

A vibrant garden scene featuring a winding stone path through a lush landscape. The path is composed of irregular, light-colored stone slabs set in a grassy area. On either side of the path are raised garden beds bordered with stacked stones, overflowing with a variety of colorful flowers including red, orange, yellow, and white blooms. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees, creating a sense of a well-maintained and beautiful outdoor space.

GARDENING SIMPLIFIED

Proven Winners®
ColorChoice®
Landscape Guide

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE \$4.99

WELCOME



Want to work toward improving your landscape but not sure where to start? That's what Gardening Simplified is all about. We took a different approach to this guide to Proven Winners shrubs this year, grouping plants according to how they may be used in your landscape. Our goal is two-fold: to help you find plants that you love and figure out where to plant them to best accentuate your home.

Whether you are considering purchasing your very first plant or you are an experienced gardener, you can count on Proven Winners shrubs for success. Why? Because we trial and test every plant for 5-10 years before introduction. We put each one through a gauntlet of challenges to ensure that they outperform everything else on the market. From larger flowers to better form, from new colors to longer bloom periods, and of course, vigorous, disease-resistant growth, we seek out the best shrubs the entire world has to offer and make sure they're good enough for your garden. Look for our plants in the distinctive white container at your local garden center.

Your success is important to us, and we work hard to provide the best gardening support in the business. If you have questions about our plants or just need a plant in your yard identified, we welcome you to get in touch on our Facebook page or at provenwinners.com/feedback. You can also find lots more information about caring for our shrubs and your landscape at provenwinners.com/shrubcare.



We hope that this issue of Gardening Simplified provides you the inspiration you need to transform your landscape into the lush retreat of your dreams, and the information that you need to get there.

From our garden to yours,
Stacey Hirvela
Horticulturist, Proven Winners ColorChoice Shrubs



ON THE COVER

A beautiful landscape like this one designed by Jack Barnwell (jackbarnwelldesign.com) on Mackinac Island, Michigan looks complex, but can be easily translated to any home by breaking it down into separate components. That's exactly what this issue of Gardening Simplified aims to do. In addition to the shrubs you'll learn more about here, Proven Winners offers hundreds of colorful annuals and perennials to help you create the landscape of your dreams.

ABOUT US



All Proven Winners shrubs begin their journey to your yard at Spring Meadow Nursery in Grand Haven, Michigan. We were founded in 1981 by Dale and Liz Deppe, who still own and run the nursery today. In the mid 1990s, Dale, along with plant hunter Tim Wood, began seeking out the best new ornamental shrubs the world had to offer. That's how we came to introduce two garden classics – Wine & Roses® weigela and 'Limelight' hydrangea – under the ColorChoice brand. In 2004, we joined with the Proven Winners brand and became Proven Winners® ColorChoice® Shrubs. Our selection now includes over 300 superior selections, all chosen to meet the same exacting standards as our original best sellers.




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HOW TO USE THIS LANDSCAPE GUIDE

This edition of *Gardening Simplified* was written to help you spruce up your landscape, or design a whole new one, using our award winning shrubs. Instead of simply listing all of them A-Z, we've grouped them according to their landscape role – in other words, how and where they might be planted around your home and in your yard for maximum usefulness and visual impact.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP YOU GET THE MOST FROM THIS BOOK AND GET STARTED ON A BETTER, MORE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE:

1. List the plants that you like best from each section, along with any notes about what you like about them, where you might plant them, etc. If you are a Pinterest user, make a board – you can pin your favorites directly from the Proven Winners website.  [provenwinners](#)
2. Check that your list of favorites offers a range of seasonal interest. The most compelling landscapes transition through the season, with plants that are at their peak – whether with flowers, foliage, or form – at different times. Consult the chart on page 90 to discover the season(s) of interest of the plants you like best.
3. Take a tip from professional designers – print out several black and white copies of photos of your house. You may want to lighten the contrast, if necessary. Then sketch in the shapes of the plants you like to experiment with how they will actually play out in the landscape. You can draw in beds, vines, hedges, as well as individual plants this way.
4. Plant in multiples of odd numbers. Aside from specimen plants (p. 6-21), the other roles are most effective planted in multiples. Unless you are making a formal planting, such as on either side of an entryway, plan to plant multiples of odd numbers – 3, 5, or 7 – of the border plants, groundcovers, and hedges. Odd numbers are the easiest to arrange and the most visually appealing. To create continuity, plant two or more groups of three or five throughout your landscape. It's an easy way to cover a lot of ground and keep things looking neat and tidy.
5. No landscape? No problem! Nearly all of our shrubs can readily be grown in containers on balconies, patios, porches, and decks. See page 66 for our guide to growing and caring for shrubs in containers.



Look for drawings of a home, like the one above, for hints on how the plants may be positioned in your landscape for maximum enjoyment.



NEED SPACE? MOVE SOMETHING!

Most shrubs and perennials can easily be transplanted if you want to replace something in your landscape with a new variety, or something better suited to your conditions. The very best time to do this is in early spring, but it is possible to do it during any cool weather. We recommend digging the new hole for the plant being moved as best you can first to minimize the amount of time the plant spends out of the ground. It's best to do this on cloudy days (or even during a light rain), but if it is sunny, cover the rootball with a piece of burlap or an old sheet to protect the delicate roots. Water the plant well after transplanting and keep a close eye on it the rest of the season. It will likely need extra water as it gets re-established in its new home.



WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PLANTS?

That's exactly what the chart on page 90 is for. Rather than clutter up the photos with a lot of little details about every plant, we put them in an easy-to-read chart. There, you'll find the plant's hardiness zone (i.e., whether it will survive winter in your area), heat tolerance, size, and how much light it needs (the majority of our shrubs will grow in full sun to part sun). You can also find much more information – and more photos – at provenwinners.com/plants/shrubs.

PLANT SPECIFICS

In this chart, you'll find a master listing of every plant in this edition of Gardening Simplified, along with all the information you need to grow your favorites successfully: how much sun it wants, how tall and wide it gets, and more. If you have additional questions about the shrubs in Gardening Simplified, visit provenwinners.com/feedback and select "Shrubs" as the category for a personal response from one of the professional horticulturists.

Name	Botanical Name	HT	WT	Light	Wind	Water	Zone	Notes
Blueberry	A. sp. (var. Blueberry)	5'	3"	Full Sun	Low	High	4-9	Shrub
Blueberry	A. sp. (var. Blueberry)	5'	3"	Full Sun	Low	High	4-9	Shrub
Blueberry	A. sp. (var. Blueberry)	5'	3"	Full Sun	Low	High	4-9	Shrub
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HOW TO FIND OUR PLANTS

Proven Winners shrubs are sold at garden centers across North America. You can find one near you by clicking the "Find Our Plants" link at provenwinners-shrubs.com. If your favorite garden center does not have the plants that you want in stock, they should be able to order them for you from the grower who supplies them with our shrubs.

Retailers and landscapers: if you need a wholesale source for Proven Winners shrubs, please contact us at 1-800-633-8859 or click the "Growers and Retailers" box at the bottom of the page listed above.



HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS? WE'RE EASY TO REACH AND ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP:

Facebook: [Facebook.com/PWColorChoice](https://www.facebook.com/PWColorChoice)

Instagram: @PWColorChoice

Twitter: @Proven_Winners

YouTube: bit.ly/2BjngTa

E-mail: gardening@springmeadownursery.com

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