



The Best of Bowood : Fall to Winter Garden Essentials

There are so many plants that we love it seems an impossible task to choose a short list of key plants for building a garden. By dividing the growing season into three parts we are giving you the opportunity to plan (or revise) a garden in stages, and select elements from each list to keep your garden interesting year-round. There are many plants that delight us in fall and winter, but they don't often make it into our gardens. When space is at a premium, the early bloomers may take precedence; when time and energy are limited, we tend to finish gardening long before the end of summer! Since winter is slow to arrive in St. Louis our autumns can be a wonderful, calm time to be out in our garden spaces, so this is not a category we should ignore. During the two or three months of true winter we might experience our gardens through a window frame and that could become a great tool for design and placement choices. The focus on fall foliage and winter bark means that trees and shrubs are great places to begin your list of additions.

Shade Perennials

Many plants are winding down and but here are few that bring sparkle to the shade.

<i>Bergenia</i> / Pigsqueak	<i>Dryopteris</i> spp. / Autumn Fern	<i>Helleborus</i> / Lenten Rose
<i>Chelone</i> / Turtlehead	<i>Heuchera</i> / Coral Bells	<i>Tricyrtis</i> / Toadlily

Sun Perennials

Many summer flowers are still blooming happily, but these in particular shine in the fall, some continuing to hold their seedpods for the delight of songbirds – and us!

<i>Allium</i> 'Millennial' / Flowering Onion	<i>Ceratostigma</i> / Hardy Plumbago	<i>Sedum</i> / Stonecrop
<i>Amsonia</i> spp. / Bluestar	<i>Echinacea</i> / Coneflower	<i>Solidago</i> spp. / Goldenrod
<i>Anemone</i> / Japanese Anemone	<i>Geranium</i> / Cranesbill	<i>Stachys byz</i> / Lamb's Ears
<i>Baptisia</i> / False Indigo	<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp. / Black-eyed Susan	<i>Symphotrichum</i> spp. / Aster

Ornamental Grasses

Definitely the rulers of the autumn and winter are these grasses and grass-like plants with their impressive sculptured shapes and graceful plumes. Here they are divided by size so they can be easily added to any garden space.

Large	Medium	Small
<i>Calamagrostis</i> / Feather Reed Grass	<i>Juncus</i> / Rush	<i>Festuca</i> / Blue Fescue
<i>Miscanthus</i> / Maiden Grass	<i>Muhlenbergia</i> spp. / Muhly Grass	<i>Liriope</i> spp. / Lilyturf, Monkey Grass
<i>Panicum</i> spp. / Switchgrass	<i>Pennisetum</i> spp. / Fountain Grass and	Dwarf Fountain Grass
<i>Schizachyrium</i> / Little Bluestem	<i>Sporobolus</i> / Prairie Dropseed	

Vines

Colorful fall foliage and berries and decorative bark for winter make these four-season choices.

Hydrangea pet / Hydrangea Vine *Parthenocissus* spp. / Boston Ivy, etc. *Schizophragma* / Japanese Hyd Vine

Shade Shrubs

With cooler weather, even broadleaf evergreens bring a seasonal change in color and even berries.

Azalea spp. / especially rebloomers *Ilex* spp. / Evergreen Holly *Rhododendron* spp.

Sun Shrubs

Even in a small yard there can be space for spring-flowering shrubs since so many have been hybridized to stay compact and tidy. For somewhat larger spaces, consider choosing one of the more substantial shrubs as a specimen or focal point and place it where you can enjoy it from inside as well as outside, for those early days when it is still chilly out.

Callicarpa / Beautyberry *Hamamelis* / Witch Hazel *Pinus* spp. / Pine
Chamaecyparis spp. / Falsecypress *Hydrangea quer* / Oakleaf Hydrangea *Rosa rug* / Rugosa Rose
Cornus spp. / Twig Dogwood *Ilex ver* / Winterberry *Sambucus* / Elderberry
Cotinus / Smoketree *Nandina dom* / Heavenly Bamboo *Symphoricarpos* / Coralberry
Cotoneaster / Cotoneaster *Picea* spp. / Spruce *Viburnum plic* / Doublefile Viburnum

Trees

Beautiful foliage and fruit that persists

Acer palm / Japanese Maple *Chionanthus* / Fringetree *Juniperus* spp. / Juniper
Amelanchier / Serviceberry *Corylus ave* / Contorted Hazel *Malus* 'Prairie Fire' / Crabapple
Betula nig / River Beech *Crataegus vir* / Hawthorn *Robinia pseud* / Black Locust
Cercis / Redbud *Ginkgo* / Maidenhair Tree *Taxodium dis* / Dwarf Bald Cypress

Of course, that's not all...

We have limited ourselves to an ultimate list of indispensable favorites but there are plenty of other excellent choices to make your garden shine in spring. Consider this a fashion show to fire your imagination and come in to Bowood when you are ready to tailor your garden for your own personal look.