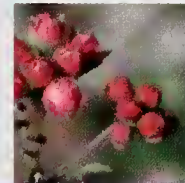
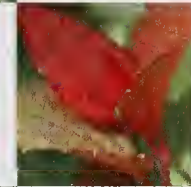
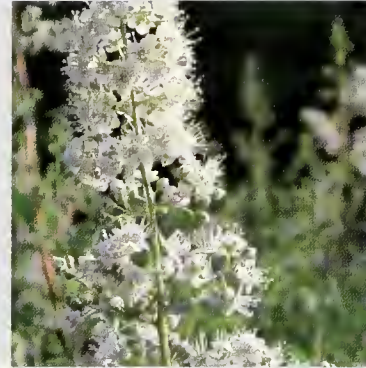


# Spireas



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# Spireas

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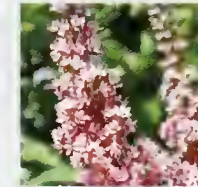
**Cover:** *Spiraea japonica* 'Golden Princess'<sup>™</sup>, *Spiraea alba*, *Spiraea japonica* 'Nana', *Spiraea japonica* 'Magic Carpet'<sup>™</sup>

**Graphic design:** Science Creative and Publishing Services, AAFC

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# Preface

## **Agricultural Policy Framework**

As the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector moves into the 21st century, it faces many challenges and opportunities for continued prosperity.

Federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture have pledged to meet today's challenges by jointly developing a comprehensive Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) composed of five elements:

- business risk management
- food safety and food quality
- science and innovation
- environment
- renewal

All provinces and territories have now signed on to the APF, and have signed Implementation Agreements with the Government of Canada.

In support of the "renewal" element, a national research program on sustainable production systems has been implemented. It comprises several research sub-elements, including the development of high-value plants, such as spirea.

## Hardiness and growth of woody ornamental plants in Quebec (REPLOQ)<sup>1</sup>

For over 20 years, REPLOQ has been evaluating the hardiness of woody ornamental or potentially ornamental plants in normal climate and soil conditions of Quebec and northern Ontario. As part of a joint initiative by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Laval University, the Quebec Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ) and the Montreal Botanical Garden, over 450 exotic and native species and cultivars have been evaluated. With five-year data for each species or cultivar, the study has identified climate and soil requirements, growth and vulnerability to cold damage at eight to nine REPLOQ test sites, located in three climate regions. The work has made it possible to develop production and utilization recommendations, which are published in the six-volume series entitled *Rusticité et croissance de plantes ligneuses ornementales au Québec*, by Claude Richer and JacquesAndré Rioux, the heads of REPLOQ, and several collaborators.

The efforts of REPLOQ have also resulted in the establishment of more nuanced hardiness ratings. For each species evaluated, a separate rating is now available for survival, utilization and full ornamental expression. The SURVIVAL rating identifies the coldest Canadian hardiness zone in which the plant suffers winter damage that prevents the expression of its ornamental characters but which does not cause its death. The UTILIZATION rating identifies the coldest Canadian hardiness zone in which the plant, despite the fact that it suffers winter damage, expresses its full or partial ornamental potential. The FULL ORNAMENTAL EXPRESSION rating identifies the coldest Canadian hardiness zone in which the plant generally suffers no winter damage and in which it expresses its full ornamental potential.

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<sup>1</sup> REPLOQ is the abbreviation for *Réseau d'essais des plantes ligneuses ornementales du Québec*.

## Preface (cont'd)

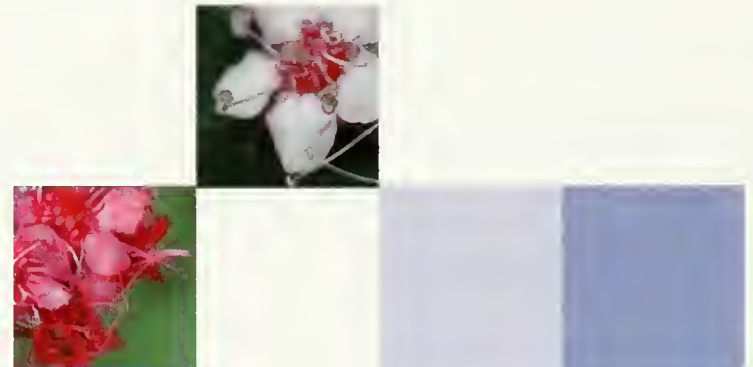
In this guide, the different ratings are presented between square brackets, in the following order: SURVIVAL, UTILIZATION, FULL ORNAMENTAL EXPRESSION. The rating generally assigned by other authors is provided outside the brackets. For example, a spirea with a hardiness rating of "2 [2b, 3, 4]" has a general rating of 2, but REPLOQ studies have identified zone 2b as the coldest zone in which it will survive, zone 3 as the zone in which it will express at least part of its ornamental potential despite winter damage and zone 4 as the zone in which it will suffer no damage and will reach its full ornamental expression potential.

Ten spirea cultivars were evaluated by REPLOQ (see summary table p. 10). The main results and recommendations for these cultivars are provided. The information given for the other cultivars comes from various sources.



# Acknowledgements

We are able to present to you this coloured guide thanks to the contribution of the **Montreal Botanical Garden**, **Roger van den Hende Garden (Laval University)** and **Jardins de Jean-Pierre**. The directors of the gardens were kind enough to let us into their collections to photograph the cultivars presented in this brochure. We would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution of Robert Mineau, horticulturist with the Montreal Botanical Garden, who revised the manuscript with the critical eye of a professional gardener. We also wish to thank the technical personnel and all support staff who contributed to the research over the years. Without their dedication and contribution, we would not have been able to achieve these results.



# Introduction

It is said that the botanist Carolus Clusius (Charles de l'Escluse, 1526-1609) was inspired by the legend of the Queen of the meadows when he named the genus *Spiraea*—from the Latinized Greek *Speira* meaning "garland"—after the decorations she made with the flowers of this plant.

There are over 100 different species of spirea worldwide, most of which are found in cold temperate and cold regions of the Northern hemisphere, primarily Europe, Asia and North America. There are also a number of species that are native to Mexico. A member of the family Rosacea, this genus of shrubs is particularly popular because of its abundant spring or summer flowering and fall colour. There are several cultivars, hybrids and varieties of spirea which can be divided into two groups: spring-flowering spireas, whose flowers are formed on the previous year's growth, and summer-flowering spireas, which flower on new growth of the season.



