**Spiraea x bumalda** - Bumal Spirea  
(Rosaceae)

*Spiraea x bumalda* is a relatively compact, small shrub that has multi-season appeal. Characteristics of Bumal Spirea include vibrant spring and summer foliage, either green or, more frequently, alternative warm colors, beautiful flat-topped inflorescences of carmine, pink, or mauve, in late spring and early summer, and sometimes, good autumn color.

**FEATURES**

**Form**
- small ornamental shrub
- slowly maturing to 3’ tall x 4’ wide
- rounded clump growth habit
- slow growth rate (although basal suckers have a medium growth rate)

**Culture**
- full sun to partial shade
- very urban tolerant and adaptable to poor soils, clay soils, dry soils, soils of various pH, heat, drought, and light shearing or heavy pruning
- propagated primarily by rooted stem cuttings
- no serious disease or pest problems
- abundantly available in container form
- takes well to a light shearing after flowering, in order to deadhead, restore the foliage effect, and encourage a light rebloom later in the season
- foliage color variants must be placed in full sun to achieve their full potential with intense foliage colors; otherwise, placement in partial sun to partial shade causes the foliage to gravitate towards a lime green or light green color

**Foliation**
- alternate, ovate, serrated, having a short petiole, and variable in leaf color, depending on cultivar
- usually emerging as a bronzed or reddish color, and quickly transitioning to the color of choice for that particular selection
- sport branches with altered color are common
- autumn color is often greenish-purple on green cultivars, lavender-red to orange-red on ‘Gold Flame’, and yellowish green on ‘Gold Mound’

**Flowers**
- light pink, deep mauve, carmine, or dark lavender, in late May and early- to mid-June (occasionally a second flush later in the season)
- flowering on the new growth of the season, in 2-3’

**Fruits**
- clusters of fine-textured brown fruits, pedicels, and peduncles occur above the foliage, not ornamental
- fruit heads persist throughout the winter into the next season

**Twigs**
- stems with subtle ridges are relatively unbranched, upright or radiating from the central trunk, of bright tan color on the new growth, maturing to dark brown on the older stems

**Trunk**
- not applicable

**USAGE**

**Function**
- entranceway, specimen, raised planter, border, facer, group planting, or mass planting shrub

**Texture**
- fine texture in foliage and when bare
- thick density in foliage and when bare

**Assets**
- very urban tolerant (especially to heat, drought, and poor soils)
- changing seasonal foliage colors for most cultivars attractive, long-lasting, flat-topped inflorescences in late spring and early summer

**Liabilities**
- may spread slightly beyond its originally intended space (this can be remedied by heaving shearing or moderate to heavy pruning, or it can be an asset in group or mass plantings allowed to naturalize)

**Habitat**
- Zones 3 to 8
- both parents (*Spiraea alibiflora* x *Spiraea japonica*) are native to Japan

**SELECTIONS**

**Alternates**
- shrubs with good alternative foliage color (*Berberis thunbergii* var. *atropurpurea*, *Cotinus coggygria*, *Euonymus fortunei*, *Prunus* x *cistena*, etc.)
- shrubs with late spring to early summer inflorescences (*Itea japonica*, *Philadephus virginalis*, *Spiraea japonica*, etc.)

**Cultivars – Variants – Related species**
- many cultivars and complex hybrids exist, with new ones emerging yearly, and most are in the 3’ x 3’ category; the 3 most common are:
  - *S. x bumalda* ‘Anthony Waterer’ - the old standard, with deep green foliage that initially emerges bronzed, and having deep carmine to dark mauve inflorescences
  - *S. x bumalda* ‘Goldflame’ - emergent foliage is a constant transition from red to copper to yellow-orange to gold-medium green, then becoming orange-burgundy in autumn, with pink inflorescences
  - *Spiraea* ‘Gold Mound’ - a more complex hybrid, with new foliage that is a vibrant yellow-green or lime-green that persists all summer, with shell-pink inflorescences

**Habitat**
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