



Planning for winter interest

It may seem that we've barely enjoyed summer but it's not too early to be thinking about the winter landscape for your customers. When the leaves are gone and the colorful flower petals have faded away, what's left? Don't forget to plan for some beautiful winter interest that shines against the stark white and grey of winter. To help, here are a few simple ideas:



Look at the bark. Even though deciduous trees lose their leaves, several ornamental varieties offer distinctive and visually appealing bark and provide texture and color. As the name indicates, red twig dogwoods offer wonderful red stems that stay true to their name through the cold months, and birch trees have a white, peeling bark that stands out against the subdued colors of winter. Another option is paper bark maple, with a cinnamon color bark.



Berry-utiful. Trees and shrubs that have berries may hold on to their fruit into the winter, which not only helps feed birds, they also create wonderful color, especially when seen against a snowy backdrop. Some suggestions are crabapple, chokeberry, and winterberry. Holly is also a great shrub which keeps its sturdy green leaves and red berries, producing a beautiful plant for winter, and a great option for holiday decorating.



It's an Evergreen. The great thing about evergreens, is they're not all green. You can have yellow and blues, like the Gold Thread false cypress and dwarf blue spruce. Evergreens are great for adding color in the winter and every landscape needs at least one.

Think Perennial—Grasses that is. Ornamental grasses are some of the most versatile plants for a landscape, with their texture and ability to work with any style of design, and their low maintenance. Add in their winter appeal and you have a beautiful way to enhance the landscape. Some great varieties are Fountaingrass with its feathery plumes that dance all summer long and add a fun touch in winter. Zebragrass has beautiful stripes in the summer, and strong, tan blades in winter that still stand tall; or you choose the lushness of Maiden grass with its broad leaf blades and strength through winter.

References:

[Winter Landscaping Tips](#)

[17 Top Ornamental Grasses](#)

[Ornamental Grasses In Winter](#)



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