Unfortunately, because of the large diversity of spireas, there is some uncertainty about the correct name of some species. For example, *Spiraea x bumalda* now goes by the name *Spiraea japonica*—the hybrid is a cross between *S. japonica* x *S. japonica* 'Albiflora'. The nomenclature can therefore sometimes be confusing. We have attempted to clear up any confusion by providing a list of the various names for each cultivar described. The names used to identify spirea in this publication are those recommended by H.J. van de Laar and P.C. de Jong in *List of Names of Woody Plants*.<sup>1</sup> Habit was identified on the basis of REPLOQ's evaluation method for trials of woody ornamental plants.<sup>2</sup>

The hardiness rating of 10 spirea cultivars described here has been confirmed or modified for Eastern Canada by REPLOQ. On the basis of REPLOQ's work, it is also possible to fine-tune the hardiness ratings, taking into account three levels of hardiness: survival, utilization and full ornamental expression (see details on p. 5).

<sup>1</sup> VAN DE LAAR, H.J. and P.C. DE JONG. 1995. Naamlijst van houtige gewassen - List of names of woody plants - Namenliste Gehölze - Liste de noms des plantes ligneuses. Research Station for Nursery Stock, Boskoop, The Netherlands, 426 p.

<sup>2</sup> RÉSEAU D'ESSAIS DES PLANTES LIGNEUSES ORNEMENTALES DU QUÉBEC (REPLOQ). 1995. Méthode d'évaluation de plantes ligneuses ornementales. Conseil des productions végétales du Québec, Québec. Agdex 270/30, Publication 95-0065. 51 p.

# Summary table of spireas

Cultivar name	Habit (form) (all shrubby)	Flower colour	Flowering <sup>1</sup>	Spring and summer foliage	Fall foliage
<b>Japanese spireas</b>					
'Anthony Waterer'	rounded	light carmine pink	S	dark green variegated	-
'Bullata'	compact, rounded	dark pink to reddish	S	medium to dark green	-
'Candlelight'	spreading	pink-purple	S	yellowish-green	reddish
'Coccinea'	rounded	carmine pink	S	dark blue-tinged green	-
'Crispa' ♦ <sup>2</sup>	rounded	light carmine pink	S	red then dark green	-
'Dakota Goldcharm' <sup>®</sup>	mounded	pale pink	Sp	golden yellow	-
'Dart's Red'	rounded	dark red to pink	S	dark green	reddish purple
'Firelight'	rounded	dark pink	S	orange then yellowish green	reddish
'Flaming Elf'	creeping, dwarf	very pale pink	S	red, orange and yellow	-
'Flaming Mound' ♦	mounded	dark pink	S	orange-red then pale green	bronze-purple
'Froebelii'	mounded	red-purple	S	red then reddish green	bronzy purple
'Genpei' ♦	rounded, regular	pink, white or both	S	light green	-
'Golden Carpet'	dwarf, mounded	pink	S	golden yellow	-
'Golden Elf' <sup>™</sup>	creeping, dwarf and rounded	very pale pink	S	golden yellow	-

<sup>1</sup> Flowering: S = Summer; Sp = Spring

<sup>2</sup> The 10 cultivars marked by a lozenge (♦) were evaluated by the REPLOQ; please see explanation on hardiness ratings, p. 5.

Cultivar name	Habit (form) (all shrubby)	Flower colour	Flowering	Spring and summer foliage	Fall foliage
<b>Japanese spireas (cont'd)</b>					
'Golden Princess' <sup>TM</sup>	compact, rounded, regular	pink	S	light golden yellow	-
'Goldflame'	rounded	red	S	yellowish green	orange copper
'Goldmound' •	slightly spreading	pale pink	S	yellow	-
'Green Carpet'	dwarf, spreading	pink	S	green	purple
'Little Princess' •	dwarf, regular dome	light pink	S	light green	red
'Magic Carpet' <sup>TM</sup>	compact, rounded	dark pink	S	orange and yellow	-
'Manon Red Prince'	mounded	dark pink to red	S	bronze green	red
'Nana'	dwarf and spreading	light pink	S	green-blue	-
'Neon Flash'	shrubby	bright red	S	green	burgundy
'Sparkling Carpet'	dwarf, mounded	pink	S	red and yellow	-
<b>Nippon spireas</b>					
'Halwards Silver'	rounded	white	Sp	dark green-blue	-
'June Bride'	mounded	white	Sp	dark green	-
'Snowmound' •	vase-shaped	white	Sp	dark green	-
var. tosaensis •	rounded	white	Sp	dark green	-
<b>Vanhoutte spireas</b>					
x vanhouttei	vase-shaped	white	Sp	dark green	orange to purple
x vanhouttei 'Renaissance'	rounded	white	Sp	dark green	-
x vanhouttei 'Pink Ice'	rounded	white	Sp	variegated green	-

# Summary table of spireas (cont'd)

Cultivar name	Habit (form) (all shrubby)	Flower colour	Flowering	Spring and summer foliage	Fall foliage
<b>Other spireas</b>					
<i>S. alba</i>	rounded	white	S	pale green	-
<i>S. betulifolia</i> 'Tor'	rounded, regular	white	Sp	green-blue	orange
<i>S. betulifolia</i> var. <i>aemiliana</i>	rounded	white	Sp	grey-green	yellow-orange
<i>S. x billardii</i> ♦	mounded	bright pink	S	bluish	-
<i>S. x billardii</i> 'Triumphans'	irregular	pink-purple	S	light green	-
<i>S. x cinerea</i>	rounded	white	Sp	grey-green	-
<i>S. x cinerea</i> 'Grefsheim'	rounded	white, dark centre	Sp	grey-green	yellow
<i>S. fritschiana</i> 'Chicago Snow'	shrubby	white to pink	S	green	yellow, orange & red
<i>S. fritschiana</i> 'Pink Parasol' <sup>TM</sup>	rounded	pink	S	green-blue	yellow-orange
<i>S. hypericifolia</i> ssp. <i>obovata</i> ♦	rounded	white	Sp	pale green	-
<i>S. latifolia</i>	rounded, irregular	white and pinkish	S	dark green	-
<i>S. prunifolia</i>	mounded	white	Sp	dark green	orange to purple
<i>S. thunbergii</i>	vase-shaped	pure white	Sp	yellowish green to yellow-orange	bronze
<i>S. thunbergii</i> 'Fujino Pink'	rounded, irregular	pale pink	Sp	light green	red and orange
<i>S. thunbergii</i> 'Mont Fuji'	rounded, irregular	white	Sp	green edged with white	-
<i>S. trichocarpa</i> 'Snow White' ♦	mounded	white	Sp	green	-

