



PLANTINGS FOR WINTER COLOUR

TREES FOR WINTER COLOUR:

Coral Bark Maple *Acer palmatum* Sango-kaku 6M high 5M spread. Foliage turns soft yellow in autumn. Also with attractive bark and red shoots in spring.

Paper Bark Maple *Acer griseum* Height and spread 10M. Grow with multistemmed habit to display beautiful peeling bark. Autumn leaves display orange to scarlet.

Japanese maple *Acer aoyagi* with pea-green bark

Coral barked maple *Acer* 'Sango Kaku'

Birch *Betula sp.* Fine winter specimens because of their light coloured bark. Wait a few years for the trees to mature before their true colours appear.

Himalayan Birch *Betula pendula jacquemontii* is perhaps the most brilliant.

Chinese Paper Birch *Betula chinensis septentrionalis* brilliant pink peeling bark.
Betula pendula 'Youngii' trails down to create a nice umbrella shape

Oleaster (*Eleagnus x. ebbingei*) Also called Russian olive. Tiny fragrant white flowers late autumn to early winter followed by berries that can be used in jellies, jams, and wines. Variegated, glossy leaves. Ungainly growth pattern up to 10 or 12 feet high, Under a tree will climb to the tree's lower branches. It is hardy and tolerant of exposed and seaside conditions.

Weeping Beech *Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula'

Holly (Ilex)

Around 300 species, evergreen and deciduous, trees and shrubs tender and hardy varieties. Male and female species grown together produce bright coloured berries which last throughout the winter.

Evergreen varieties have shiny dark green prickly leaves or come in variegated form. height or spread vary according to variety. Plant in sun or shade

Ilex aquifolium 'Aure Marginata' - Avoid *Ilex aquifolium* as it is invasive in native woodlands.

Chinese juniper *Juniperus Chinensis* Bluish-green leaves of the Chinese juniper are covered with yellow flowers. Available in a variety of sizes and shapes, creeping groundcovers, upright bushes, and full-size trees.

Flowering cherry *Prunus serrula* Winter bark becomes a brilliant shiny burgundy

Kashmir Mountain Ash *Sorbus cashmiriana* 8M high by 7M spread. Rich russet and gold leaves in autumn and the white berries last well into winter.

Mountain Ash *Sorbus vilmorinii* Tree for a small garden with height and spread of 5M. Dark crimson leaflets in autumn. Clusters of berries fade from red to white and last well into the winter.

Weeping pussy willow *Salix caprea* Silver catkins.

Salix 'Flame' Brilliant colour

Japanese snowbell *Styrax japonica* Attractive structure

SHRUBS FOR WINTER COLOUR:

Strawberry Tree *Arbutus unedo* Glossy green leaves, red bark

Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea 'Rose Glow' has deep magenta leaves for most of the year with brilliant yellow flowers in early spring.

Scottish Heather or Ling *Calluna vulgaris* Many varieties bloom throughout winter in shades of white, pink and purple.

Cotoneaster Red, orange or yellow berries provide nourishment for birds when snow covers their regular food. Can be an invasive.

Purple beautyberry *Callicarpa dichotoma* 4' to 5' tall; clusters of violet berries in the leaf axils; blooms best on young wood; prune in early spring.

Camellia (Theaceae) Glossy green leaves and beautiful blooms in late winter or early spring. They need a position sheltered from morning sun in winter. 80 species available in colors, needs acid soil. *Camellia sasanqua* produces a profusion of apple-blossom-like flowers from autumn to early winter. Varieties with 'Snow' or 'Winter' in their names survive down to -4° F . Prefers dappled shade, tolerates full sun and many different soil types.

Dogwood *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica', *Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima' and *Cornus stolonifera* have brilliant red twigs, and *Cornus stolonifera* 'Flaviramea' is a striking yellow-twigged dogwood. *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire', has orange and yellow in winter. Many Dogwoods have brilliant fall leaves.

Wintersweet *Chimonanthus praecox* Between December and March *C. praecox* (*C. Fragrans*) produces large, cup-shaped, fragrant yellow flowers with purple centers. The 'Grandiflorus' type has similar flowers with red centers. Grows best in either full sun or partial shade and may take several years to become established before it puts on blooms. Against a sunny wall it can eventually reach 12 feet.

Mexican Orange *Choisya ternata* Evergreen shrub, glossy light green leaves. Sweet scented orange-like flowers from April until the autumn. Good against a dark background. height :5 -6 feet or more, spread 6 - 8 feet plant in full sun

Corkscrew Hazel *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' Height and spread 3M. Male plants bear pretty yellow catkins in Feb - Mar. 'Contorta' has twisted stems 'Aurea' has yellow coloured leaves.

