

Suburban Gardener

Barberries Overlooked, Make Good Barriers

By BETTY FRANKEL

Are barberries such common shrubs that they are being overlooked? They are a handsome group of plants that include both evergreen and leaf-losing kinds. They should be used more often in landscape planting.

Varieties range in size from dwarfs that never grow over a

foot tall to upright plants more than 10 feet in height. They form dense, bushy plants, often with gracefully arching branches.

They are spiny plants, which is a characteristic that can be used to good advantage where a barrier is needed to control foot traffic or to keep people out of an area. All barberries have three little

thorns formed at the base of each growth bud. In some varieties the spines are relatively small while in others they are quite long.

Most barberries bear attractive waxy yellow flowers in early spring, which are followed later in the season by red, purple or blue-black fruits about one-quarter inch in length.

In some varieties the fruits are formed in showy clusters and in others they hang singly, all along the branches. Fruits of the evergreen barberries are less conspicuous, and after ripening fall quickly or are eaten by the birds. The leaf-losing barberries have fruits that are attractive all fall and in some cases are decorative all winter long.

The evergreen barberries have small, spiny, leathery leaves that are handsome all year. They may be combined effectively with needle evergreens or with other broad-leaf evergreens. The leaf-losing kinds turn a brilliant color before the leaves fall. There are also some varieties that have red leaves all summer.

THE COMMON BARBERRY (*Berberis vulgaris*) has showy red fruits, but should not be used in landscape planting. It is an alternate host for the rust disease of wheat.

The rust fungus spends part of its life cycle on wheat and other cereal plants and part of its cycle on common barberry and other plants. It helps prevent spread of the rust disease if there are no common barberry plants grown where wheat is grown. Fortunately, there are other equally attractive barberries that are not infected by the rust and can be safely planted.

A good substitute for the common barberry is the Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*). This is a dense plant that grows about five feet tall but can be kept pruned to a lower height.

The small green leaves turn brilliant scarlet in fall. The red berries strung along the branches stay plump and fresh all winter. The plants are especially attractive in spring when they are laden simultaneously with fresh new leaves, waxy yellow flowers and the still fresh red fruits from the preceding year.

The Japanese barberry grows in almost any kind of soil and is noted for its ability to withstand dry situations. It is a sturdy dependable shrub that can be used as a specimen plant, in a background screen planting, for an informal hedge, or clipped into a trim tailored hedge.

It is such a common old-fashioned shrub that has been used and misused for so long that its value is not fully realized.

THE RED-LEAVED variety of Japanese barberry seems even more common than the species. It makes a good accent plant, but care must be taken when using it in foundation plantings not to get a spotty, busy effect.

The variety "minor" is a small form that is never more than four feet high. Because of its small leaves it is called the "box barberry." It makes a neat hedge plant. The variety "erecta" grows with an upright form. This, too, is a good hedge plant. Of special interest is the pygmy red barberry, a very dwarf red-leaved form, that is good in the rock garden or as a specimen plant in a small Japanese-style garden. It is also effective used as a border in front of other shrubs.

The wildfire barberry (*B. gilgiana*) is another good substitute for the common barberry, and so is the Korean barberry (*B. koriana*). Both grow about six feet high and have pendant clusters of red berries.

There are some evergreen barberries that have proved perfectly hardy in this area. One of the hardiest and handsomest is *Juliana* barberry. It forms a dense shrub, six feet high, clothed with spiny leathery leaves. It is a beautiful shrub that is attractive all year.

Somewhat smaller is the warty barberry (*B. verruculosa*). This compact evergreen barberry is especially interesting because the lower sides of the leaves are silver colored, making a pretty contrast with the deep green upper surface. In autumn the foliage gets a bronzy tinge.

The black barberry (*B. gagnepainii*) is reported to grow as well in New England as in California. Perhaps the hardest of all evergreen barberries is the threespine barberry (*B. trianthophora*) which grows four feet tall.

P I N E

PRE-WINTER CLEARANCE

SAVE!...SAVE!...SAVE ON THESE OUTSTANDING BUYS

MISSION BIRCH
Beautiful Honey
Shade
5.47
4x8 Reg. 6.97

**EXOTIC INDIAN
ROSEWOOD**
3.99
4x8 Reg. 6.97

**TROPICANA
SPICE BANANA COCONUT**
4x7 **2.59**
4x8 **2.99**

**BURMESE
TEAK**
9.97
4x8 Reg. 19.95

**CALIENTE
BROWN BIRCH**
5.47
4x8 Reg. 6.97

**CAJUN PECAN
VINYL OVERLAY**
3.99
4x7 Reg. 5.97

**FREE!
STAPLE
GUN
USE
FIRST
WEEK
WITH
THIS
PURCHASE**

Special

PREFINISHED PANELING



GOLDEN ELM 4x7 Reg. 5.97 **3.99**
4x8 Reg. 6.97 **4.99**

COLONIAL PECAN (VINYL OVERLAY) 4x7 Reg. 5.97 **3.99**

TROPICANA SPICE 32"x84" Reg. 1.97 **1.79**

SPECIAL LAUAN LITE OR DARK 4x7 **2.49**

GREEN DISTRESSED BIRCH 4x8 Reg. 6.97 **5.67**

SPECIAL LAUAN LITE 4x8 **2.89**

ANTIQUE SILVER BIRCH 4x8 Reg. 6.97 **5.47**

SCOTCH HEATHER (VINYL OVERLAY) 4x7 Reg. 5.97 **3.99**

DANISH TEAK (VINYL OVERLAY) 4x7 Reg. 5.97 **3.99**
4x8 Reg. 6.97 **4.99**

ENGLISH CHESTNUT (VINYL OVERLAY) 4x7 Reg. 5.97 **3.99**
4x8 Reg. 6.97 **4.99**

REYNOLDS
Tem-Tup
ALUMINUM
Temper for toughness
which has earned the seal
of the Aluminum Association