# Japanese spireas

*Spiraea japonica* L.f. is native to Japan, Korea and China. It was introduced to England in 1850 and made its appearance in the United States 20 years later. Its ecological success was such that it is now naturalized in several parts of the United States. Its preferred sites are disturbed areas, such as prairies, cutovers and along rivers and streams. Japanese spireas are quickly established: a single plant can produce hundreds of seeds that remain viable and persist in the soil for many years. Typically, the seeds are dispersed by water and deposited along streambanks, where Japanese spirea forms dense, homogeneous stands. In horticulture, Japanese spireas are used in shrub beds and borders. The species has produced a wide variety of cultivars. The following is a description of a few of the cultivars that are generally available in Quebec.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Anthony Waterer'



14



**Other names:** 'Anthony Waterer' Japanese spirea, *Spiraea x bumalda* 'Anthony Waterer'

**Crosses, provenance:** Selected by Knap Hill Nursery (England)

**Introduction:** 1890

**Hardiness zone:** 2b

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.90 m X 0.90 m

**Flowers:** Light carmine pink, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Dark green, some leaves variegated with pink and cream, new buds reddish, dense foliage

**Flowering:** June to early October

**Production:** Plants grown from cuttings are of better quality than plants grown from seeds. Moderately fast grower.

**Notes and use:** Use in mass plantings, as a specimen, in rock gardens or as a low, unclipped hedge. Requires regular maintenance. Deadhead flowers as they fade and prune in spring. Prefers fertile, cool, well-drained soils, but tolerates poor soils and is drought tolerant. Does well in full sun or partial shade. Variegation of new leaves is caused by a virus.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Bullata'

**Other names:** 'Bullata' Japanese spirea, Crispleaf Spirea, *Spiraea crispifolia*, *Spiraea bullata*, Japanese dwarf spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** This cultivar comes from Japanese gardens, but no information could be found about its originator

**Introduction:** Before 1881

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Compact, rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.40 m X 0.40 m

**Flowers:** Initially dark pink turning reddish pink, borne in terminal corymbs

**Foliage:** Medium to dark green, small curly leaves, dense foliage

**Flowering:** July and August

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Can be used as a groundcover or in rock gardens.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Candlelight'



**Other name:** 'Candlelight' Japanese spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Bred at Liss Forest Nursery (United Kingdom) as a selected seedling from 'Goldflame'

**Introduction:** 1993

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Spreading

**Height and spread:** 0.50 m X 0.90 m

**Flowers:** Purple-pink

**Foliage:** Initially yellowish green turning reddish in the fall, new shoots are bright light yellow, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Summer

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Mildew resistant. Awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in 2002.

# *Spiraea japonica* 'Coccinea'

**Other names:** 'Coccinea' Japanese spirea, Dwarf Japanese spirea, 'Coccinea' dwarf red flowering spiraea, *Spiraea x bumalda* 'Coccinea'

**Crosses, provenance:** Believed to have been selected in Holland; no information found on its originator

**Introduction:** 1950

**Hardiness zone:** 2b

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.90 m X 0.90 m

**Flowers:** Carmine red

**Foliage:** Dark blue-tinged green, young shoots reddish, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Summer

**Production:** Moderately fast grower

**Notes and use:** Prune in the spring.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Crispa'



18



**Other names:** *Spiraea* x *bumalda* 'Crispa', Twist Spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** No information found on the provenance of this cultivar

**Introduction:** 1923

**Hardiness zone:** 3; [2b, 4, >5b] ♦

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.60 m X 0.60 m

**Flowers:** Light carmine pink, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Initially red (some variegated with pinkish white) then dark green until fall, twisted, strongly serrated leaves, dense foliage

**Flowering:** June to September

**Production:** Can be grown in most sites where snowfall is heavy. However, significant damage must be expected and may require heavy annual pruning. Slow grower.

**Notes and use:** Use in groupings or as a specimen in mass plantings or large rock gardens. Prefers fertile, cool, well-drained soils, but will tolerate poor, dry soils. Must be pruned hard back at the end of winter. Balled plants easily become established after transplanting.

♦ *The 10 cultivars marked by this sign were evaluated by the REPLOQ; please see explanation on hardiness ratings, p. 5.*

## *Spiraea japonica* 'Dakota Goldcharm'<sup>®</sup>

**Other names:** 'Dakota Goldcharm'<sup>®</sup> Japanese spirea, *Spiraea japonica* 'Mertyann'

**Crosses, provenance:** Seedling obtained from open pollination and bred by Dr. Dale Herman of North Dakota State University (Fargo, U.S.)

**Introduction:** 1992

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Mounded

**Height and spread:** 0.35 m X 0.50 m

**Flowers:** Pale pink

**Foliage:** Golden yellow with reddish tips, new shoots are bronze, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Early spring and summer

**Production:** Moderately fast grower

**Notes and use:** Use as a groundcover or in borders. Place in full sun.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Dart's Red'



20



**Other names:** 'Dart's Red' Japanese spirea, *Spiraea x bumalda* 'Dart's Red', *Spiraea japonica* 'Dart's Improved'

**Crosses, provenance:** Developed in England under the name 'Dart's Improved' but introduced under its current name by Darthuiser Nursery (Holland)

**Introduction:** Unknown

**Hardiness zone:** 2b

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.90 m X 0.90 m

**Flowers:** Dark red turning to pink

**Foliage:** Dark green (some leaves are variegated with white and pink) then reddish purple in the fall, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Summer

**Production:** Moderately fast grower

**Notes and use:** Place in full sun and prune in spring. One of the reddest flowers. Awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in 2002.

# *Spiraea japonica* 'Firelight'

**Other name:** 'Firelight' Japanese spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Bred at Liss Forest Nursery (Britain) as a seedling from 'Goldflame'

**Introduction:** 1993

**Hardiness zone:** 4

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.70 m X 0.70 m

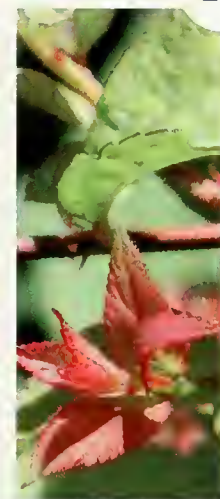
**Flowers:** Dark pink

**Foliage:** orange in spring, yellowish green in summer turning reddish in fall, dense foliage

**Flowering:** June to August

**Production:** Moderately fast grower

**Notes and use:** Use as a specimen, in groupings, in large rock gardens or as a low hedge. Place in full sun.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Flaming Elf'™



22



**Other name:** 'Flaming Elf'™ Japanese spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Developed by Clément Paquette of Pépinière MontYamaska (St-Paul-d'Abbotsford, Quebec)

**Introduction:** 2000

**Hardiness zone:** 3a

**Habit:** Creeping, dwarf

**Height and spread:** 0.20 m X 0.60 m

**Flowers:** Very pale pink

**Foliage:** Red, orange and yellow, small leaves, dense foliage

**Flowering:** June to August

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Prefers a sunny exposure. Somewhat more vigorous grower than 'Golden Elf'™. Prune severely in spring. Insect- and disease-resistant. Easy to grow.



