



Winter Interest

Drab gray days can make winter seem longer than it really is. Let Culver's help you create an oasis in your backyard with plants that have interesting characteristics in the winter months. And don't forget the birds and other hungry critters!

Bark Trees with exfoliating bark can add an interesting look to a garden in winter. Some examples of these types of trees are the river birch and the sycamore. Another way to add interest is to have colorful bark like the red twig dogwood or a Japanese maple.

Buds Some branches have very interesting buds. One example of this is the pussy willow. They have plump, red buds that contrast nicely on a brown twig. These branches can be added to indoor arrangements or put into a vase alone for a nice

winter centerpiece.

Fruit Berries on trees and shrubs are another way to add color. A few examples of plants with winter fruit are hawthorn, crabapple, sumac, and holly. There is an added feature to having fruit in your garden with the attraction of birds. The cedar waxwing birds are grey and yellow birds who like to eat the fruit of hawthorns. And a winter landscape wouldn't be complete without a tall ornamental grass!

Flowers The witch hazel is a shrub that flowers in the winter. There is a variety of colors for the witch hazel; red, orange and the most common color being yellow.

By looking for these in the landscape winter can go from drab to a scene worth admiring.

Plan Ahead

You wake up on a sunny morning in January and you look outside. What do you see? Evergreens and colorful berries? Do you have birds feeding? Or do you head to the TV because there isn't anything worth looking at in your backyard? Do you flip through gardening magazines and dream of a lush and exciting backyard? You probably think you can't possibly afford or manage such a landscape.

It is possible! So turn off the TV and head outside, because now is the time to design! There are endless possibilities in the world of plants. Many of which are easy to take care of. Believe it or not, some take care of themselves! Did you know that gardening is the #1 hobby for Americans? Gardening gives you a sense of accomplishment. A garden is fluid—it is always changing and full of surprises. The various stages of a plants development can bring endless enjoyment.

Think back to your childhood. What do you remember about your favorite outdoor places? Was it the way the weeping willow cascaded

into a room for reading or hiding? Or was it the stream that ran through your neighborhood? Have you visited these places lately? I bet they look very different, but still bring on a flood of wonderful memories. Did you ever think that you could recreate these places in your own backyard?

What do you use your backyard for? What *could* you use it for? Do you like to entertain? Read? Meditate? Do you need a place for children to play? There are so many things you can do. Your backyard can be an oasis!

Start by laying out the current dimensions of the property and the elements that make it up. Be sure to take photos throughout the experience. Make a list of things you would like to do with the space. Collect pictures of plants and landscapes that interest you. Let your imagination run free!

Remember, your landscape is not an event, it is an experience that is forever changing.

Winter To Do List!

- It is very important that **evergreens**, especially newly planted, are **watered** during dry periods in winter
- Keep bird feeders clean and filled. Stock up on garden supplies and chemicals.
- Make sure that tree wraps are staying on and deterring any deer or rabbit damage.
- In December, lightly prune junipers, pines and firs.
- In January/February, prune some shade, fruit and ornamental trees. Check with the Garden Center to find out which ones.