**BAKED ENAMEL
ALUMINUM SIDING**

100 sq. ft.
without
Backer **\$25.95**

100 sq. ft.
insulated
Backer **\$29.95**

**COVER...
WITH PROTECTION**

**PLAIN
and
PASTELS**
COLORS TO
CHOOSE FROM!

Reg. 235 LB.

\$3.43
BUNDLE

SEALDOWN 240 LB.

\$3.56
BUNDLE

Cash & Carry

CEILING TILE
install it yourself and
Save!

A modern attractive ceiling improves any room and best of all you can install it yourself at very little cost. Select your favorite style and pattern now.

9¢ SQ. FT.
PLAIN WHITE

12¢ SQ. FT.
ACOUSTICAL
PINHOLE

LOUVERED SHUTTERS

New approach to a basic window decoration. From...
Cash & Carry

\$105
And Up

PNEUMATIC DOOR STOPS

Ideal for storm or screen doors. A big convenience.
Only

\$1.98

**CLOSEOUT PREFINISHED
MOULDINGS**

As low as **8¢** Lin. Ft.
Put the finishing touch on any room with these mouldings.

Cash & Carry **1.29**

CEMENT MIX

Mixed to the proper ratio. Just add water and it's ready to use.

Cash & Carry **1.29**

SHELVING LUMBER

Good Kiln-dried stock. Easily worked. Ideal for shelving.

17¢ lin. ft.

PEGBOARD

Just right for kitchens, utility rooms, workshops. 4'x8' panels.

As low as **2.45** ea.

**CAULKING GUN
AND CARTRIDGE**

The easy, quick way to caulk around windows and doors or where wood joins masonry.

only **1.49**

PARTICLE BOARD

Ideal underlayment for carpet, tile or linoleum. Installation no problem.

4x8x1/4 **\$2.89**
4x8x3/8 **\$2.78**
4x8x1/2 **\$2.89**
4x8x5/8 **\$3.39**
4x8x3/4 **\$5.39**

C/C

SPECIAL PLYWOOD PRICES

INTERIOR AD

1/4" - 4x8' **\$3.72**
3/8" - 4x8' **\$4.99**
1/2" - 4x8' **\$6.49**
5/8" - 4x8' **\$7.45**
3/4" - 4x8' **\$8.25**

C/C

EXTERIOR AC

1/4" - 4x8' **\$4.19**
3/8" - 4x8' **\$5.35**
1/2" - 4x8' **\$6.99**
5/8" - 4x8' **\$8.15**
3/4" - 4x8' **\$9.30**

C/C

**CROSS BUCK
STORM DOOR**

M76-PERMA WHITE® BAKED ACRYLIC ENAMEL - 1 1/4" THICK - PRE-DRILLED FOR ALL HARDWARE - READY TO HANG

32x80 Reg. 37.95
36x80 **\$34.47**

LEFT OR RIGHT HINGE

INSULATION

Roll type. Easy to use. Works the year 'round making you comfortable

FOIL ONE SIDE **4.99**
15"x3 1/2"

PLASTER BOARD

Easy to handle and simple to install. We carry a complete line of accessories.

4x8x3/8" **1.69**
4x8x1/2" **1.79**

C/C

CEILING BEAMS

Has the appearance of real, rough-hewn wood. Installation very easy.

SALE! 99¢
LIN. FT.
Reg. 1.19
Cash & Carry
12 Ft. & 16 Ft. Only

M-500-MILLFINISH - PRE-HUNG *C/C*
32x80 36x80 **19.97**
Reg. 21.25

M-755 - PERMA WHITE - SELF STORING *C/C*
32x80 - 36x80 Reg. 30.25 **27.47**

Ideal for Partitions or Basement Walls
2x4x7

46¢
C/C
Economy Kiln-Dried
White Woods

**CALIFORNIA
REDWOOD**
4x6xR/L **42¢**
C/C
Lin. Ft.

JACK POST

Supports sagging beams. Adjustable. Easy to put in place. Sizes 5' to 8'.

As low as **6.75**

OPEN SUNDAY
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

West Side Yard
2222 INKSTER RD.
KE 2-9037

P I N E
LUMBER CASHWAY

OFFER
Thurs. & Fri.
Evening
7 PM.
8 PM.

**CAMERON PORTABLE
OR PERMANENT
DOG KENNELS**

WIRE &
VINYL COATED

FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION
WRITE OR CALL
PHONE 425-7330

1319 LEVAN RD. LYONIA, ILL.