



# CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

## Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

### Nearly forgotten fall color

As the decades have gone by, there have been introductions of literally THOUSANDS of plant hybrids. Now, to make things more complicated, there's hybrids of the latest improved hybrids. It's coming to a point where it's like buying a new computer: as soon as you buy the latest system, it seems that within 6 months something new and improved comes out and your computer seems as if it needs to be updated on an hourly basis. And in 5 years or less, it'll probably become a thousand dollar doorstop. Now, let's have a look at some plants that have been around for a long, long time that we may have forgotten about - until their fall color completely grabs our attention.

*Aronia melanocarpa*. Yep, black chokeberry. A great, hardy screening shrub that can replace the more common Forsythia or Viburnum. Aronia have big, green glossy leaves, grow around the 8-10' range, and it's fall color is orange with flashes of red and yellow.

Fothergilla species. Whether it's Fothergilla gardenii or 'Mount Airy', not many contractors use this plant, but



Fothergilla gardenii

it has gained popularity over the past few years. Fothergilla is a small to mid-ranged shrub, depending on species. Both produce an off-white bottlebrush type flower in spring, have small, but interesting, green leaves, and the fall color is spectacular. Much like Aronia, with orange, yellow, and red flashes throughout the plant.

*Cercidiphyllum japonicum* (Katsura tree). This is my favorite tree! An overall mid-sized shade tree (40'ish by 25'ish), the Katsura has a very good pyramidal growth habit, has small green leaves with blue tinge, and it's fall color is a mix of yellow and orange. A very nice three season shade tree!

Fall color tends to hit the nursery sooner than established plant material on job sites, so when it begins to start getting a little cooler around here, stop in for a cup of coffee or hot chocolate and take a look around!

-Dave



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