Daphnes

The Common Daphnes

**Daphne odora** - This is what most people mean when they say "Daphne". Ubiquitous, but justifiably so, with a very strong citrusy scent. D. o. ‘Aureomarginata’ is the common form. For a non-variegated with slightly larger flowers, try 'Zuiko Nishiki', or for a slightly smaller but more gloriously variegated form plant 'Mae Jima'. Likes partial shade.

**Daphne x burkwoodii** - Introduced in the 1930's, this group of hybrids are well known and widely planted. Green leafed D. b. 'Somerset' is the best known, but the variegated forms 'Carol Mackie' and 'Briggs Moonlight' offer more interest. Likes sun and drainage; may repeat flower if nutrition and summer water are provided. Can be deciduous in cold weather.

**Daphne cneorum** - Rock Daphne is being less commonly planted, due to the introduction of newer low growing forms with longer bloom seasons, and also a reputation for being finicky. D. c. ‘Ruby Glow’ is the common form.

Less Common "Mainstream" Varieties

**Daphne x transatlantica** - Many very long-flowering hybrids, first introduced in the 1970's. D. t. ‘Jim’s Pride’ was the first, with green leaves and white flowers. ‘Summer Ice’, developed by OSU's own Dr Robert Ticknor, has nice cream edge variegation. ‘Eternal Fragrance’ has the best repeat blooming of any Daphne, often showing flowers through Thanksgiving.

**Daphne x susannae 'Lawrence Crocker'** - Introduced by the owner of Siskiyou Rare Plants in Medford, (it is also known as D. x medfordensis 'Lawrence Crocker'). Great very low form, with several flushes of deep rosy-purple flowers from May to October.

**Daphne x mantensiana 'Manten'** - Before the newer introductions, this was considered one of the better evergreen repeat bloomers. It still has a better fragrance than many, and a nice compact upright habit. Remove spent flowers to reduce dieback.

**Daphne mezereum** - For most of Europe, this is what they mean when they say "Daphne". Very hardy, with a great show of very fragrant lilac pink flowers late February on bare branches. Blooms only on last year's wood.
Rare But Available Daphnes


**Daphne x houtteana** - Small flowers only lightly scented, and blooms only in spring. Notable for deep purple-black foliage.

**Daphne x napolitana** - Better than D. x mantensiana for a nice compact upright evergreen shrub. Flowers are nicely fragrant, a heavy bloom in spring followed by a lighter bloom in summer.

**Daphne genkwa** - Deciduous, and flowers are scentless. Relatively large lilac purple flowers are very impressive in mid spring, before leaves emerge.

**Daphne jasminea** - Tiny slow-growing shrublet, almost groundcover in habit. White flowers begin as early as April, but are at their peak in late June - early July. Fragrance is slight, during the cool part of the day.

**Daphne x rollsdorfii 'Wilhelm Schacht'** - Strongly resembles D. s. 'Lawrence Crocker', but is upright mounding rather than low and spreading. Early flowers are quite purple, but later flowers on new growth are lighter. More drought tolerant than most Daphnes.

**Daphne x whiteorum 'Beauworth' and D. w. 'Kilmeston'** - Small spreading but well branched shrubs, with fragrant rose-pink flowers from late spring to fall. Dislikes severe cold and wet. Great candidate for container gardening on covered porch or patio - likes the heat and the protection from winter rain. 'Kilmeston' has more consistent summer flowering, but 'Beauworth' has larger flowers, especially in the late spring, and is perhaps a little more forgiving about weather.

**Edgeworthia**

**Edgeworthia chrysantha** - Deciduous shrub to 5-6 ft. Fragrant bright yellow flowers in March on bare stems, from prominent buds visible through the winter. Quite showy, and long leaves and classic Daphne-family stems provide some off-season interest. Also available, though quite rare, is a red flowered form E. c. 'Rubra'

**Edgeworthia papyrifera** - Deciduous shrub, 5-6 ft. Pale yellow fragrant flowers are slightly smaller than E. chrysantha, and are borne at the tips of the branches, giving a decidedly pendant look. Leaves also slightly smaller.