

"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues." Hal Borland

January is a time when I look at the landscapes to get ideas for new plantings to create color in the winter time. Use of shrubs in winter landscaping can be easy. Shrubs with evergreen leaves and berries, such as holly, are a beautiful contrast in the winter. Red twig dogwood stands out alone against the white snow. Maiden Hair Grass is a non-invasive grass that will grow 4 feet tall in the second year and puts up beautiful stalks with blooms that last all winter long. An easy addition to the winter garden is birds! You can maintain them all winter with ornamental bird feeders and bird baths. If you are blessed with an unlevelled space, then you can easily create interest by adding low stone walls incorporating low growing "creeping" plants.



Red Twig Dogwood English Ivy (turns red in the winter) Pachysandra










Contoneastern

Ornamental grass

Holly with berries

Winter landscaping chores:

-  Check for frost heaving (uplifting) on perennials and cover with extra mulch as necessary.
-  Spread on the ground wood ashes from the fireplace as a good source of potash which contains potassium.
-  Avoid the use of salt to melt snow, as it is toxic to most plants. Use sawdust, sand or cat litter instead.
-  Check on dahlia, canna and gladiolus bulbs for rotting and/or drying out.
-  Prune away storm-damaged branches promptly. This prevents tearing of the bark.
-  Take notes and photos to assess areas which may need plants.
-  Order plants from seed and nursery catalogues.