# *Spiraea japonica* 'Flaming Mound'

**Other names:** 'Flaming Mound' Japanese spirea,  
*Spiraea x bumalda* 'Flaming Mound'

**Crosses, provenance:** Bred by Tony Huber of W.H. Perron & Cie Ltée  
(Laval, Quebec)

**Introduction:** 1982

**Hardiness zone:** 2b to 5; [2b, 2b, 4] ♦

**Habit:** Mounded

**Height and spread:** 0.80 m X 1.20 m

**Flowers:** Red buds, flowers initially dark pink, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Red-orange in spring, yellow then pale green in summer,  
purple bronze in fall, dense foliage

**Flowering:** July to September

**Production:** Can be grown to zone 2a. Requires two to three years  
of growth. Propagate in summer by division or semi-hardwood cuttings.  
Registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF).

**Notes and use:** Use in low untrimmed hedges, with other plants in  
mass plantings, as a specimen or in groupings. Severe pruning in the  
spring will promote more intense foliage colour. Deadhead flowers as  
they fade. 'Flaming Mound' tolerates hot, dry summers and prefers  
a sunny exposure. The tips of spring stems are even redder than those  
of 'Goldflame'.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Froebelii'



**Other name:** *S. x bumalda* 'Froebelii'

**Crosses, provenance:** No information found on the provenance of this cultivar

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 2a

**Habit:** Mounded with slightly drooping branches

**Height and spread:** 1.20 m X 1.40 m

**Flowers:** Red-purple, borne in wide corymbs

**Foliage:** Initially red, turning reddish green and then bronze purple in the fall, dense foliage

**Flowering:** June to early October

**Production:** Moderately fast grower

**Notes and use:** Use with other plants in mass plantings or in large rock gardens. Prefers sun, but tolerates partial shade and dry soils. Prune heavily in late winter (as soon as the first buds appear) and deadhead flowers as they fade. Similar to 'Anthony Waterer' but taller and not variegated.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Genpei'

**Other names:** 'Genpei' Japanese spirea, *Spiraea japonica* 'Shibori', *Spiraea japonica* 'Shirobana' (erroneously: *Spiraea j.* 'Shirobana' is the common name of *S. japonica* var. *albiflora*, which has white flowers)

**Crosses, provenance:** No information found on the provenance of this cultivar

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 5; [2b, 4, 4b] ♦

**Habit:** Rounded, regular

**Height and spread:** 0.80 m X 0.80 m

**Flowers:** Pink, white or both, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Light green, dense foliage

**Flowering:** June to late July

**Production:** Can be grown commercially in zones 4 and 5 provided the plants are protected from the cold. Three years of growth are sufficient to produce saleable plants. It is important to carefully select the stems for cuttings to obtain plants that have flowers with both colours.

**Notes and use:** Use as a specimen or with other plants. Fast grower. Prune early in the spring or immediately after flowering. Prefers cool, rich soils, but tolerates various soil types. Place in a sunny location.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Golden Carpet'



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**Other name:** Spirea 'Golden Carpet'

**Crosses, provenance:** Produced from a cross between *S. japonica* 'Goldflame' and *S. japonica* 'Nana' made by Tony Huber of W.H. Perron & Cie Ltée (Laval, Quebec)

**Introduction:** 1995

**Hardiness zone:** 3b

**Habit:** Dwarf, mounded

**Height and spread:** 0.20 m X 0.35 m

**Flowers:** Pink, borne in sparse clusters

**Foliage:** Golden yellow during the entire season, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Summer

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Use with other plants or as a groundcover in beds, as a low hedge, in mosaiculture or in borders.

## *Spiraea japonica* 'Golden Elf'™

**Other name:** 'Golden Elf'™ Japanese spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Bred by Clément Paquette of Pépinière Mont-Yamaska (StPauld'Abbotsford, Quebec)

**Introduction:** 1999

**Hardiness zone:** 3a

**Habit:** Creeping, dwarf, rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.15 m X 0.55 m

**Flowers:** Very pale pink, flowering is infrequent and insignificant

**Foliage:** Golden yellow, small leaves, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Summer

**Production:** Slow grower. Protected by a patent (US Plant Patent 12,025). Authorization is therefore required for propagation.

**Notes and use:** Use in borders, as a groundcover, in rock gardens or in mosaiculture. Adapts to semi-shade but its leaves require full sun to maintain their golden colour. Easy to grow. Disease- and insect-resistant. Prune severely in the spring.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Golden Princess'™



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**Other names:** 'Golden Princess'™ Japanese spirea, *Spiraea japonica* 'Lisp' (name of the cultivar)

**Crosses, provenance:** Selected as a seedling by Peter Welch and assumed to be a cross between *Spiraea japonica* 'Little Princess' and *Spiraea japonica* 'Goldflame' and introduced by Liss Forest Nursery (United Kingdom)

**Introduction:** 1985

**Hardiness zone:** 3a

**Habit:** Compact, rounded, regular

**Height and spread:** 0.60 m X 0.60 m

**Flowers:** Pink, few flowers, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Light golden yellow, tips of new shoots reddish, dense foliage

**Flowering:** June to late July

**Production:** A slow grower. Protected by a patent (PP 7,537).

Authorization is therefore required for propagation.

**Notes and use:** Use with other plants in borders. Place in full sun to prevent flowers from fading, in a moderately moist to well-drained soil. Tolerates a wide variety of soils. Prune in spring and deadhead flowers as they fade. Awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in 2002.

