

Medium Shrub (5—8')
Deciduous
Introduced
Map #89

Old-fashioned Weigela
(*Weigela florida*)
Family: *Caprifoliaceae*



Leaves: simple, broad and elongated coming to a long point; green but many cultivars have bronze and reddish coloring. No fall coloring generally.

Buds: opposite, leafy scales.

Stems: with two rows of hairs running from node to node; gray-brown and scruffy with round lenticels.

Bark: tannish, gray-brown and shreddy peeling.

Flowers: perfect, funnel-form, 1 - 2" long with rounded lobes; single or in small clusters in the axils; May—June and sporadically throughout the season, various shades of pink and red depending on the cultivar.

Fruits: two-valved capsule; not ornamentally important.

Habit: spreading, dense, rounded with coarse branches eventually arching to the ground. Often very ratty looking, especially in winter.

Culture: very adaptable but generally prefers full sun and well-drained soil. No serious disease or insect problems. May have a lot of tip dieback.

Cultivars: 10 species and a couple hundred cultivars with many hybrid crosses and all very confused even in the trade. Vary in plant size, cold hardiness, flower color and leaf color. The Dance series from Canada is very cold hardy and includes 'Minuet', 'Polka', 'Rumba', 'Samba', and 'Tango'. Commonly available are 'Bristol Ruby', 'Centennial', 'Java Red', 'Newport Red' ('Vanicek'), 'Red Prince', 'Variegata' and 'Variegata Nana'. 'Wine and Roses' is a new trademark with burgundy-purple leaves and hot pink flowers.



'Java Red'



'Pink Delight'



'Red Prince'



Wine And Roses ('Alexandra')



'Polka'



'Rumba'

Credits: Photos from: www.midwestlandscapeplants.org and various other .edu websites unless noted. Text from: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael Dirr; "Tree Identification Characteristics (abridged)" from the University of Illinois Extension; www.midwestlandscapeplants.org; and misc. other sources. This publication may not be sold except to cover the cost of reproduction when used as part of an educational program of the University of Wisconsin-Extension.