Shrubs are the backbone to a landscape with their woody frames that provide structure to a design. Their foliage can hide unsightly fences, and it can make excellent background greenery for colorful perennials. Some shrubs have unique characteristics that make them ideal as focal points, and others add color to a garden at different seasons of the year. There are a lot of different shrubs that do really well in Utah, some of which may not be as well-known as others. Here is a list of five varieties that you may not have heard of before:

**Autumn Magic Black Chokeberry**

_Aronia melanocarpa 'Autumn Magic'_

This shrub has something to show for almost every season. It's covered in small, white, fragrant flowers in the spring. The flowers give way to edible, dark berries in the summer. You are likely to save these berries for the birds because they are not very palatable, but they are not toxic, and they add interest to the garden. The shrub can grow in wet and dry conditions, and its leaves turn a red-purple color in the fall. It can be planted alone as a focal point or in rows as a hedge. It can get up to 6' tall and wide.

Miss Ruby Butterfly Bush

_Buddleia x 'Miss Ruby'_)
Butterfly bushes are fairly common shrubs, but this newer variety has a richer pink flower and stays a little smaller than some of the other varieties out there. It matures at around 4-5' tall and wide, and it prefers to be in full sun. It attracts butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees, but tends to be resistant to deer. It's very tolerant of dry conditions and does well in Utah landscapes.

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**Peking Cotoneaster**

*Cotoneaster lucidus*
This is a shrub that makes a great hedge or screen plant with its glossy green leaves. In the fall, the leaves take on a variety of colors including orange, yellow, red, and brown. The dark berries add a nice contrast to the fall leaf color, and this shrub becomes the perfect Halloween plant! It prefers full sun and is very tolerant of poor soils. It gets up to 10’ tall and wide.

Redleaf Rose

*Rosa glauca rubrifolia*
Not what you typically envision when you think of a rose, the flower on this shrub rose is simple yet striking. Its bright pink color contrasts well with the dark purple-red leaves. The foliage stands out against typical greens, adding to the color palate in the garden. It develops rose hips that persist through the winter giving it interest at all times of the year. It prefers full sun and grows to be around 4-6' tall and wide.

Littleleaf Mock Orange

*Philadelphus microphyllus*
This Utah native may not be the most showy shrub in the landscape, but it makes up for that by producing flowers with an amazing fragrance in the late spring/early summer. It smells just like candy! This is an excellent shrub to plant near an area of the yard where you will be spending a lot of time. It is very drought-tolerant and needs good drainage. It can handle full sun or part shade. It gets around 4-6’ tall and wide but can get larger with age.
Whether you are looking to make improvements to your existing yard or you are starting from scratch, the Localscapes approach allows you to minimize outdoor water consumption while maximizing the aesthetics and functionality of your landscape.

1. Central Open Shape

Design the lawn area as a central open shape with consideration for proper sprinkler coverage instead of making grass the default groundcover across the entire yard.

2. Gathering Areas

Include multiple areas in your yard.
relax. Surface these spaces with concrete, pavers, decking, or other material that requires no watering.

### 3. Activity Zones
Give all of your planned activities their own space and keep them out of the lawn so you aren't mowing around and watering trampolines, swing sets, sheds, etc.

### 4. Paths
Connect all of the spaces in the landscape with paths so you can easily move through the yard, and so you avoid creating narrow lawn areas that are difficult to water efficiently.

### 5. Planting Beds
Turn the remaining spaces into planting beds, and fill them with a variety of water-efficient plants that do well here in Utah. Water the plants with drip irrigation.

Click Here for a List of Recommended Plants
Plant Highlight

Sombrero Sangrita Coneflower

*Echinacea* x 'Balsomanita'

Coneflowers are excellent plants for Utah's hot, dry summer conditions, and the color on this one is stunning! Orange flowers begin emerging in late spring or early summer and quickly mature to an outstanding bright red. It's sure to stand out in any garden! Looks great paired with Blanket Flower, Yarrow, Coreopsis, Black-eyed Susans, or other coneflowers.

**Plant Type:** Perennial

**Mature Size:** 18-22" T x 22-24" W

**Light Requirements:** Full Sun/Part Shade

**Hardiness Zones:** 4-9
Weekly Watering Guide

General Watering Guidelines

Weed Control Basics

Tips for Battling Weeds

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