

Winter Interest in the Garden

A garden can look frightfully flat and devoid of life in late fall as many of the perennial borders go to sleep and the colorful autumn leaves have fallen. With thoughtful inclusion of winter ornamentals, your garden can be a source of great delight every month of the year, providing color, fragrance and structure. Here is a sampling of some favorite shrubs & trees that do well in the Portland area.



Bark and/or Structural Effects

Snakebark Maples *Acer davidii*,

A. pennsylvanicum, *A. tegmentosum* – Super cool white or red striped bark shows best in winter, plus they're under 30', good in city yards. Sun-pt shade.

Paperbark Maples *Acer griseum* – Wonderful peeling cinnamon bark & small stature make it perfect for city gardens, great fall color too! 25', sun-pt shd

Japanese Maples *Acer palmatum* – Japanese Maples offer a wide variety of bark interest (*A. pal* 'Sango Kaku', 'Shishigashira') & twisting graceful structure (*A pal dissectum*). Pt shd

Strawberry Tree & Madrone *Arbutus spp.* - Breathtakingly beautiful evergreen trees & large shrubs. Trunks & branches are cinnamon colored & smooth with the sinewy grace of dancing women. Extremely sculptural & inviting to touch. Flowers in winter too! Sun.

Manzanita *Arctostaphylos spp.* - Rich mahogany bark on gracefully branching shrubs of varying size. Leathery, evergreen leaves & dainty clusters of white to

pink bell flowers in late winter/early spring. Very drought tolerant. Needs good drainage, full sun.

Birch *Betula spp.* - Familiar trees & some lesser known species with beautiful exfoliating bark on trunks that are frequently shades of chalky whites, gray-pinks, orangey-reds & browns. Sun-pt shade.

Twig Dogwoods *Cornus alba*, *C. sanguinea*, *C. sericea* & *cultivars* – Gorgeous bark on new growth in vivid shades of yellows, oranges, reds – size varies from 2' to 12', sun-pt shd

Net Bush *Corokia cotoneaster* - Intricate tangles of zigzagging slender black branches with tiny grey-green leaves that look exceptionally lovely when wet. Tiny yellow star flowers follow in spring. 2-10', Sun.

Contorted Filbert/Harry Lauder's Walking Stick *Corylus avellana 'Contorta'* – Interesting silhouette of twisted, gnarled branches with long hanging winter catkins. Now comes w/ red leaves & pink catkins too! Sun.

Golden Desert Ash *Fraxinus excelsior 'Aureafolia'* - Bright gold branches are particularly showy in winter. Nice for a street tree or small yard too. Grows 25', sun.

Crape Myrtle *Lagerstroemia* – A great group of plants for year round interest, Crape Myrtles have excellent exfoliating bark. Some varieties ('Natchez', 'Osage') lose bark in great puzzle piece layers. Others are sinuous & cinnamon color. Wonderful! Grow 6-15', sun.

Persian Ironwood *Parrotia persica* -Outstanding fall color & winter bark which is a beautiful mosaic of browns, grays, greens. Graceful multi-stemmed tree of 35'. Unusual flowers in late winter/spring. Drought tolerant & pest resistant, sun.

Hardy Orange *Poncirus trifoliata 'Flying Dragon'* - Weird & wild looking shrub that means business with its winding branches & hooked thorns like talons. Pretty striped green bark & sweet little citrus blossoms in spring. Sun.

Wingthorn Rose *Rosa omeiensis 'Pteracantha'* - Wickedly beautiful giant red thorns glow like stained glass when backlit. Colorful, long rosehips too! Sun.

Curly Willows *Salix 'Golden Curls'* & *S. 'Scarlet Curls'* – Curly gold or copper branches year round are particularly interesting in winter. Sun

Stewartia – Gorgeous, mostly small, deciduous trees featuring patterned bark with pleasing shades of creamy pinks, grays, and browns. Sun-pt-shade.



Flowers and/or Fragrance

White Forsythia *Abeliophyllum distichum* –

Twiggy, purple tinged, nearly black stems contrast with white or pink, fragrant flowers which are good for indoor forcing. Very refined. 5x5' Sun-pt shade.

Winter Camellias *Camellia sasanqua*, *C. sinensis* – Versatile, long lived evergreens with a stately presence in the landscape. Fragrant flowers are white, pink or red & they aren't messy like *C. japonica* flowers. *C. sinensis* is the Tea Camellia, leaves are used in green & black teas. Pt shade-shade.

Flowering Quince *Chaenomeles* – Big, tangled shrubs with lovely flowers in whites, peaches, reds, corals & pinks. Among the toughest of hombies, slightly aggressive spreader. Sun.

Wintersweet *Chimonanthus praecox* – Bewitchingly fragrant flowers of translucent pale yellow sparkle in the dead of winter. Will perfume an entire room when cut branches are brought inside. Yum! Large shrub to 10'. Sun-pt shade.

