

## Choosing Shrubs for Late Season Interest in the Landscape

It seems that gardens all around are laden with lots of spring color, however there's very little thought put into how the garden looks during fall and winter. The most likely reason for this is that when the consumer is shopping, they buy with their eyes in May and June. There is ample selection of spring flowering trees and shrubs in New Hampshire garden centers during the spring, but the best shrubs with late season and winter interest are relegated to the back if they are available at all. These plants are just not spectacular when the average garden consumer is shopping.



**Wildfire Winterberry (*Ilex veticillata*)**



**Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa dichotoma 'Issai'*)**

Since our landscape is lacking foliage for more than half the year, it makes sense to select plants which have multi-season interest. There are many plants which add seasonal texture and color after late summer beauties like Hydrangea and Rose of Sharon are done blooming. There are some real show stopping shrubs that will supply garden beauty with cool berries and twigs. Many have the added benefit of being useful for holiday decorations.



**American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)**

The most familiar shrub with showy berries is evergreen Holly (*Ilex x meserveae*), which lends itself well to Christmas decorations with its lustrous green leaves and bright red berries. The native Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), a staple in wet and swampy areas throughout New Hampshire, has truly received an upgrade. There are many newer varieties which have been bred for larger, showier berries. Check out Winter Red, Sparkleberry or Wildfire. Less common, though equally spectacular are Snowberry or Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos*), compact shrubs with abundant white or coral

berries. A truly striking plant for late season interest, which is its showiest in October, is Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa dichotoma 'Issai'*). It has long, arching branches with clusters of shiny purple berries, excellent in floral design. American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) has larger and showier berries in fall than the highly invasive Orient berries. A truly striking plant for late season interest, which is its showiest in October, is Beauty Berry (*Callicarpa dichotoma 'Issai'*). It has long, arching branches with clusters of shiny purple berries, excellent in floral design. American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) has larger and showier berries in fall than the highly invasive Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*).



**Red Twigged Dogwood (*Cornus alba*)**

An excellent anchor plant for the winter landscape are Dogwood (*Cornus alba*) shrubs. The twiggy stems of these compact growing shrubs are a radiant red or yellow against our winter snow. For a great red, look for Baton Rouge or Cayenne. For yellow twigs in winter try Bud's Yellow.

The best way to ensure you have color in your home landscape throughout the four seasons is to visit your local garden center at different times of the year and look for seasonal color. There's more to a New Hampshire landscape than bright spring flowers. Consider the texture and beauty offered by fall foliage and winter interest such as berries and twigs.

### 2016 Joint Winter Meeting

The 2016 Joint Winter Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at the Grappone Center in Concord. This is the annual joint meeting with the NH Plant Growers Assoc., the NH Landscape Assoc., and the UNH Cooperative Extension.

This year's agenda will include the topics; Creating a Customer-Focused Culture, The Buzz on Pollinator Friendly Landscapes, Lease or Purchase Equipment?, The Best of the Best-Perennial Evaluations for Cold Climates, Insect Control without Neonics, and Hellstrip Gardening. A brochure with more information will be emailed in November or please check the NHPGA website for more information. A favorite of the Winter Meeting is always the networking with a purpose. Table Talks allow you to sit down with your peers to discuss specific topics. Topics will be announced soon.

This is always a great day to connect with your peers, hear some nationally recognized speakers, and visit vendors. Last year there were over 200 attendees!

**Discover! Learn! Engage!**

Tenth Annual  
**Poinsettia Trials**  
Open House

Thursday  
December 10, 2015  
10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m.

Friday and Saturday  
December 11 & 12, 2015  
10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

**Celebrate the season!**

With over 100 varieties  
at the UNH Macfarlane Greenhouse  
and Thompson School Horticultural  
Facility

