

KEY TO COMMON SHRUBS OF WESTERN SOUTH CAROLINA - 2007

- 1. Leaves compound .....2
- 1. Leaves simple ..... 8
  - 2. Stems thorny or spiny..... 3
  - 2. Stems without thorns or spines ..... 6
- 3. Pinnately compound leaves with 7-9 leaflets..... Rosa multiflora  
(Multiflower rose)
- 3. Pinnate or palmately compound leaves with less than 7 leaflets... .....4
  - 4. Leaves white beneath and 3-5 leaflets..... Rubus bifrons  
(Himalaya-berry )
  - 4. Leaves not white beneath ..... 5
- 5. Stems trailing, flowers single or in threes.....Rubus flagellaris  
(Dewberry)
- 5. Stems arching and erect.....Rubus spp.  
(Blackberry)
  - 6. Leaves opposite (leaves not leaflets).....Sambucus canadensis  
(Elderberry)
  - 6. Leaves alternate ..... 7
- 7. Midrib of compound leaves winged and leaflets entire ..... Rhus copallina  
(Winged sumac)
- 7. Midrib not winged, leaflets serrate..... Rhus glabra  
(common sumac)
  - 8. Leaves short and scale-like ..... Juniperus communis  
(Ground juniper)
  - 8. Leaves not scale-like ..... 9
- 9. Branches with thorns ..... Crataegus spp.  
(Hawthorne)
- 9. Branches without thorns ..... 10
  - 10. Leaves opposite..... 11
  - 10. Leaves alternate..... 18
- 11. Underside of leaves covered with hairs ..... 12
- 11. Undersides of leaves not as above ..... 13
  - 12. Leaves with palmate lobes .....Broussonetia papyrifera  
(Paper mulberry)
  - 12 Leaves never lobed .....Hydrangea sp.  
(Wild hydrangea)
- 13. Leaves leathery and semi-evergreen ..... 14
- 13. Leaves not leathery and lost in fall ..... 17

- 14. Stems and leaves dark green with small teeth ..... Euonymus americanus  
(Strawberry bush)
- 14. Stems and leaves not as above.....15
- 15. Leaves less than 4 cm long (1.6”) branches with hairs.....Ligustrum sinense  
(Chinese privet)
- 15. Leaves 5-10cm (2-4”) long, no branch hairs .....16
  - 16. Lower with distinct light green veins ..... Ligustrum lucidum  
(Glossy privet)
  - 16. Lower vein not distinct..... Ligustrum japonicum  
(Japanese privet)
- 17. Leaves broadly oval, side veins curving towards tip,  
White flat-topped cluster of flowers in spring..... Cornus amomum  
(Dogwood)
- 17. Leaves narrowly oval, side veins not curved at tip  
White balls of flowers in fall ..... Cephalanthus occidentalis

LEAVES ALTERNATE AND SIMPLE

- 18. Leaves leathery, large to 8 inches long, underside brownish, found only along  
mountain streams .....Rhododendron maximum
- 18. Not as above ..... 19
- 19. Leaves wider at tip than base, tip with course teeth .....Baccharis halimifolia  
(Consumption weed)
- 19. Leaves not as above.....20
  - 20. Leaves leathery and evergreen..... 21
  - 20. Leaves not evergreen ..... 26
- 21. Leaves with small teeth and leaves less than 2 “ long..... Vaccinium arboretum  
(Sparkleberry)
- 21. Leaves larger ..... 22
  - 22. Leaves serrate with acute tapering tips and rounded bases, growing near  
stream edge frequently forming thickets.....Leucothoe fontanesiana  
(Dog hobble)
  - 22. Plants not as above .....23
- 23 Leaves with umbrella like silver and brown scales on underside  
(if only silver scale it is E.umbellata which loses leave in fall). Elaeagnus pungens  
(Silverberry)
- 23. No scales present.....24

- 24. Underside of leaves with small brown dots (bright light required),  
leaves dull above .....Rhododendron minus
- 24. Leaves without brown dots beneath .....25
  
- 25. Leaves less than 4 inches long, tip pointed ..... Kalmia latifolia  
(Mountain laurel)
- 25. Leaves larger and red colored in spring.....Photinia X fraseri  
(Red tip)
  
- 26. Leaves with minute silvery or brownish scales on underside .... 27
- 26. Leaves not as above ..... 28
  
- 27. Leaves with minute silvery scales on underside,  
Spring blooming.....Elaeagnus umbellata  
(Silverberry)
- 27. Leaves with minute brownish scales along with silver scales,  
Fall blooming Elaeagnus pungens  
(Silverberry)
  
- 28. Leaves palmately lobed (mitten shaped) number of lobes (fingers)  
variable. Many leaves may not be lobed at all..... 29
- 28. Leaves never lobed..... 30
  
- 29. Stalks of leaf and stems hairy.....Broussonetia papyrifera  
(Paper mulberry)
- 29. Leaf stalks and stems not hairy.....Morus rubra  
(Red mulberry)
  
- 30. Stems green, less than 1 meter high ..... Vaccinium vacillans  
(Low bush blueberry)
- 30. Shrub more than a meter high ..... 31
  
- 31 Leaves lance shapes and greater than 3 times longer than wide  
..... Rhododendron periclymenoides  
(Wild azalea)
- 31. Leaves spoon shaped, less than 3 times longer than broad  
.....Vaccinium spp.  
(High bush blueberry)