

Creating Winter Interest In the Garden

As fall colors fade and temperatures start to lower, there are still many plants to enjoy in the garden. Gardening in Northeast Ohio should not be a three-season hobby; it should fill you with enjoyment all year round. In order to appreciate the winter garden you must observe the subtle beauty of nature and what interest it can provide. Imagine the Pin Oak's resilient leaves, the sparkling, ice covered berries of Holly and Viburnum, the graceful shape of a Japanese Maple, and the curling bark of the River Birch. The following list of plants will help complete your landscape with four season interest and enjoyment.

Evergreens - look for differences in shape, foliage/needle color and texture

Abies-Fir
Buxus-Boxwood
Cedrus atlantica-Blue Atlas Cedar
Chamaecyparis-Falsecypress (Dwarf Hinoki, Golden Mop, etc.)
Ilex-Holly (Inkberry, English, etc.)
Juniperus-Juniper
Microbiota-Siberian Cypress
Picea-Spruce (Alberta, Colorado Blue, Norway, etc.)
Pinus-Pine (Mugho, White, etc.)
Rhododendron
Taxus-Yew
Thuja-Arborvitae (Emerald, Rheingold, etc.)
Tsuga-Hemlock

Persistent Fruit –attractive, and helps feed the birds

Aronia-Chokeberry (red to black)
Callicarpa-Japanese Beautyberry (purple)
Cotoneaster (red, pink)
Crataegus-Hawthorn (red)
Ilex-Holly, especially "Winterberry" (red, orange, yellow, blue)
Malus-Crabapple (red, orange, yellow)
Myrica-Bayberry (silver to blue)
Pyracantha-Firethorn (orange)
Rhamnus-Buckthorn (black)
Rhus-Sumac (red clusters)
Rosa-Rose, especially Rugosa types (orange to red hips)
Symphoricarpos-Coralberry, Indiancurrent
Viburnum (coral, red, blue, black)

Bark

Acer griseum-Paperbark Maple
Acer palmatum-Japanese Maple "Coral Bark" varieties
Amelanchier-Serviceberry (grey and mottled)
Betula-Birch (salmon-cream, papery)
Cornus-Dogwood (shrub types, red & yellow twigs)
Metasequoia-Redwood

Silhouette

Acer palmatum-Japanese Maple
Chamaecyparis nootkatensis-Weeping Falsecypress
Corylus-Contorted Filbert a.k.a. Harry Lauder's Walkingstick
Fagus-Beech (weeping)
Hydrangea-any (persistent flowers)
Ornamental Grasses-any
Picea-Spruce (weeping)
Prunus subhirtella-Weeping Cherry
Sedum spectabile-Upright Stonecrop
Taxodium-Bald Cypress "knees"
Topiary-any shape
Vines-any type