Japanese cedar *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Gyoku Ryu' Deep red foliage in winter

Mezereon *Daphne mezereum* a slow grower to 1.2M high 1M spread. Upright stems with strongly fragrant pink or white flowers in Feb-Mar **tends to be short lived.**

Winter Daphne *Daphne odora* 'Aureomarginata' flowers earlier and has decorative leaves. Also poisonous seeds and sap, tends to be short lived.

Winter Heaths (*Erica sp.*) Heathers are among the hardiest winter-blooming plants. Low-growing evergreens produce bell-shaped flowers in light pink, reddish purple, and magenta from late autumn to early spring. *Erica carnea* varieties will thrive even down to -25°F. *E. darleyensis* varieties do well down to -20°F.

Burning Bush *Euonymus alatus* Bright leaves and berries. *Euonymus fortunei* 'Emerald n' Gold' Variegated leaved ground cover.

Dwarf fothergilla *Fothergilla gardenii* 3' to 4' tall; fluffy white flowers in spring; spectacular yellow and orange fall color; pruning is seldom required.

Witch hazel *Hamamelis molli* & *M. sp.* Early winter (Dec – Feb) red or yellow, tassel-like flowers along leafless branches. Nice autumn leaf colors. Witch hazels prefer well-drained, evenly-moist soil and full sun, but tolerates partial shade. 12 to 20' tall. Check for hardiness as some varieties are hardy through zone 7 to 3 or 4. *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelene'

Mahonia japonica 'Bealei' Bright yellow blossoms in winter and early spring.

Pernettya mucronata produces white, pink or red berries which are food for birds in winter. Some new forms are self-fertile but older ones require male and female plants. A good variegated-leaved male form is available.

Japanese pieris *Pieris japonica* Broadleaf evergreen shrub, blooms in the winter, strands of buds like gems strung on a necklace. Bright red, white or pink blossoms against the bright green during the cold winter months.

Firethorn *Pyracantha* Hardy evergreen, spiny branches, white flowers in spring, bright red or pale yellow berries from August into winter. Christmas decoration. Use for arching around windows and doorways or as a loose hedge (tight pruning stops berries). Attracts wildlife, blackbirds nest in it and eat berries in winter. height : 8-10 feet, spread :10 feet or more, plant in sun or shade.

Sweetbox *Sarcococca confusa* Several varieties glossy-leaved evergreen bring delicate, creamy-white blooms and a vanilla-like fragrance to the garden in mid to late winter. All do best in partial shade and dry soil.

Skimmia japonica 1.5 M Has fragrant flowers in spring, and its red berries last into winter. Varieties can display attractive variegated leaves and red shoots.

Viburnum Several species of viburnums offer cold-weather color and fragrance. *V. x bodnantense* 'Dawn' opens lightly-scented white flowers from November through March. *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Deben' produces white flowers in late winter before it drops its leaves. *Viburnum farreri* puts out pink buds that open to reveal white flowers with an almond scent.

Viburnum tinus Evergreen shrub, leaves deep green produces numerous white or pink flowers carried in flat head and dark blue berries trough winter. height : 8- 10 feet, spread 7 feet plant in sun or shade.

VINES FOR WINTER COLOUR:

Sweet Autumn clematis *Clematis terniflora* Vines to 25' or more; masses of delicate, fragrant white flowers in fall; prune to 2" above the ground every 2 to 3 years. *Clematis orientalis* has waxy, bright yellow 1" flowers in late summer, followed by silver-tailed seed clusters; prune as above.

Winter Jasmine *Jasminum nudiflora* Another favourite with fragrant bright yellow flowers appearing late November through winter to spring. The attractive green stems can be trained along wires or tied in to trellis to 3M.

Honeysuckle, winter varieties *Lonicera fragrantissima* Semi-evergreen and particularly hardy, produces small white flowers from winter into early spring. Best planted against a wall for support and shelter. *Lonicera x purpusii* 'Winter Beauty' also blooms in the cold. Lemon-scented.

PERENNIALS FOR WINTER COLOUR:

Adiantum venustum deep Burgandy foliage

Arum italicum 'Pictum' Bright green leaves with prominent silver veins followed by spikes of flowers and then brilliant red berries in an upright cluster.

Variegated Arabis an evergreen perennial with green and white foliage.

Hardy begonia *Begonia grandis* 2 groups of 3 plants, planted 15" to 18" apart; 2' to 3' tall; showy clusters of pink flowers top arching canelike stems; striking reddish reverse.

Blue leadwort (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*) 9" to 12" tall; bronzy green foliage turns dark red in cold weather; brilliant blue 1" funnel-shaped flowers above reddish bracts.