# *Spiraea japonica* 'Goldflame'

**Other names:** 'Goldflame' Japanese spirea,  
*Spiraea x bumalda* 'Goldflame'

**Crosses, provenance:** Believed to have been bred in the United States, but no information found on its originator

**Introduction:** About 1970

**Hardiness zone:** 2b

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.70 m X 0.70 m

**Flowers:** Red, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Young leaves emerging gold with reddish tips turning to yellow-green then orange-copper in the fall, dense foliage

**Flowering:** July to September

**Production:** Moderately fast grower. Registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF).

**Notes and use:** Use as a specimen, in groupings, with other plants in mass plantings, in large rock gardens, in small gardens or as low untrimmed hedges. Prefers cool, well-drained rich soils, but tolerates poor soils and drought. Place in full sun and deadhead flowers as they fade. Prune early in the spring. Highly susceptible to mildew if planted in too hot a site. Probably the first cultivar of spirea with coloured leaves to be introduced.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Goldmound'



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**Other names:** 'Goldmound' Japanese spirea, *Spiraea x bumalda* 'Gold Mound', *Spiraea x bumalda* 'All Gold'  
**Crosses, provenance:** Produced from a cross made by Tony Huber of W.H. Perron et Cie Ltée (Laval, Quebec)

**Introduction:** About 1978

**Hardiness zone:** 4; [4, 4b or 2 with snow, >5b] ♦

**Habit:** Slightly spreading

**Height and spread:** 0.85 m X 1.50 m

**Flowers:** Pale pink, small, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Initially yellow tinged with red, turning to golden yellow, then lime yellow, dense foliage

**Flowering:** June to early August

**Production:** Grows up to 50% faster in the Montreal region than in colder regions. Registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF).

**Notes and use:** Use in mass plantings, in borders, in large rock gardens, as a low hedge or as a specimen for its attractive foliage. Prefers well-drained, sandy soils, with a pH of 6 to 7.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Green Carpet'



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**Other names:** 'Green Carpet' Japanese spirea,  
'Green Glone' Japanese spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Produced from a cross between  
*S. japonica* 'Goldflame' and *S. japonica* 'Nana', made by Tony Huber  
of W.H. Perron & Cie Ltée (Laval, Quebec)

**Introduction:** 1995

**Hardiness zone:** 3b

**Habit:** Dwarf, spreading

**Height and spread:** 0.15 m X 0.35 m

**Flowers:** Pink, borne in clusters

**Foliage:** Green, purple in the fall, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Summer

**Production:** Slow grower. Registered with the Canadian Ornamental  
Plant Foundation (COPF).

**Notes and use:** Use as a groundcover, in mosaiculture, as a low  
hedge, in borders or with other plants in beds. More vigorous than  
'Golden Carpet'.

## *Spiraea japonica* 'Little Princess'



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**Other name:** 'Little Princess' Japanese spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Selected in Holland, but no information found on its originator

**Introduction:** 1870

**Hardiness zone:** 2; [2, 2, >5b] ♦

**Habit:** Dwarf, regular mounded

**Height and spread:** 0.50 m X 0.80 m

**Flowers:** Light pink, profuse, borne in flat terminal corymbs

**Foliage:** Light green, red in fall, dense foliage

**Flowering:** From mid-summer, abundant

**Production:** Depending on the zone, two to four years of growth in the nursery are required to produce saleable plants.

**Notes and use:** Use in large rock gardens, in mass plantings, as a low hedge or as a groundcover. Insect- and disease-resistant. Requires a rich, cool soil. Tolerates light shade but is at its best in full sun. Prune early in the spring.

## *Spiraea japonica* 'Magic Carpet'™

**Other names:** 'Magic Carpet' *Japanese spirea*, *Spiraea japonica* 'Walbuma' (name of cultivar), *Spiraea* x 'Magic Carpet'

**Crosses, provenance:** Bred by David Tristram of Walberton Nursery (England) as a result of the selection of three generations of seedlings from 'Goldflame'

**Introduction:** 1994

**Hardiness zone:** 3a

**Habit:** Compact, rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.60 m X 0.60 m

**Flowers:** Deep pink, borne in clusters, cover the entire plant

**Foliage:** Orange and yellow, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Summer

**Production:** Slow grower, but does well in well-drained soils in a sunny location. Protected by a patent (US Plant Patent 9,363). Authorization is therefore required for propagation. Registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF).

**Notes and use:** Use as a groundcover, with other plants in beds, as a low hedge, in borders and in containers. Tolerates semi-shade, but foliage is at its best if planted in full sun. Highly insect- and disease-resistant. One of the most attractive yellow- and orange-leaved spireas. Awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in 2002.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Manon Red Prince'



**Other names:** 'Manon Red Prince' Japanese spirea, *Spiraea japonica* 'Manon'

**Crosses, provenance:** No information found on the provenance of this cultivar

**Introduction:** Year of introduction could not be found

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Mounded

**Height and spread:** 0.60 m X 0.90 m

**Flowers:** Dark pink to red

**Foliage:** Green tinged with bronze, red in the fall, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Summer

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** No information found on the use of this cultivar.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Nana'

**Other names:** 'Nana' Japanese spirea, Daphne Spirea, *Spiraea japonica* var. *alpina*, *Spiraea japonica* 'Nyewoods', Alpine Spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Believed to have been bred in East Asia, but no information found on its originator

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Dwarf, spreading

**Height and spread:** 0.40 m X 1.00 m

**Flowers:** Light pink, small, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Green-blue, small leaves, dense foliage

**Flowering:** July to August

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Use as a groundcover or in groupings in low hedges, rock gardens or planters. Plant in a sunny location, in moderately moist to well-drained soil. Tolerates a wide variety of soils. Prune early in the spring and deadhead flowers as they face. Awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in 1993.



## *Spiraea japonica* 'Neon Flash'



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**Other name:** 'Neon Flash' Japanese spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Introduced to the United States from Japan by Brookside Gardens (Wheaton, Maryland)

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Shrubby

**Height and spread:** 1.00 m X 0.80 m

**Flowers:** Bright red

**Foliage:** Green, burgundy in the fall, dense foliage

**Flowering:** June to fall

**Production:** Fast grower

**Notes and use:** Use as a low hedge, in groupings or in large rock gardens. Has one of the reddest and striking flowers of all the spireas. Prune after flowering.

## *Spiraea japonica* 'Sparkling Carpet'

**Other name:** Sparkling Carpet Japanese spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Produced from a cross between *S. japonica* 'Goldflame' and *S. japonica* 'Nana' made by Tony Huber of W.H. Perron & Cie Ltée (Laval, Quebec)

**Introduction:** 1995

**Hardiness zone:** 3b

**Habit:** Dwarf, mounded

**Height and spread:** 0.20 m X 0.30 m

**Flowers:** Pink, borne in sparse clusters

**Foliage:** Red and yellow, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Late spring, early summer

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Use as a groundcover, in mosaiculture, in borders, as a low hedge or with other plants in beds.



