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LEON C. SNYDER

The pea family, *Leguminosae*, contains both herbaceous and woody plants. The woody plants are divided about equally between trees and shrubs. Only the shrubs are considered in this Review.

Amorpha brachycarpa. This species, related to *A. nana*, has not been hardy in our trials.

***Amorpha canescens* (Lead-plant)**. This low native with silvery-green foliage and spikes of bluish-purple flowers should be perfectly hardy. In nature, it grows on rather poor, well-drained soils. It grows in our prairie area.

***Amorpha fruticosa* (Indigobush Amorpha)**. This is a large shrub native in low, wet soils near lakes and along streams. The light blue flowers are borne in dense spikes from June to August. The plants have grown very well in our collection. Mature plants are rather coarse and should be used only for background.

Amorpha fruticosa* var. *angustifolia. (Midwest Indigobush Amorpha). It is similar to the species, but has leaves that are narrowed at the base and with pods that are more strongly curved.

***Amorpha nana* (Dwarf Indigo Amorpha)**. A low-growing, native shrub, its leaflets are small, elliptic to oblong, and bright green. The flowers are purple in dense racemes. After 10 years, our plants are only about 2 feet high.

***Amorpha glabra* (Mountain-indigo Amorpha)**. The medium height shrub from the mountains of southeastern United States kills to the ground following a severe winter. It has been discarded.

Amorpha virgata. This medium height shrub, native to the southeastern states, shows varying degrees of dieback. It has little merit for Minnesota's climate.

***Caragana arborescens* (Siberian Peashrub)**. This is a very large shrub that has been widely planted in shelterbelts and for informal screens. It is very hardy, but subject to leaf-defoliating diseases which usually show up in late summer. The spring foliage is attractive, and the yellow, pealike blooms are very colorful. This shrub does best in drier parts of the state.

***Caragana arborescens* 'Pendula.'** This weeping form of the Siberian peashrub must be grafted on a standard to give the desired effect. The plant is strictly a novelty.

***Caragana arborescens* 'Sutherland.'** This upright form of the Siberian peashrub is quite striking; it can be used where a narrow screen or hedge is desired. Our plants have been fully hardy.

***Caragana aurantiaca* (Dwarf Peashrub)**. A very hardy, low, rounded shrub, it grows to about 4 feet tall. The leaves are fine-textured and dark green. The small yellow flowers open in late May or early June.

Caragana boissii. This medium-height shrub has been quite hardy. It resembles *C. decorticans* in all its characteristics.

Peashrubs



The Globe Caragana (*Caragana frutex* 'Globosa') is used in foundation plantings and for low hedges. Its compact form and dark green color are distinguishing characteristics.

Caragana brevifolia. This small to medium shrub is fine-textured, dark green, with small pealike yellow flowers. It has not done as well for us as it does further west where the summers are drier. Our seedlings have lacked vigor and have been slow to establish.

Caragana decorticans. This large shrub has been fully hardy in our trials. The plant is quite upright and of good form. The yellow, pealike flowers open in late May.

***Caragana frutex* (Russian Peashrub)**. This low to medium height shrub tends to send up suckers. The foliage is dark green and fine-textured. The four leaflets distinguish this species. Some selections of this species make excellent bank covers.

***Caragana frutex* 'Globosa.'** This cultivar was selected for its compact, globe-shaped form. Our plants are only about 2 feet tall. This can be used for a low formal hedge.

***Caragana microphylla* (Littleleaf Caragana)**. This is a medium to large shrub from Siberia and North China. Our plants have had larger leaflets than are described for the species.

***Caragana microphylla* 'Tidy.'** This is one of the most attractive of our Caraganas. The narrow leaflets and the light green foliage are characteristic. The flowers in late May and early June are light yellow and are produced in profusion.

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Caragana pekinensis (Peking Peashrub). This medium-height shrub from northeast China is rather coarse and has little ornamental value. Some dieback occurs after a severe winter.

Caragana pygmaea (Pigmy Caragana). Because of its drought and alkali tolerance, this small shrub is widely planted as an ornamental in the Red River Valley. It is dark green with narrow, fine-textured leaflets and spiny stipules. This species does not grow as well in the arboretum as it does in drier parts of the state.

Caragana spinosa (Spiny Caragana). This rather sprawly shrub with spiny branches is of little landscape value.

Colutea arborescens (Bladder-senna). This species and C. istria and C. persica lack hardiness and have been removed from our planting. The plants die back nearly to the ground each winter.

Cytisus hirsutus. This is the hardiest of the brooms, reaching a height of about 2 feet. The yellow, pealike flowers are produced in profusion from early to mid-May. Some dieback occurs following a severe winter.

Cytisus spp. The following species of Cytisus have been tested and discarded for lack of hardiness: C. austriacus; C. decumbens; C. elongatus; C. lindermanni; C. nigricans; C. x praecox; C. purpureus; C. ratisbonensis; C. ruthenicus; C. scoparius; C. sessilifolius; C. supinus.

Genista multibracteata. This is the only Genista that has given us dependable bloom. The seeds were originally obtained from Leningrad, Russia. It is possibly the same as G. tinctoria. The plants grow to a height of about 3 feet. Small, yellow flowers are produced in abundance in late June and early July on new growth. The plants die back each winter, and they should be pruned back nearly to the ground to remove the old fruiting stems and to encourage vigorous new growth. A particularly attractive feature of this shrub is its ability to hold its dark green leaves well into winter. This is a variable species, and some selection is needed to develop a uniform strain.

Genista spp. Other Genistas tested and found to lack hardiness include G. lydia, G. pilosa, G. sagittalis, and G. tinctoria.

Halimodendron halodendron (Salt Tree). This is a medium-sized shrub with silvery green foliage. The flowers are pale purple. The plant grows best on drier soils, and the name suggests



Cytisus ratisbonensis is similar to Cytisus hirsutus except for the more arching branches. This plant did well for us for several years and then suddenly died.

a tolerance to alkaline conditions. Our plants have not grown very well and have shown some dieback.

Lespedeza bicolor (Shrub Lespedeza). This is a dieback shrub that blooms on new wood. Plants reach a height of 5 to 6 feet and bloom from mid-August until frost. The pealike flowers are rosy-purple. Flat, fasciated stems are not uncommon. This shrub is valued for its late summer bloom.

Robinia hispida (Rose Acacia). This medium-height shrub has been planted to a limited extent in this area. Its suckering habit may be objectionable. Its rose-colored, pealike blossoms are quite attractive in late May and early June. We have planted this species in a ravine in the birdfood area.

Robinia neo-mexicana. This native of New Mexico has not been fully hardy. Considerable dead wood has developed, and a certain amount of dieback occurs each winter. This species has little ornamental value for this area.

Robinia pseudoacacia 'Prostrata.' This low, prostrate form of the common black locust is growing near the rose acacia. Our plants are about 3½ feet tall and 6 feet wide.

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