

Weigela florida - Old Fashioned Weigela (*Caprifoliaceae*)

Weigela florida is valued for its use as a specimen or mixed border plant. Plant Old Fashioned Weigela around windows so its abundant pink flowers can be admired each spring.

FEATURES

Form

-deciduous, spreading, dense, rounded shrub reaching 6-9' tall x 9-12' wide, dense, arching, eventually to the ground
-moderate to fast growth rate; low maintenance.

Culture

-Weigela grows best in a sunny location and moist soil. Shaded plants are straggly. Weigela also dislikes crowding.
-transplants well
-some annual dieback and winter injury make annual pruning necessary.
-becomes rangy unless pruned, no serious pests or diseases.

Foliage

-leaves simple, opposite, elliptic, 2-4" long x 1" wide, acuminate (pointed tip), rounded at base, serrate, short petiole.
-leaf color is medium to dark green in summer, turning brownish in autumn.

Flowers



-flowers funnel-shaped, perfect, about 1" long, borne singly or several in axillary clusters
-in spring and sporadically during the summer. Flowers come in various shades of rose and pink, depending on cultivar. They are very abundant and showy.

Fruits

-2-valved, glabrous capsule to 1" long
-no ornamental significance

Twigs

gray-brown, scurfy, with large circular lenticels.

-2 rows of fine hairs between the nodes

Trunk

-not applicable

USAGE

Function

-accent, border, massing, hedge

Texture

-coarse in leaf and when bare
-medium density

Assets

-profusion of colorful flowers
-relatively low maintenance
-adaptable and urban tolerant

Liabilities

-becomes scraggly, unkempt, and larger than intended unless properly pruned and managed

Habitat

Zones 4 to 8
Native to Japan

SELECTIONS

Alternates

-other spring-flowering shrubs (*Viburnum*, *Rhododendron*, *Deutzia gracilis*, etc.)

Cultivars - Variants - Related species

-many cultivars (at least 170), including variegated and dwarfs:

-'Bristol Ruby' - red flowers produced sporadically throughout the growing season.

-'Bristol Snowflake' - white flowers flushed with pink.

-'Carnaval' - red, white and pink flowers are produced on the same plant.

-'Evita' - a slow growing, compact plant with bright red flowers produced in spring and then periodically.

-'Java Red' - a hardy plant with purplish foliage and deep pink flowers.

-'Minuet' - a hardy cultivar with purplish foliage and flowers that are red, purple and yellow.

-'Naine Rouge' - a dwarf producing reddish orange flowers. The autumn foliage color is red.

-'Pink Delight' - deep pink flowers, hardier than other pink flowered cultivars.

-'Pink Princess' - a hardy cultivar with bright pink blooms.

-'Polka' - a compact plant with pink flowers having a yellow throat.

-'Red Prince' - red flowers that do not fade to purple are produced in spring and again in late summer.

-'Rosea' - pink flowers.

-'Rubidor' - yellow foliage and red flowers are combined on plants about 5' tall.

-'Rumba' - a compact plant with foliage tinged with purple. The flowers are red with a yellow throat.

-'Samba' - a compact, 3' plant with red flowers and copper tinted leaves.

-'Sunny Princess' - the leaves have yellow margins and the flowers are pink.

-'Tango' - dark red flowers and purplish foliage are produced on plants about 3' tall.

-'Vanicek' ('Newport Red') - a red flowered cultivar.

-'Variegata' - pink flowers are combined with leaves edged with cream.

-'Variegata Nana' - a dwarf with pink flowers and leaves edged with white.

-'Victoria' - purple foliage are combined with dark pink flowers.

-'White Knight' - white flowers are produced all summer.

-Wine and Roses™ ('Alexandra') - the purple leaves are combined with pink flowers. The foliage coloration intensifies later in the season.