

# Plants for Fall and Winter Interest

**1. Conifers for winter color and structure:** Lots to choose from – note all the yellows, blues, and shades of green. Add in a plethora of textures and forms available and there is certainly a nice conifer for every spot in the garden. A few of our favorites...

**Chief Joseph Pines:** The holy grail of conifers! Now that is yellow!

**Creeping Blue Noble Fir:** Soft blue conifer with great creeping habit

**Cryptomerias:** Japanese Cedars - all kinds of varieties for winter color and cool textures

**Fire Chief Arborvitae:** Nice orangey/yellow foliage for the garden

**Golden Mugo Pine:** Bright yellow in winter/green in summer

**Golden Spreader Nordmann Fir:** Bright yellow needles with good structure

**Hinoki Cypress:** Rich green textures and some excellent golden cultivars as well

**Korean Firs:** Ex. Horstmann's Silberlocke', 'Icebreaker', 'Silver Star' – nice silver needles

**Larches:** Deciduous conifers that turn brilliant golden yellow in the fall

**Moonfrost Hemlock:** Striking white on green needles, soft texture for shade

**2. Broadleaf Evergreens:** More evergreen foliage for the garden in winter. Look at all things variegated for cool splashes of yellows or whites for winter interest. Others bloom in the winter like Winter Daphne, Distyliums, Sasanqua Camellia, and Mahonias for hummingbird nectar. These evergreen beauties will add texture and foliage over the dormant season. A few of our favorites...

**Abelia:** Nice foliage and late blooming as well – Kaleidoscope, Magic Daydream.

**Azaleas:** Silver Sword has nice silver/white variegation on leaves and spring bloom, also varieties like Girard's Fuchsia and Johanna turn nice purple cast in colder months

**Camellia sasanqua and hybrids:** Start blooming in late fall and continue over winter

**Daphne odora:** Winter fragrant Daphne – lots of cool variegated forms to choose from

**Distyliums:** Red winter bloom like Witch Hazels but evergreen – great hedge plant or filler

**Ericas and Callunas:** Heaths & heathers – Ericas for bloom and Callunas for foliage color

**Leucothoe:** Great color on Scarletta, Rainbow and others

**Mahonias:** Hybrids like Winter Sun and Arthur Menzies – bloom for the hummers in winter

**Nandinas:** Burgundy Wine, Gulf Stream, Bonfire, Obsession, Lemon Lime

**Pieris:** Passion Frost, Passion Frost Pink, Little Heath – nice variegated foliage/spring flower

**Pyracantha:** Bright orange or red berries in fall, persisting into early winter

**Rhododendrons:** PJM, President Roosevelt, Red Red, and Ponticum – all cool foliage!

**Sarcococca:** Winter bloom and fragrance on all flavors low and high

**Scallywag Holly:** Awesome purple color in winter

**Skimmia:** Easy shade shrub, late winter bloom, be sure to get male and female (berries)

**Strawberry Trees:** Bloom in fall and produce fruits over winter – cool red bark too!

**Sundance Mexican Orange:** Great yellow foliage/fragrant white bloom in late spring

**3. Deciduous Trees and Shrubs:** Too many to list here as these provide the stunning fall colors we enjoy every year. Many will also sport a nice crop of berries for additional interest in the dormant season. Here are a list of the exceptional fall color plants but again there are many more...

**Aronia ‘Low Scape’:** Great color on foliage and fruits for the birds as well

**Blueberries:** Especially high bush – spectacular fall color & berries too! Evergreen ones like Bountiful Blue, Sunshine Blue & Pink Icing have nice turquoise to purple color over winter

**Burning Bush:** It is not fall without burning bush!

**Cotoneaster:** Be sure to look at ‘Autumn Inferno’, a striking fall color plant with heavy berry set as well this time of year

**Edgeworthia:** Fragrant bloom in winter on Chinese Paperbush

**Fothergilla:** Outstanding fall color and fragrant white blooms in May/June

**Hypericum:** Nice shrubby St. John’s Wort around, late summer flower, berries in most any color available. Check out ‘Pumpin’, ‘Red Star’, and ‘Sangrita’

**Jack Frost Maples:** New hardier series from Iseli Nursery with stunning fall colors and increased hardiness even for E WA and mountain areas. Final Fire, First Flame, North Wind, Arctic Jade, and Ice Dragon. All great specimen trees for our gardens

**Jade Butterflies Ginkgo:** Stunning structure and golden color in fall

**Japanese Beautyberry:** Purple berries – new ones like Pearl Glam and Purple Pearls have darker foliage in growing season for added interest

**Japanese Maples:** All get stunning color – look for bark too like Bihou, Coral Barks, others

**Katsura Tree:** Awesome fall color and smells like Cotton Candy in fall

**Ninebarks:** Nice foliage color all spring/summer, intensifying in fall. Interesting peely bark for winter months as well

**Oak Leaf Hydrangeas:** Great color and bloom in summer/fall

**Paperbark Maples:** Cool color and bark!

**PG Hydrangeas:** Use for fall flowers turning rose and red – especially Diamond Rouge

**Pink Dawn Viburnums:** Plant for fall color and winter fragrant bloom

**Sourwood Trees:** Bloom in September with red fall color

**Sumac:** Spectacular color in fall – Tiger Eyes is nice bright yellow all season as well

**Symphiocarpus:** Galaxy and Candy, beautiful hybrid snowberries for fall and wildlife

**Twig Dogwoods:** Great structure and twig color in yellow, red or orange. Love Neon Burst!

**Vine Maples:** Great natives. Look for ‘Pacific Fire’ with stunning bark color in winter

**White and River Birch:** Nice bark that peels with age and adds winter interest

**Witch hazels:** Yellow, orange and red varieties for winter bloom

**4. Perennials and Winter Color:** Add these to winter containers, border plantings, or for a touch of color just about anywhere in the garden over winter. Here are a few of our favorites for fall and winter...

**Anemones:** Great for fall bloom and they will come back every year

**Bergenia/Mukdenia/Mukgenia:** Nice foliage on all for fall/winter

**Cabbage and Kales:** Great structure and color in winter in ground or pots

**Epimediums:** Great red foliage over winter and nice Bloom in February

**Grasses:** Evergreen flavors provide year round color and interest, perennial types add wonderful fall plumes as well as color, sound and motion to the landscape

**Hellebores:** The perfect hardy winter blooming evergreen perennial in all kinds of colors!

**Heucheras:** Cool foliage in all shades of colors for winter – and evergreen too!

**Pansies and Violas:** Your flower power for winter – bloom right through the cold

**Plumbago:** Red in fall with cobalt blue flowers

**Wintergreen:** Nice groundcover for pots and borders – red foliage and nice berries in winter

**Do you want a garden for all seasons? Don't forget about the fall & winter – there are a surprising amount of stunning plants to utilize in the dormant season!**