Old Fashioned Weigela  
(*Weigela florida*)

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**Summary:**
Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf  
Height: 9 feet  
Spread: 12 feet  
Shape: upright, spreading  
Old fashioned weigela is a large shrub with a coarse texture and showy spring flowers. This plant is best suited for a shrub border. There are several new cultivars which are improved versions (dwarf, foliage and flower characteristics) compared to the species.

**Plant Needs:**
Zone: 5 to 8  
Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Moisture: Moist to dry  
Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay  
$pH$ Range: 3.7 to 7.0

**Functions:**
Suggested uses for this plant include border, screen, and massing.

**Planting Notes:**
Tolerates wide range of soil and light conditions. Pollution tolerant.  
Prefers well-drained soil and full sun.

**Care:**
Easy to grow.  
Prune one-third of the oldest wood each spring after flowering to maintain plant shape and control dieback.

**Problems:**
No serious pest or disease problems.

**Alternatives:**
Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta, regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.  
Cultivars of *Weigela florida*:  
`Bristol Ruby` has ruby red flowers.  
`Variegata` grows up to 4 feet tall. Foliage color is variegated with yellow. Flowers are pink. Wine and Roses® has pink flowers and dark burgundy leaves on a compact plant that matures at 5 feet tall.
Comments:
Most of the weigelas in the nursery trade are hybrids developed to produce superior flowers. The stems are usually covered with flowers for a short period of time in the spring. Best used in a shrub border or in large groups. Also serves as good background for smaller plants. Unless one buys a variegated cultivar (non-green or multi-colored foliage), this species is in the same limited showiness category as forsythia, i.e., showy in flower for a few weeks and then non-descript for the rest of the year.

This material was developed by Carol Ness as part of the Interactive Design and Development Project funded by the Kellogg Foundation.