
ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH423



SPIREA

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Spirea
- Scientific name: *Spirea sp.*
- Flowering shrub growing 3-5' tall and spreading 3-4' wide
- Leaves are narrowly oval, 1-4'' long, and have slightly toothed edges
- Rows of 1'' flowers appear in clusters along the ends of branches
- Flowers bloom for a short period in spring and summer
- Various hybrids have purple, rose, pink, or white flowers
- Hardy in zones 4-8

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows well in full sun or partial shade

- Grows best in moderately acid soil (pH 6.0-6.5)
- Prefers a rich, moist loam media
- Use a 2-4'' layer of organic mulch all season long
- Feed with an all purpose slow-acting granular fertilizer once a year

PROPAGATION

- Will self seed aggressively
- Often propagated by division in fall
- Can be propagated by softwood cuttings rooted in a warm place during summer
- Hardwood cuttings can be rooted outdoors in fall

DISORDERS

- Fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*)

- Blights young twigs and limbs
- Dying branches appear scorched
- Prune diseased branches including at least 12'' of healthy tissue
- Leaf spot (*Cylindrosporium filipendulae*)
 - Yellow, brown, or black blotches appear on leaves
 - Heavily infected leaves fall prematurely
 - Remove infected foliage
- Powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca macularis*)
 - White coating forms on leaves
 - Leaves wilt, brown, and drop
 - Reduce humidity and remove infected foliage
- Aphids
 - Feed on tender new leaves and buds
 - Leaves curl and turn brown
 - Use a vigorous water spray every other day

CONSUMER CARE

- Should be pruned in winter or spring
- Remove spent flowers to promote new growth and more blooms
- Tall forms are used as hedges or low screens
- Lower forms are often used as groundcovers

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Spirea japonica*
 - 'Little Princess': compact grower with pink flowers
 - 'Magic Carpet': dark pink flowers and leaves that emerge red
 - 'Neon Flash': rosy-red flowers and leaves with a purplish tinge

References

- <http://www.yardener.com/Spirea.html>
- http://www.floridata.com/ref/S/spir_jap.cfm