CREATING WINTER INTEREST IN THE GARDEN

As fall colors fade and temperatures start to lower, there are still many plants to enjoy in the garden. Gardening in Northeast Ohio should not be a three-season hobby; it should fill you with enjoyment all year round. In order to appreciate the winter garden you must observe the subtle beauty of nature and what interest it can provide. Imagine the Pin Oak's resilient leaves, the sparkling, ice covered berries of Holly and Viburnum, the graceful shape of a Japanese Maple, and the curling bark of the River Birch. The following list of plants will help complete your landscape with winter interest and enjoyment.

Evergreens - look for differences in shape, foliage/needle color, texture & topiaries

- *Abies* - Fir
- *Buxus* - Boxwood
- *Cedrus atlantica* - Blue Atlas Cedar
- *Chamaecyparis* - Falsecypress (Dwarf Hinoki, Golden Mop, etc.)
- *Ilex* - Holly (Inkberry, English, etc.)
- *Juniperus* - Juniper
- *Microbiota* - Siberian Cypress
- *Picea* - Spruce (Alberta, Colorado Blue, Norway, etc.)
- *Pinus* - Pine (Mugho, White, etc.)
- *Rhododendron/Azalea*
- *Taxus* - Yew
- *Thuja* - Arborvitae (Emerald, Rheingold, etc.)
- *Tsuga* - Hemlock

Persistent Fruit - attractive, and helps feed the birds

- *Aronia* - Chokeberry (red to black)
- *Callicarpa* - Japanese Beautyberry (purple)
- *Cotoneaster* (red, pink)
- *Crataegus* - Hawthorn (red)
- *Ilex* - Holly, especially "Winterberry" (red, orange, yellow, blue)
- *Malus* - Crabapple (red, orange, yellow)
- *Myrica* - Bayberry (silver to blue)
- *Pyracantha* - Firethorn (orange)
- *Rhamnus* - Buckthorn (black)
- *Rhus* - Sumac (red clusters)
- *Rosa* - Rose, especially Rugosa types (orange to red hips)
- *Symphoricarpos* - Coralberry, Indiancurrent
- *Viburnum* (coral, red, blue, black)

Bark - various colors intensify & exfoliation appears as leaves and temperatures fall

- *Acer griseum* - Paperbark Maple
- *Acer palmatum* - Japanese Maple "Coral Bark" varieties
- *Amelanchier* - Serviceberry (grey and mottled)
- *Betula* - Birch (salmon-cream, papery)
- *Cornus* - Dogwood (shrub types, red & yellow twigs)
- *Cytisus* - Scotch Broom
- *Magnolia* (smooth, silver to grey)
- *Metasequoia* - Redwood
- *Physocarpus* - Ninebark (burgundy & tan, peeling)
- *Stewartia* (mosaic of grey, brown & cinnamon)

Silhouette - think sparkly snow covered form & habit

- *Acer palmatum* - Japanese Maple
- *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* - Weeping Falsecypress
- *Corylus* - Contorted Filbert a.k.a. Harry Lauder's Walkingstick
- *Fagus* - Beech (weeping)
- *Hydrangea* - all varieties (persistent flowers)
- Ornamental Grasses - all varieties
- Picea - Spruce (weeping)
- *Prunus subhirtella* - Weeping Cherry
- *Salix* - Willow (weeping)
- *Sedum spectabile* - Upright Stonecrop
- *Taxodium* - Bald Cypress "knees"
- Topiary - any shape
- Vines - all varieties on arbors, trellis, etc.