Winterhazel *Corylopsis* – Pretty shrubs with fat buds on smooth zigzagging branches followed by a display of lightly scented, pendulous, butter-yellow flowers. Sun-part shade.

Daphne *Daphne bholua*, *D. mezereum*, *D. odora* - Members of this well known genus of shrubs provide peerless winter fragrance that stops you in your tracks. Deciduous or evergreen. Needs superb drainage & shelter from heat. Pt shade.

Chinese Paperbush *Edgeworthia chrysantha* – Speckled branches tipped with clusters of fragrant yellow flowers. Grows 3-5'. Sun-pt shade

Heath *Erica carnea*, *E. × darleyensis* – Needle leaved evergreen groundcovers or low shrubs. Flower colors range from white to shades of pink & purple. Tolerates poor soils but needs good drainage. Grows 8-24" x 12-36". Sun.

Silk Tassel *Garrya elliptica* – Evergreen northwest native shrub with long, silky, pale chartreuse catkins. Grows 8-10', Shade-pt shade.

Witch Hazel *Hamamelis* – an explosion of dainty spider blossoms adorn the slender branches of this vase shaped shrub. Flowers are fragrant & long lasting, in shades of yellow, orange & burgundy. Grows 12-15', Sun-pt shade.

Christmas Rose, Lenten Rose *Helleborus* – Not only are these plants evergreen with interesting foliage...they flower in winter! Wide variety of bloom colors will amaze you. Vary in size depending on variety. Need afternoon shade.

Winter Jasmine *Jasminum nudiflorum* –Bright yellow, unscented flowers on arching green stems in February, shrubby vine. Sun

Winter Honeysuckle *Lonicera fragrantissima* – Small creamy white to pink, deliciously fragrant tubular flowers. Large deciduous shrub, grows 8' x 10'. Sun.

Oregon Grape *Mahonia* - Easily grown shrubs with a strong architectural form bearing long, spiny, evergreen leaves. Spikes of upright lemon yellow flowers with a dreamy & delicious scent. Shade.

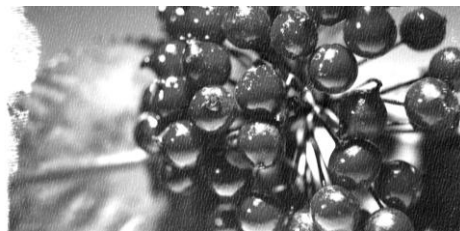
Flowering Apricot & Autumn Cherry *Prunus mume*, *P. subulata* 'Autumnalis' – Classic trees with delicate white, soft pink or red, double, semi-double or single blossoms. *P. mume* in earliest spring & 'Autumnalis' in fall-winter. Sun.

Pussy Willows *Salix caprea*, *S. melanostachys*, – Silky gray or black catkins in late winter herald the coming of spring. 6-25', sun

Sweet Box *Sarcococca* - Shiny, wavy evergreen leaves with small, sweet smelling white flowers followed by black or red berries. Good for dry shade.

Spiketail *Stachyurus praecox* - Large shrub with polished mahogany branches dripping with 6" racemes of pastel yellow. Like dress-up jewelry for your yard. 8-12'. Sun-pt shade.

Dawn Viburnum *Viburnum bodnantense* – Pretty pink, small fragrant flowers in clusters begin to open in December. Large deciduous shrub, grows 10' x 7', Sun.



Berries

Beauty Berry *Callicarpa* – Charming shrubs with branches studded in clusters of metallic purple berries. Very eye-catching. Grows 5-6'. Sun-pt shade.

Cotoneaster – Deciduous or evergreen, some tall, some small, all offer masses of bright red or orange berries that are hard to beat. Sun.

Wintergreen *Gaultheria procumbens* – Glossy green leaves smell strongly of wintergreen when bruised. Scarlet berries are prominent throughout the winter months. Used as a groundcover. Part shade.

Winterberry *Ilex verticillata* – Long lasting, plump berries in red & orange on bare branches. Tall shrubs (6-10') with fine structural character & handsome bark. Needs pollinator. Sun.

Heavenly Bamboo *Nandina domestica* – Shiny red berries in winter, feathery evergreen leaves resemble bamboo, but this does not spread. Many varieties, 12" to 10', sun-pt shade.

Prickly Heath *Pernettya mucronata* – tidy shrub with evergreen, pointed leaves. Produces cute, round berries of white, red, purple or pink. Compact, 2-3'. Sun-pt shade.

Firethorn *Pyracantha* – Red berries in winter, serious thorns & evergreen leaves. Grows low & wide or tall & sprawling. Sun-pt shade.

Mountain Ash *Sorbus* – Trees with white, pink or fluorescent orange berries that persist well into the winter & are enjoyed by birds. Sun-light shade.

Snowberry/Coralberry *Symphoricarpos* –White, pink or ruby berries, some in loose clusters, others in bumpy brainy masses. Sun-pt shade.

Winter Interest

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