

What are the best privacy screening trees or shrubs?

### **Evergreen Shrubs (Year-Round Privacy)**

#### **Eastern Redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)**

- Dense columnar evergreen, 30–50 ft tall with narrow spread
- Tolerant of dry, poor soils and full sun—forms a solid natural screen  
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#### **American Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) & Hybrid 'Green Giant'**

- Classic choice for formal privacy hedges
- 'Green Giant' grows fast (2–4 ft/year), reaches 60+ ft but easily sheared to size  
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#### **Juniper (*Juniperus* spp.)**

- Varieties like 'Spartan' or 'Taylor' offer tall, narrow screens
- Excellent drought tolerance, deer-resistant and low maintenance [thespruce.com](#)

#### **Sky Pencil Japanese Holly (*Ilex crenata* 'Sky Pencil')**

- Elegant, narrow column reaching 6–8 ft tall
- Year-round dense foliage, ideal for tight spaces  
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#### **Boxwood (*Buxus* spp.)**

- Dense broadleaf evergreen, thrives in sun or partial shade
- Korean Boxwood reaches 6–10 ft and works well in formal hedge settings  
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#### **Canadian Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)**

- Shade-loving evergreen with soft, drooping branches

- Can be pruned into a dense formal privacy hedge  
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## **Deciduous & Mixed Shrubs (Seasonal Structure)**

### **Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)**

- Fast-growing, dense shrub with striking winter red stems
- Great for a natural, wildlife-friendly hedge  
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### **Forsythia (*Forsythia* spp.)**

- Rapid-growing early-flowering shrub reaching 8–10 ft
- Provides bright spring color and privacy screen [bhg.com+3thespruce.com+3bhg.com+3](#)

### **Mock Orange (*Philadelphus coronarius*)**

- Fragrant white blooms, fast and dense growth
- Reaches 10–12 ft and excellent near patios for both scent and screening  
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### **Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)**

- Fragrant spring blooms, dense foliage to 8–15 ft
- Tough, deer-resistant, a classic hedge option

### **Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis* and others)**

- Dense branching up to 6–10 ft
- Tolerates sun/part shade, deer-resistant, and berry-rich  
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### **Common Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)**

- Bold foliage, exfoliating bark adds winter interest
  - Fast growth and dense form around 6–10 ft [thespruce.com](https://thespruce.com)
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#### Special Mentions (Native & Wildlife-Friendly)

- **Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)**: Colorful berries and 3–6 ft height  
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- **Viburnum spp.** (e.g., Nannyberry, Arrowwood): Offer fragrant blooms, wildlife fruit, and robust hedge forms [gardeningknowhow.com](https://gardeningknowhow.com)

For **year-round privacy**, lean on evergreens like **arborvitae**, **boxwood**, and **Japanese holly**.  
For a **natural, landscape-friendly screen**, mix in **dogwood**, **viburnum**, **forsythia**, and **ninebark**.  
Include **fast bloomers** and **native shrubs** to support pollinators and wildlife.

Let me know if you want spacing guidance, care tips, or site-specific setups tailored to your yard!