Shrubs come in many shapes and sizes, but they can be broadly defined as multi-stemmed woody plants, usually under 20 feet (6.1 meters) tall. The shrub accessions in the Leventritt Shrub and Vine Garden have origins in North America, Europe, and Asia, and include wild-collected species as well as cultivated varieties. Within this group there’s a lot of diversity in size, growth habit, and ornamental features such as flowers, fruit, and fall foliage color.

1. Intermediate witchhazel (*Hamamelis x intermedia*)
2. White-flowered February daphne (*Daphne mezereum f. alba*)
3. Dwarf fragrant viburnum (*Viburnum farreri ‘Nanum’*)
4. Seven-son flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*)
5. Common witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
6. Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)
7. Heathers (*Erica spp.*)
8. Bluebeard (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*)
9. English lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*)
10. Viburnum nudum ‘Winterthur’
11. Longstalk holly (*Ilex collina*)
12. Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
Flowering in the Garden peaks in late spring to early summer, but there are also shrubs that bloom at other times. Very early bloomers like 1 intermediate witchhazel (*Hamamelis x intermedia*), pictured at right, 2 white-flowered February daphne (*Daphne mezereum f. alba*), and 3 dwarf fragrant viburnum (*Viburnum farreri ‘Nanum’*) bloom in late winter or very early spring. Late bloomers include 4 seven-son flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*) in September and 5 common witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) in October or November.

Colorful fruit adds ornamental appeal to some of the Garden’s shrubs in fall and winter. Many viburnums (*Viburnum* spp.) and hollies (*Ilex* spp.) have showy fruit—notable examples include 10 *Viburnum nudum ‘Winterthur’*, pictured at right, which also develops red to purple fall foliage color; 11 *Ilex collina*, a rare native holly that the Arboretum conserves; and 12 winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), a deciduous holly represented in the Garden by several cultivars such as ‘Red Sprite’ and ‘Winter Red’. *Ilex* species are dioecious (male and female flowers are borne on separate plants) so both female and male plants are needed for fruit production.

Large shrub or small tree? Some plants in the Garden could be called either large shrubs or small trees. 4 Seven-son flower (*Heptacodium miconioides*), native to China, is one such plant. It can have one or several main stems, typically has a low-branching habit, and grows 15 to 20 feet (4.6 to 6.1 meters) tall. Whether a tree or shrub, this handsome plant offers fragrant white flowers in September, followed by a display of rosy pink calyces, then boldly exfoliating bark through the winter.

A number of shrubs in the Garden provide winter interest, but one of the most eye-catching is 6 red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*). This large shrub displays bright red bark on its stems throughout the winter. The color is brightest on young stems so this plant is pruned back regularly to encourage new growth.

Subshrubs are plants that share traits both with herbaceous perennials and woody shrubs. Much of subshrubs’ top growth dies back in winter, but short sections (usually less than 10 inches [25 centimeters]) of woody stem persist at the base. Examples of subshrubs in the Garden include 7 heathers (*Erica* spp.), 8 bluebeard (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*), pictured at left, and 9 English lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*).