

The Winter Garden

A well-designed garden includes plants that create beauty, interest and ecological benefits throughout the seasons, including the winter. Winter gardens can be tranquil and reflective but also provide food and safe haven for many of our overwintering insects and songbirds.

When selecting plants for winter interest, it is important to choose not just evergreens but plants that add texture, structure, seed pods, seedheads, twig color and berries to create a diverse landscape. Ornamental grasses play an important role in the winter landscape; they add drama, movement and set the mood especially when backlit by the winter sun. Their seeds feed hungry birds and their foliage provides beneficial cover.

Woody Ornamentals		
Aronia - berries	Heptacodium - bark	Quercus - bark/acorns
Betula - bark	Hydrangea paniculata - seedheads	Rhus - fruit
Buxus - structure	Ilex verticillata - berries	Rosa rugosa - hips
Cercis can. 'Ruby Falls' - structure	Juniperus virg. 'Taylor' - structure	Salix - stem color/catkins
Clethra al. 'Compacta' - structure	Lagerstroemia - bark	Stewartia - bark
Cornus sericea - twig color	Lindera angustifolia - tan foliage	Taxodium - structure
Crataegus - berries	Mahonia - structure/flower	Viburnum - berries
Herbaceous Plants		
Achillea - seedheads	Echinacea - seedheads	Ornamental Grasses - structure/seed
Agastache - seedheads	Equisetum hyemale - structure	Perovskia - structure/texture
Allium - seedheads	Epimedium - foliage/flowers	Pentstemon - structure/foliage
Asclepias incarnata - seed pods	Evergreen ferns - texture	Rudbeckia - seedheads/structure
Astilbe - seedheads	Helleborus - foliage/flowers	Solidago - seedhead/structure
Baptisia - seed pods	Lavandula - foliage/seedheads	Tiarella – foliage
Bergenia - winter foliage color	Monarda - seedheads	Vernonia 'Iron Butterfly' - structure

