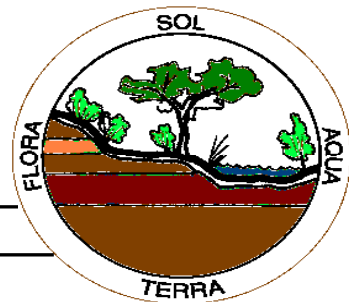


Digging Deeper

Fall 2007 Newsletter



The Glory of Winter

Although most plants go dormant at the end of the gardening season, many of them leave behind gifts that can be enjoyed throughout the winter months. Not only are remaining seed heads and berries a **food source** for wildlife, but they're also a source for **winter interest** in the garden. Perennial natives such as purple coneflower and black-eyed Susan produce attractive seed heads that are a welcome feast for hungry birds and provide a striking profile in the winter landscape. Pair them with other plants with architectural staying power like little bluestem grass and red-osier dogwood to create dramatic vignettes, especially when cloaked in a blanket of snow.

The key to successful winter

gardening is to choose plants that offer appealing characteristics for most of the year



and during the cold months. Don't look at just flowers, **think about a plant's leaves, bark, form, seeds, and fruit.** Select native shrubs like red cedars (for their evergreen forms),

birches (for their attractive exfoliating bark) or winterberries (for their red fruit).

Also consider changing your maintenance routine. Old habits may die hard, but **resist the temptation to deadhead, cut back, and rake out beds.** Deadheading and cutting back may make things neat and tidy, but it also robs you (and animals) of those coveted seed heads and structural winter forms. Raking beds also eliminates Mother Nature's homemade mulch, which provides plants with organic matter, moisture, and a layer of winter protection. Unless the spent leaves are likely to encourage the spread of disease or attract unwanted insects or rodents, it's okay to leave clean up until we're hungry for sunshine and eager to get dirt under our nails again in spring.

Plants for Winter Interest: Available at Earth Tones

- ASTERS (ASTER SPECIES)
- BIRCH TREES (BETULA SPP.)
- RED-OSIER DOGWOOD (CORNUS SERICEA)
- PURPLE CONEFLOWER (ECHINACEA PURPUREA)
- JOE-PYE WEEDS (EUPATORIUM SPP.)
- WINTERBERRY (ILEX VERTICILLATA)
- RED CEDARS (JUNIPERUS VIRGINIANA)
- BLAZING STAR (LIATRIS SPICATA)
- SPICEBUSH (LINDERA BENZOIN)
- BLACK-EYED SUSANS (RUDBECKIA SPP.)
- LITTLE BLUESTEM (SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM)
- IRONWEEDS (VERNONIA SPP.)

Holiday Cheer

Don't spend this holiday season fretting over what to get your favorite gardener or naturalist. Instead, stop in the Earth Tones garden shop for your holiday cheer. There are lots of gifts to choose from. Consider **crafted items** such as pottery, wreaths, birdhouses, nature prints, and



stone birdbaths created by local artisans. **Garden hand tools, organic care products, biodegradable planting pots, books, and note cards** are also available. If you still can't decide, we also offer **gift certificates**, which can be used in our gift shop, plant nursery, or for our landscape design services. Our winter hours will be Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning November 1st. Hope to see you soon!

Bookmark

Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust

www.flandersnaturecenter.org
Looking for something to do? Visit Flanders Nature Center. This local gem holds in trust more than 1,850 acres of open space in Woodbury and neighboring towns, and is supported by volunteers, membership initiatives, and fundraising activities. It offers a broad range of educational programs, seasonal activities, and year-round hiking trails right out your back door.

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Hours:
Wednesday - Sunday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Monday & Tuesday or other hours call for an appointment