**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.
  - 'Caraval' - 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, harder 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.