecypress, *Chamaecyparis pisifera* “King’s Gold”

**Small trees, less than 20’**

- N Chickasaw plum, *Prunus angustifolia*, full sun
- N Flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*. Part shade or shade ok.
- N River Birch, dwarf: *Betula nigra* ‘Little King’. Prefers full sun.
- N Serviceberry, *Amelanchier canadensis*, *Amelanchier laevis*, *Amelanchier arborea*. Prefers full sun.
- N Sweetbay magnolia, *Magnolia virginiana* Prefers full sun, can take light shade
- N American Hornbeam, Ironwood, *Carpinus caroliniana*
- N Hawthorns: Cockspur, *Crataegus crusgalli*, Downy, *Crataegus mollis*, Winter King, *Crataegus viridis* ‘Winter King’
- Eastern wahoo, Eastern spindle-tree, *Euonymus atropurpureus* (NY/PA/NJ native). Part to full shade ok.
- Redbud, *Cercis canadensis* (native in NY, PA, NJ and west) Full sun to part shade.
- Smoketree, *Cotinus coggygria*, Full sun

## Foundation plants for the shadiest side of the house:

- N Ferns: Many natives available
- N Moss: Let it grow! See <http://www.mossacres.com> or <http://mountainmoss.com/>
- N Hemlock, dwarf shrub forms: 'Gentsch White', 'Aurea Compacta', 'Everitt's Golden', 'Sargent', 'Pendula'. Hemlock requires treatment for wooly adelgid; not deer-resistant
- N Bush honeysuckle, *Diervilla lonicera*
- N Bearberry, Kinnikinnick, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*
- Leucothoe: *L. fontanesiana*, 'Girard's Rainbow', *L. axillaris* (Southeastern US natives)
- "Sea oats" grass: *Chasmanthium latifolium* (Eastern US native)

## Resources:

- Pruning: The primary challenge in many foundation areas is pruning. You may enjoy this site: <http://www.PlantAmnesty.org>. Also, see Lewis Hill's book, "Pruning Made Easy."
- Design: "Your House, Your Garden," by Gordon Hayward or "Home Outside," Julie Moir Messervy
- UConn plant database: <http://hort.uconn.edu/>
- To find and verify southern New England natives, use <http://gobotany.newenglandwild.org> (New England Wildflower Society)
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: <http://www.wildflower.org> (not just wildflowers!)
- To find plant sources, identify plants, or learn of others' experience with plants: <http://www.gardenweb.com> (now part of Houzz) and <http://www.davesgarden.com>

## Landscape Material Calculators

- Landscape materials calculators: "5 Easy Online Calculators Do Garden Math for You" <http://abt.cm/1lk2b8o>

## 10 Practical Pointers:

1. Find the visual foundation. (Building height = invisible guideline of the same on the horizontal plane.)
2. Find the visual and physical approaches. Make the most important features "legible" from those approaches.
3. Create balance between the building, the neighborhood, and your landscape. Balance may be static or dynamic.
4. Keep landscape features in proportion with the building and its visual foundation area.
5. Perspective is your friend in creating balance and proportion from a distance.
6. Never plant closer than 2' from the foundation
7. Keep a 2' gravel or stone border around the foundation. The gravel should be at least four inches deep, preferably six inches. A layer of landscape barrier fabric beneath the gravel will help keep it almost weed-free for years.
8. Emphasize plants with year-round interest: broadleaf and needled evergreens, berries, and plants with interesting "deadheads" such as many grasses provide.
9. Prune up to one-quarter of a foundation shrub or tree each year.

10. Place evergreen trees on the north side of the building. Deciduous on the south. (General rule.)

**See articles by Kathy Connolly at [Lawncare.About.com](http://Lawncare.About.com), [TheDay.com](http://TheDay.com) and [Zip06.com](http://Zip06.com)**

**Articles about home values and the landscape:**

“How Trees Can Boost a Home's Sale Price,” Sanette Tanaka, Oct. 10, 2013, Dow Jones/Wall Street Journal  
Also see: “20 Seconds for Love at First Sight,” Sanette Tanaka, Oct. 22, 2013, Wall Street Journal

“House and landscape value: an application of hedonic pricing technique investigating effects of lawn area on house selling price” By Madison Charles Coley, BSA, University of Georgia, 2003 master’s thesis

“Presence of Outdoor Features in New Single-Family Houses,” Census 2010

2014 Remodeling Study: All US and Regional <http://CostVsValue.com>

“Residential Property Values Improved by Landscaping with Trees,” L. M. Anderson and H. K. Cordell, USDA Forest Service, Experiment Station, Carlton Street, Athens, GA 30602.

“Landscape and House Appearance Impacts on Price of Single Family Homes,” Elam & Stigarll, Journal of Environmental Horticulture, December 2012, 182-88

“Effect of Landscape Plants on Perceived Home Value,” A. Neimiera, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech, 2009, Pub. 426-087