

Pieris japonica, sometimes called Andromeda or Lily-of-the-Valley Shrub, is an evergreen shrub related to rhododendrons and heather. It bears small, mildly fragrant, white or pink urn-shaped flowers in showy racemes (sprays) that give the shrub its common name. It provides year-round garden interest, making it a great shrub to anchor a bed or place near an entryway or patio. Smaller varieties do well in large containers. *Pieris* has glossy evergreen foliage, with most varieties sporting new growth in late winter in bright shades of burgundy, bronze, red, or chartreuse. Sprays of bead-like flower buds (usually pink, red, or green) form in late summer and ornament the plant throughout the winter. Then the flower sprays open in late winter to early spring, providing visual interest and food for orchard mason bees and hummingbirds at a time when few other plants are in bloom.

Pieris does very nicely in Puget Sound gardens in full sun to partial shade. It does not like hot afternoon sun. Most varieties grow as mid-size shrubs, typically growing to about five feet high and wide in a decade. *Pieris* likes soil rich in organic matter. Feed in the spring with a good rhododendron fertilizer such as Dr. Earth Rhododendron & Camellia Food or E.B. Stone Azalea, Camellia & Gardenia Food, and keep watered during our summer droughts. Like rhododendrons, *Pieris* are shallow rooted. They resent being planted too deeply or mulched heavily. Pests are rarely a problem; rhododendron root weevils can be controlled with beneficial nematodes if necessary.

A number of *Pieris* varieties have been awarded the (British) Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit, or have been selected as Pacific Northwest Great Plant Picks. These varieties tend to have a particularly fine show of flowers and/or new foliage, and to perform especially well in maritime garden conditions. In the table below, these varieties will have RHS and/or GPP after their name.

Name	Height	Flower and bud descriptions	Foliage and form
Brookside (GPP)	3'	White; red stems and buds	Chartreuse new growth; columnar form
Brouwer's Beauty (GPP)	5'	White; red stems and buds; very floriferous	Dark green foliage; flowers held more horizontally at top of plant
Cavatine (GPP, RHS)	2-3'	White, fragrant; green buds	Red new growth; compact rounded form
Dorothy Wycoff	5'	Pale pink to white; deep red buds	Bronze to red new growth
Fire and Ice	5'	White; contrasts nicely with new growth	Red new growth; older foliage variegated , green edged white
Flaming Silver (RHS)	4-5'	White	Flame-red new growth; older foliage variegated , edged white
Forest Flame (RHS)	6-10'	White; pink buds; broad, heavy flower clusters	New growth bright red turning pink, then dark green.
Katsura	5'	Lilac pink; deeper pink buds	Wine-red new growth
Little Heath	3-4'	White; pink buds	Peach to pink new growth; older foliage variegated , edged cream
Mountain Fire (RHS)	6-10'	White, profuse	Fiery red new growth; turns coppery, then dark green
Passion	5-6'	Cherry red	Reddish-purple new growth
Passion Frost	4-5'	Purple-pink flowers; deep red buds	Red-purple new growth; older foliage variegated , edged yellow
Passion Pink Frost	4-5'	White to blush-pink flowers; pink-red buds	Red-purple new growth; older foliage variegated , edged cream
Prelude (RHS)	2-3'	Pure white, profuse; blooms later than many varieties	Pink new foliage; older foliage very dark green
Pygmy	1-2'	White, sparse	Unusual small, narrow foliage
River Nymph	5'	White, very profuse	Peach to chartreuse new growth
Scarlet O'Hara	6-10'	White; pink buds	Bright red new growth; older foliage continues red-tipped
Snowdrift	4-6'	White; profuse; long panicles	Dark green; reddish new growth
Tiki	3-4'	Pure white; pink to cream buds; very floriferous	Mid green foliage
Valley Rose (GPP)	5'	Rose pink with white tips; deep pink buds; floriferous	Bronze new growth
Valley Valentine (GPP, RHS)	5-7'	Dusty red buds opening to red and white flowers; floriferous	Dark green foliage contrasts nicely with flowers
Variegata (GPP)	5-6'	Ivory white, short racemes	Pink- coral new growth; older foliage variegated , edged white