Hellebore or Lenten Rose *Heliborus orientalis* flowers from November to March. Deep green evergreen leaves are red underneath, with prominent silver veins. Christmas Rose *Heliborus niger* Begin their bloom time in mid to late winter. Flowers in white, green, red, purple, and near-black. Hellebores grow best in rich soil and partial shade. Dark green foliage persists throughout the winter. Once planted helleborus do not like to be disturbed. *Helleborus argutifolius* (white) *Helleborus foetidus* *Helleborus niger* (also white) *Helleborus x hybridus*, many colours

Christmas Rose *Helleborus niger* 12 - 18" high. Flowers Dec - Mar so you really can enjoy winter flowers in the garden at Christmas.

Iris foetidissima 'Variegata', Berginia 'Bressingham Ruby' Brilliant red seeds

Iris unguicularis This perennial iris flowers in white, blue, violet, or purple, often starting to bloom in October and continuing through April. Mediterranean plant prefers hot, dry summers, best planted on the south side of the house, near the foundation.

Variegated lilyturf (*Liriope muscari* 'Variegata') 12" to 15" tall; slender spikes of tiny purple flowers; 1/2"-wide strap-shaped foliage edged with yellow through the winter.

BULBS FOR WINTER COLOUR:

Allium thunbergii 'Ozawa' 1' tall; heads of wine red flowers appear above clumps of grassy foliage very late in the season.

Glory-of-the-snow *Chionodoxa lucillae* Bright blue, starlike flower naturalizes readily. Allow the foliage six weeks after blooming before mowing the lawn so the bulbs can gain enough energy to bloom again the following year

"Autumn Crocus" *Colchicum* These are distinct from Crocus and have more oval shaped corms. The pale pink of their flowers has a ghostly quality in Sept - Nov.

Crocsmia sp. A winter flowering bulb with coral pink to red flowers.

Crocus Most crocus species need well drained soil and a sunny position. There are more than 70 varieties, including spring and autumn varieties. Colors are very vary: yellow, purple in different shades, white and combinations. Plant in sun in well drained soil.

Autumn flowering Crocus Autumn flowering crocus can effectively be planted into lawns as their leaves will be close to dying down again by the time the lawn needs cutting. The flowers have pretty petals as well as attractive stamens and stigma. The dried orange stigmas of *Crocus sativus* (saffron crocus) are used to make spice and dye.

Autumn and winter species include:-

Crocus kotchyanus – Sep – Oct,

Crocus pulchellus – Sep – Nov,

Crocus sativus – Sep – Nov,

Crocus speciosus Oct,

Crocus medius – Oct in a sunny site,

Crocus ochroleucus – Oct - Nov,

Crocus niveus – Nov often spoilt by weather

Crocus imperati – Dec – Feb.

Winter Aconite *Eranthis hyemalis* A late winter flower with brilliant yellow buttercup flowers. Leave to naturalise under shrubs and trees.

Snowdrops *Galanthus spp* One of the earliest flowering bulbs. In shades of white and green. Move when in flower as they do not like to be dried out. There are many varieties. Once established snowdrops will seed themselves.

Reticulated Iris *Iris reticulata* is bright blue with contrasting yellow and white markings that will bloom for about 3 weeks. *Iris danfordiae* is similar but yellow flowered.

Nerine *Nerine bowdenii* a winter flowering bulb with white to pink flowers.

ANNUALS FOR WINTER COLOUR:

English Daisy *Bellis perennis* Many colours. Will escape

Wallflowers *Cheiranthus*

Kale *Cos* winter-flowering cabbage 'Red Bor' and others

Forget-me-nots *Myosotis sp* Blue, pink or white

Polyanthus *Polyanthus sp*

Winter Pansy *Viola x wittrockiana*

Swiss chard

NATIVE PLANTS FOR WINTER COLOUR:

Vine Maple *Acer circinatum* Shrub or small tree with brilliant fall foliage. **Douglas Maple** *Acer douglasii*, is a very similar tree from just outside our range.

Arbutus *Arbutus menziesii* Glossy leaves, coloured, textured bark

Alum Root *Heuchera micrantha* Familiar to gardeners as Coral Bells, this plant is available in a number of coloured leaf forms

Tall Oregon Grape *Mahonia aquifolium* Medium holly like shrub with yellow fragrant flowers in winter.

Dull Oregon Grape *Mahonia nervosa* Similar to tall Oregon grape but grows in shade. Deep red foliage in winter.

Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus* 2.5 M high spread about 3M. Small flowers from July, White or Pink berries from October to February. Can be a thug in the garden. Trailing snowberry *Symphoricarpos mollis* is better behaved in the garden and makes a low groundcover.