

# The Tidewater Garden in Winter

## Trees with Winter Interest

- *Cornus mas* – Cornelian Cherry
- *Cornus officinalis* – Japanese Cornelian Cherry
- *Crataegus* species – Hawthorne
- *Eriobotrya japonica* – Loquat
- *Prunus mume* – Japanese Flowering Apricot
- *Prunus subhirtella* ‘Autumnalis’ – Autumn Flowering Cherry
- *Prunus x incamp* ‘Okame’ – Okame Cherry

## Trees with Fantastic Bark

- *Acer palmatum* ‘Sango Kaku’, ‘Bihou’, and ‘Ukon’ – Japanese Maple
- *Acer griseum* – Paperbark Maple
- *Betula nigra* – River Birch
- *Lagerstroemia* species and hybrids – Crapemyrtle
- *Plantanus* species and hybrids - Sycamore
- *Taxodium distichum* – Bald Cypress
- *Ulmus parvifolia* – Chinese Lacebark Elm

## Shrubs with Winter Flowers and/or Winter Interest

- *Arbutus unedo* ‘Compacta’ – Compact Strawberry Tree
- *Aucuba japonica* – Japanese Aucuba
- *Camellia japonica* – Japanese Camellia
- *Chaenomeles* species – Flowering Quince
- *Chimonanthus praecox* – Wintersweet
- Conifers\*
- *Cornus* species – Red and Yellow Twigged Dogwood
- *Corylopsis* species – Winterhazel
- *Corylus avellana* ‘Contorta’ – Contorted Filbert
- *Daphne odora* – Winter Daphne
- *Edgeworthia chrysantha* – Rice Paper Plant
- *Elaeagnus x ebbingei* – Silverberry Elaeagnus
- *Euonymus* species – Euonymus
- *Euonymus phellomanus* – Chinese Winged Euonymus
- *Hamamelis* species and hybrids – Witch Hazel
- *Ilex* evergreen species – Holly
- *Ilex verticillata*, *I. decidua* and hybrids – Winterberry
- *Jasminum nudiflorum* – Winter Jasmine

- *Lonicera fragrantissima* – Winter Honeysuckle
- *Mahonia* species and hybrids – Mahonia/Grape Holly
- *Nandina domestica* – Nandina/Heavenly Bamboo
- *Pieris japonica* – Japanese Pieris
- *Rosmarinus officinalis* – Rosemary
- *Salix alba* ‘Flame’ – Flame Willow
- *Salix* species – Pussywillow
- *Sarcococca hookeriana* – Sweetbox
- *Spiraea thunbergii* – Baby’s Breath Spirea
- *Stachyurus praecox*
- *Viburnum tinus* – Tinus Viburnum, Laurustinus
- *Viburnum x bodnantense* ‘Dawn’. – Dawn Viburnum
- *Yucca filamentosa* – Adam’s Needle, especially variegated forms

#### Perennials with Winter Flowers and/or Winter Interest

- *Acorus gramineus* ‘Ogon’ and ‘Minimus Aureus’ – Sweet Flag
- *Arum italicum* – Italian Arum
- *Clematis cirrhosa* – Winter Clematis
- *Crocus* species
- *Cyclamen hederifolium* & *C. coum* – Hardy Cyclamen
- *Euphorbia* species – Spurge
- *Galanthus* species – Snowdrops
- *Helleborus* species and hybrids – Hellebores
- *Huechera villosa* hybrids – Coral Bells
- *Iris danfordiae*, *I. histroides*, *I. reticulata* – Dwarf Irises
- *Iris unguicularis* – Algerian Iris
- *Narcissus* – Paperwhites and Early-Blooming Daffodils\*\*
- *Ophiopogon nigrescens* – Black Mondo Grass
- *Ranunculus ficaria* ‘Brazen Hussy’ – Lesser Celandine
- *Salvia argentea* – Silver Sage
- *Sedum* species - Stonecrop
- *Veronica peduncularis* ‘Georgia Blue’ – Georgia Blue Speedwell

#### Winter Annuals

- *Beta vulgaris* subsp. *cicla* – Swiss Chard
- *Brassica juncea* – Giant Red Mustard
- *Brassica oleracea* – Cabbage, Kale
- *Calendula officinalis* – Pot Marigold

### Winter Annuals (cont.)

- *Erysimum* – Wallflower
- *Petroselinum* – Parsley
- *Primula x polyantha* – Primrose (treat as annual)
- *Senecio cineraria* – Dusty Miller
- *Viola* – Pansies and Violas

### Design Tips for the Winter Garden

1. When designing new garden spaces, make sure there are plenty of “bones” to support the garden in winter. Bones can be evergreens shrubs like hollies or conifers, or possibly an attractive fence, walkways or paths, garden walls, or anything that lends a sense of permanence.
2. Plant evergreens as a backdrop behind garden beds that are heavy on deciduous plants or perennials that die back in the winter.
3. Carefully placed garden ornaments can take on a more prominent role in the winter landscape.
4. Plant pockets of pansies and other winter flowering plants near sidewalks, steps, patios or mailboxes, any place they can be seen as you exit or enter the house.
5. Especially fragrant trees or shrubs should be placed near the house where their fragrance can be enjoyed more readily.
6. Many deciduous perennials and ornamental grasses can add winter interest, especially when frosted, or dusted with snow, so don't be so quick to cut them down. Some of these plants also provide food for native birds.
7. If needed, fresh mulch can make most any garden look good, but wait until after most of the surrounding tree's leaves have fallen so that all your efforts are not covered up.
8. Use cold tolerant evergreens in containers for the winter, which can be embellished with winter-hardy annuals. Late fall is also a good time to take advantage of nursery clearance sales. In the spring these evergreens can be re-planted in the garden, given away, or held to use again next winter. Do not let the ultimate size of the plant, or its preferred growing conditions deter you. It just needs to look good for the winter.
9. Interesting branches, cut pieces of evergreens, sprays of berries, can all be used in winter containers, just plunge them into moist soil. To make them last longer they be placed in a water-filled container, then set inside a decorative pot. During the holidays these arrangements can be embellished with lights or ribbon. The cold weather will keep them looking fresher longer, but when they get tired, just replace or remove.
10. Set up a well-stocked bird feeding station where all of its activity can be viewed and enjoyed from indoors. Also, don't forget that sometimes birds have a hard time finding water to drink when things are frozen. Bird bath heaters are an easy and inexpensive solution.

\*Conifers good for Tidewater gardens include, but are not limited to:

- *Cedrus deodara*, *C. atlantica* 'Glauca' – Cedar
- *Cephalotaxus harringtonia* – Japanese Plum Yew
- *Chamaecyparis obtusa* – Hinoki Cypress
- *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'Filifera Aurea' – Gold Mop Cypress
- *Cryptomeria japonica* – Japanese Cedar
- *Cupressus arizonica* – Arizona Cypress
- *Juniperus chinensis*, *J. conferta*, *J. horizontalis*, *J. virginiana* – Juniper
- *Thuja orientalis*, *T. occidentalis* – Arborvitae

\*\* Early-blooming Narcissus:

- 'Barrett Browning'
- 'February Gold'
- 'Little Gem'
- 'Rijnveld's Early Sensation'
- 'Tête-à-Tête'
- 'Topolino'
- *N. obvallaris*
- *N. tazetta*

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