# Nippon spireas

*Spiraea nipponica* and its cultivars are spring-flowering spireas. They flower later than the popular Van Houtte spireas, with which they share arched branches. Native to Japan, the species was discovered by the German naturalist Siebold in 1885. It was introduced into Europe in about 1908. The following are a few of the cultivars available in Quebec.





## *Spiraea nipponica* 'Halward's Silver'

**Other name:** 'Halward's Silver' spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Bred by Ray Halward of the Royal Botanical Gardens (Burlington, Ontario)

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.90 m X 0.90 m

**Flowers:** White, large, borne in corymbs of 8 to 10 flowers

**Foliage:** Dark blue-green, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Late spring, spectacular

**Production:** Slow grower. Registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF).

**Notes and use:** Use with other plants, in groups or as a specimen, in rock gardens or as a low informal hedge. Undemanding plant. Prefers full sun, but tolerates partial shade. Adapts to all soil types. Prune immediately after flowering.



## *Spiraea nipponica* 'June Bride'

**Other name:** 'June Bride' spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** No information found on the provenance of this cultivar

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Mounded, arched branches

**Height and spread:** 1.00 m X 1.20 m

**Flowers:** White, large

**Foliage:** Dark green, bluish-green below, dense foliage

**Flowering:** Spring

**Production:** Moderately fast grower

**Notes and use:** Suckering plant.

# *Spiraea nipponica* 'Snowmound'

**Other names:** 'Snowmound' Nippon spirea,  
*Spiraea nipponica* var. *tosaensis* (erroneous), Tosa spiraea

**Crosses, provenance:** Bred by U.S. nursery growers, but no information found on its originator

**Introduction:** 1908

**Hardiness zone:** 4; [2, 5b, 5b] ♦

**Habit:** Vase-shaped

**Height and spread:** 1.20 m X 0.80 m

**Flowers:** White, abundant, large, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Lustrous dark green above with a bluish underside, dense foliage

**Flowering:** May to June

**Production:** Can be produced commercially in all parts of Quebec where there is heavy snowfall. Two to three years' growth is sufficient to produce saleable plants.

**Notes and use:** Use for its beautiful flowers as a specimen or in mass plantings. Prefers dry, rich soils but tolerates poor soils and is well suited to container culture. Place in full sun and prune after flowering. Slow grower. Awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in 1993.



## *Spiraea nipponica* var. *tosaensis*



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**Other name:** *Spiraea nipponica* 'Snowmound' (erroneous)

**Crosses, provenance:** Selected in Japan, but no information found on its originator

**Introduction:** 1935

**Hardiness zone:** 3 to 5b; [4b, 4-5, >5b] ♦

**Habit:** Rounded with stiff, arched branches

**Height and spread:** 1.50 m X 1.50 m

**Flowers:** White, profuse, borne in dense umbels

**Foliage:** Dark green above, bluish-green below

**Flowering:** May to June, spectacular

**Production:** Can be grown commercially where snowfall accumulates early in the season and remains during the coldest periods. Its growth varies from site to site.

**Notes and use:** Use as a hedge or with other plants in mass plantings. Tolerates poor, dry soils, but prefers fertile, cool, well-drained soils. It is often confused with the cultivar 'Snowmound'.

# Van Houtte spireas

Van Houtte spireas need little introduction given their widespread use in landscaping. The hybrid is the result of a cross between *S. cantoniensis* and *S. trilobata*. This popular hybrid and two of its cultivars are described in the following pages.



## *Spiraea x vanhouttei*



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**Other names:** Van Houtte spirea, Bridal Wreath spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Produced from a cross made in France by nursery grower Billiard between *S. cantoniensis* and *S trilobata* then popularized by the Belgian nursery grower Louis Van Houtte, who named it after himself

**Introduction:** 1862

**Hardiness zone:** 3b

**Habit:** Vase-shaped

**Height and spread:** 2.00 m X 1.75 m

**Flowers:** White, profuse, borne in dense umbels along the branches

**Foliage:** Dark green above, pale green below, orange to purple in the fall, moderately dense foliage

**Flowering:** Late May, abundant in June

**Production:** Softwood cuttings taken in June or July root easily. Fast grower.

**Notes and use:** Use as a specimen, in groupings, as an informal hedge or with other plants in beds. Prune heavily after flowering. Tolerates poor and even acid soils and adapts to all types of drainage. Prefers full sun, but tolerates semi-shade. Highly pollution-tolerant.

## *Spiraea x vanhouttei* 'Renaissance'

**Other name:** 'Renaissance' spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Introduced by Bailey Nurseries (Minnesota, United States)

**Introduction:** 1980

**Hardiness zone:** 3b

**Habit:** Rounded with arched branches

**Height and spread:** 1.50 m X 1.50 m

**Flowers:** White, profuse

**Foliage:** Dark green, moderately-dense foliage

**Flowering:** Late spring

**Production:** Fast grower

**Notes and use:** This cultivar is an improved version of the Van Houtte spirea. Has better foliage and is resistant to mildew and rust. Prune after flowering.



## *Spiraea x vanhouttei* 'Pink Ice'

**Other names:** 'Pink Ice' Van Houtte spirea,  
*Spiraea x vanhouttei* 'Captan'

**Crosses, provenance:** First imported from Japan under the name *S. cantoniensis* 'Variegata', renamed *S. x vanhouttei* and then introduced by Liss Forest Nursery (United Kingdom) under the name 'Pink Ice'

**Introduction:** 1990

**Hardiness zone:** 4b

**Habit:** Rounded with arched branches

**Height and spread:** 0.60 m X 0.60 m

**Flowers:** White, profuse, borne in umbels along the branches

**Foliage:** Dark green variegated with creamy white, turning greenish in summer, moderately-dense foliage

**Flowering:** Late spring, long-flowering

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Use as a specimen, as an informal hedge or in pairs or groups in mass plantings. Prune lightly after flowering. Less hardy than Van Houtte spirea. The tips of the shoots are particularly susceptible to cold and to severe pruning.



# Other spireas



## *Spiraea alba*



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**Other name:** American white spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Native to southern Quebec, associated with slopes and shorelines

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 1.20 m X 1.20 m

**Flowers:** White, borne in panicles

**Foliage:** Pale green

**Flowering:** June to August

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Use in mass plantings around lakes or wetlands. Can be used for naturalizing. Prefers moist soils, but adapts well to poor, rocky soils.

