



Spirea tomentosa* - *Spirea

COMMON NAME: Spirea, Steeplebush, Hardhack

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Spirea tomentosa*. The name comes from the ancient Greek word *spirea* meaning twisted and *tomentosa* meaning densely woolly.

FLOWER: Plumes of pink to rose-purple flowers

BLOOMING PERIOD: July, August, September

SIZE: 2 to 4 feet tall.

BEHAVIOR: Mound-shaped deciduous shrub with wand-like, unbranched stems having dense flowering plumes at the ends.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Full to partial sun; moist soil in meadows, streambanks, or bogs. Prefers an acidic sandy soil.

NATURAL RANGE: Nova Scotia to Ontario, south to Kansas, Louisiana and Georgia. Grows well in almost all of Wisconsin.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Attractive to butterflies. The rare Karner Blue Butterfly has been observed on Steeplebushes. Dark green leaves with dense hairs underneath.

SUGGESTED CARE: Easily grown. Flowers occur on new growth so prune in late winter or early spring. This is a suckering deciduous shrub and will form colonies.