## *Spiraea betulifolia* 'Tor'

**Other name:** Birchleaf spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Bred in Scandinavia from seedlings of *Spiraea betulifolia* var. *aemiliana*

**Introduction:** 1812

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Rounded, regular

**Height and spread:** 0.60 m X 0.60 m

**Flowers:** White, borne in dense corymbs

**Foliage:** Blue-green, orange in fall, round leaves

**Flowering:** Late spring

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Prune after flowering. Attractive foliage.



## *Spiraea betulifolia* var. *aemiliana*



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**Other name:** *Spiraea aemiliana*

**Crosses, provenance:** This variety is native to temperate regions of Asia, the subarctic regions of North America (Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories) and western Canada (British Columbia)

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.60 m X 0.60 m

**Flowers:** White

**Foliage:** Green-grey, bright yellow-orange in fall

**Flowering:** Late spring

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Less dense, less vigorous and less interesting than *Spiraea betulifolia* 'Tor', but drought-tolerant.

# *Spiraea x billardii*

**Other name:** Billiard Spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** This hybrid was obtained from a cross made in France between *Spiraea douglasii* and *Spiraea salicifolia*

**Introduction:** 1845

**Hardiness zone:** 2; [2, 2 (foliage)-4 (flowering), >5b] ♦

**Habit:** Mounded

**Height and spread:** 0.70 m X 0.95 m

**Flowers:** Bright pink, borne in compact terminal panicles

**Foliage:** Bluish

**Flowering:** July and August, spectacular

**Production:** Two to three years growth required to produce saleable plants.

**Notes and use:** Plant in acid soils. Its susceptibility to iron chlorosis prevents it from growing in limestone soils. Tolerates poor soils. Suckering plant.



## *Spiraea x billardii* 'Triumphans'



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**Other names:** *Spiraea menziesii* 'Triumphans',  
*Spiraea pseudosalicifolia* 'Triumphans'

**Crosses, provenance:** *Spiraea x billardii*, from which this cultivar is derived, is the result of a cross between *Spiraea douglasii* and *Spiraea salicifolia*

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 4b

**Habit:** Irregular

**Height and spread:** 1.20 m X 0.90 m

**Flowers:** Pink-purple, borne in dense conical clusters

**Foliage:** Light green, moderately-dense foliage

**Flowering:** Mid-July to September

**Production:** Fast grower

**Notes and use:** Use as a specimen, in mass plantings or in borders. Easily transplanted to containers or in the ground. Place in full sun and avoid limestone soils. Prefers cool, moist soils. To promote flowering, prune the shrub to within several centimetres of the ground each spring.

## *Spiraea x cinerea*

**Other names:** *Spiraea x arguta* 'Compacta', Garland Spirea, Bridal Wreath, 'Compacta' dwarf garland

**Crosses, provenance:** The information found on the provenance of this cultivar is contradictory and is therefore not reported

**Introduction:** 1884

**Hardiness zone:** 4

**Habit:** Rounded with arched branches

**Height and spread:** Up to 1.20 m in height

**Flowers:** White, distributed densely along the stems

**Foliage:** Grey-green

**Flowering:** Early May

**Production:** No information found

**Notes and use:** Use as a specimen or in borders. Resembles Van Houtte spirea. Adapts to all types of soil. Prune severely each year, after flowering. Awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in 2002.



## *Spiraea x cinerea* 'Grefsheim'

**Other name:** 'Grefsheim' spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** The information found on the provenance of this cultivar is contradictory and is therefore not reported

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Rounded, stems initially erect then drooping

**Height and spread:** 1.00 m X 1.00 m

**Flowers:** Pure white, darker centre, flowers borne in very abundant clusters along the stems

**Foliage:** Grey-green, yellow in the fall, open, sparse foliage

**Flowering:** Spring

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Use as a specimen, in the first row of mass plantings or in large rock gardens. Relatively cold- and drought-tolerant. Plant in a sunny location in fertile, light soil. Prune immediately after flowering. Awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in 1993.



## *Spiraea fritschiana* 'Chicago Snow'

**Other name:** 'Chicago Snow' spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** The species to which this cultivar belongs is native to central China and Korea, it was introduced from China

**Introduction:** 1919 (for the species)

**Hardiness zone:** 2

**Habit:** Shrubby

**Height and spread:** 1 m X 1 m

**Flowers:** White, sometimes turning to pink, borne in flat corymbs

**Foliage:** Green in summer, yellow, orange and red in fall

**Flowering:** Mid-June

**Production:** Easily propagated. Take softwood cuttings in June or July.

**Notes and use:** Tolerates a wide variety of soils, from well-drained to heavy.



## *Spiraea fritschiana* 'Pink Parasol'™

**Other name:** *Spiraea fritschiana* 'Wilma'

**Crosses, provenance:** Bred by Tim Wood of Spring Meadow Nursery (Grand Haven, Michigan, United States) from seedlings

**Introduction:** 1919 (for the species)

**Hardiness zone:** 4

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 0.90 m X 0.90 m

**Flowers:** Pink and fluffy, borne in umbrella-like clusters

**Foliage:** Blue-green, yellow-orange in fall

**Flowering:** June

**Notes and use:** Use in mass plantings. Tolerates a wide variety of soils, from well-drained to heavy. More than five hours of direct sunlight a day will turn the leaves orange-red.

## *Spiraea hypericifolia* ssp. *obovata*

**Crosses, provenance:** The species from which this cultivar originates was discovered in the 17th century and is native to southeast Europe and central and southwestern Siberia

**Introduction:** 1800 (for the species)

**Hardiness zone:** 5; [5, 5, >5b] ♦

**Habit:** Rounded

**Height and spread:** 1.00 m X 1.00 m

**Flowers:** White, distributed along the entire stem, in dense umbels of four to eight flowers

**Foliage:** Pale green

**Flowering:** Early in the spring

**Production:** Winter damage, which is often severe, requires considerable pruning and will result in less abundant spring flowering.

**Notes and use:** Prefers cool, fertile, well-drained soils, but tolerates poor, dry soils. Prune after flowering.



## *Spiraea latifolia*



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**Other names:** Meadowsweet, Large-leaved Meadow sweet, *Salicifolia latifolia*, *Spiraea bethlehemensis* Hort., *Spiraea carpinifolia* Willd., *Spiraea salicifolia*

**Crosses, provenance:** Very common species, native to Quebec, Eastern Canada and the northwestern United States

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Rounded, irregular

**Height and spread:** 1.50 m X 1.50 m

**Flowers:** White or slightly pinkish, borne in erect and loose panicles

**Foliage:** Dark green above, blue-grey below, moderately-dense foliage

**Flowering:** Early summer

**Production:** Moderately fast grower

**Notes and use:** Use as a hedge, in mass plantings or to stabilize muddy, wet banks. Very hardy. May be used in naturalization. Requires full sun. Prefers poor, moist soils. Prune in the spring, before flowering. Rare in nurseries.

# *Spiraea prunifolia*

**Other names:** *Spiraea prunifolia* 'Plena', Shoe-button spirea, Bridalwreath spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Native to Japan and central China, this species was discovered in China by E.H. Wilson and introduced from Japan by Siebold

**Introduction:** 1864

**Hardiness zone:** 5a

**Habit:** Mounded, diffuse, with arched branches, more erect than Van Houtte spirea, open

**Height and spread:** 1.50 m X 2.00 m

**Flowers:** Double, small, white flowers, abundant, distributed along the stems

**Foliage:** Lustrous dark green in summer, yellow-orange to purple in fall, moderately-dense foliage

**Flowering:** Starting in mid-May

**Production:** Moderately fast grower

**Notes and use:** Use in groupings. Very attractive in the fall. Adapts to all soil types, but not hardy and susceptible to bacterial blight. To ensure that it maintains its arched branches, do not prune too heavily.



## *Spiraea thunbergii*



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**Other names:** Thunberg Spirea, Bridal-wreath, Baby's breath spirea  
**Crosses, provenance:** Species native to China, naturalized and grown in Japan, then introduced from Japan

**Introduction:** 1863

**Hardiness zone:** 4

**Habit:** Vase-shaped, arched filiform branches, open

**Height and spread:** 1.50 m X 1.20 m

**Flowers:** Pure white, small and distributed along the stems

**Foliage:** Yellowish green turning to yellowish tinged with orange then to bronze in the fall, very open, sparse foliage

**Flowering:** Early May, before the leaves

**Production:** Can be propagated by division

**Notes and use:** Use in hedges or containers. Very attractive in the fall and tolerates a wide variety of soils, including acid soils. Prune after flowering to prevent the branches from spreading. Awarded the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit (AGM) in 1993.

## *Spiraea thunbergii* 'Fujino Pink'

**Other name:** 'Fujino Pink' Thunberg spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** No information was found on the provenance of this cultivar

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Rounded, irregular

**Height and spread:** 1.20 m X 1.20 m

**Flowers:** Pale pink

**Foliage:** Light green, red and orange in the fall, open, sparse foliage

**Flowering:** Early in the spring

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Not hardy.



## *Spiraea thunbergii* 'Mont Fuji'



**Other name:** 'Mount Fuji' spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Selected by Dr. Masato Yokoi of the Faculty of Horticulture of Chiba University (Japan)

**Introduction:** Year of introduction not found

**Hardiness zone:** 4a

**Habit:** Rounded, irregular

**Height and spread:** 0.90 m X 0.90 m

**Flowers:** White

**Foliage:** Green leaves with white margins, sometimes spotted with pink, open, sparse foliage

**Flowering:** Early in the spring

**Production:** Slow grower

**Notes and use:** Not hardy. It can lose its variegation, especially if severely pruned and if it undergoes a late spring thaw.



# *Spiraea trichocarpa* 'Snow White'

**Other name:** Korean spirea

**Crosses, provenance:** Produced from a cross between *S. trilobata* and *S. trichocarpa*

**Introduction:** About 1965 in Canada

**Hardiness zone:** [4b, 4b, >5b]

**Habit:** Mounded, compact

**Height and spread:** 1.25 m X 1.50 m

**Flowers:** White, borne in rounded corymbs

**Foliage:** Green

**Flowering:** Begins in spring

**Production:** Very fast grower. Plants reach 40 to 60 cm in three years. Several species and cultivars of spirea are superior to this cultivar for the quality of their flowers and their tolerance to weather conditions.

**Notes and use:** Use as a specimen or in groups. Makes an interesting hedge and requires little pruning. Tolerates poor soils and dry conditions, but prefers rich soils and moist conditions. Prune after flowering.



# Cultivation

## **Location**

Although spireas tolerate semi-shade, they flower best in full sun. Light shade is, however, desirable during the hottest part of the day to prevent scorching of the foliage. In addition, spring-flowering spireas will be at their best in locations sheltered from prevailing winds for maximum flowering. With respect to soil, spireas are relatively undemanding: they can adapt to any soil type, but prefer cool, well-drained soils. Spireas have superficial, fibrous root systems and therefore make good soil stabilizers.

## **Transplanting**

Spireas can be easily and successfully transplanted. However, before transplanting, check to ensure that the roots are not too pot-bound. If the roots are very tight and compact in the pot, loosen them by scoring the root ball with a knife in order to promote rooting.

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## **Ecological interest**

Spireas provide food for birds and attract butterflies. They are resistant to deer grazing. Some species can be used to naturalize areas or to stabilize easily eroded soils.

## **Fertilization**

Spireas seldom need more than one application of compost per year.

## **Propagation**

Most species of spirea are easily propagated by plant division. In the spring, when the plants are still dormant, divide them with a sharp spade, separate the clumps and replant 30 cm apart. Water thoroughly. Spireas can also be easily propagated

by cuttings: take herbaceous or stem cuttings in the summer. With respect to seedlings, they are used primarily in the search for new cultivars.

### **Pruning**

Most species of spirea require renewal pruning every one to two years and regrow very well after severe pruning. However, it is important to identify the plant before pruning: species that flower on new growth of the season must be pruned in early spring, cutting old brown stems to the ground, whereas species that flower on the previous year's growth must be pruned after flowering.

### **Insects and disease**

The main pest of spireas is spittlebugs, but they can also be attacked by certain nematodes and by spirea aphid (*Aphis spiraecola*), which infest young shoots and inflorescences in late June or early July. With respect to disease, they are susceptible to mildew, bacterial blight and Septoria leaf spot. In nurseries, mildew is the most common disease.

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### **Winter protection**

It is important to tie the branches in the fall to prevent breakage by snow or ice.

### **Hardiness ratings**

The hardiness ratings of the cultivars were established on the basis of the Canadian hardiness zones of Sherk and Buckley. The work of the *Réseau d'essais des plantes ligneuses ornementales du Québec* has resulted in a new way of defining the hardiness of a plant by considering three levels of evaluation: survival, use and full ornamental expression (see details p. 5).



Canada<sup>ca</sup>