



Gardens in Winter

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(Botanical name) common name	Height	Comments	evergreen	Persistent fruit	Structure/habit	Seed heads/ pods	Colored stems or bark	Unusual bark or stems	Very early or very late flowering
Perennials									
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i> Common Milkweed	2-6 feet	Rough textured seed pods that split open on one side. Native to Illinois.				✓			
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly Weed or Butterfly Plant	18-36 inches	Seed pods are similar to those of milkweed, only smaller and more slender. Native to Illinois.				✓			
<i>Astilbe</i> hybrids Astilbe	2 feet	Upright clusters of small seed pods. Of hybrid origin.				✓			
<i>Baptisia australis</i> False Indigo	3-4 feet	Medium gray, pea-type pods. Native to Illinois.				✓			
<i>Belamcanda chinensis</i> Blackberry Lily	2-3 feet	Seed pods look like blackberries. Non-native.				✓			
<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i> Bluebeard	2-3 feet	Clusters of light brown seed heads. Of hybrid origin.				✓			
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple Coneflower	2-4 feet	The central "cone" of the flower is the seed head and remains through winter. Native to Illinois.				✓			
<i>Helleborus</i> hybrids Hellebores	15-18 inches	Flowers late winter into early spring. Non-native.							✓
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> Russian Sage	3-4 feet	Whitish gray stems persist well into winter. Non-native.					✓		
<i>Rudbeckia</i> species Black-eyed Susan, Orange Coneflower	2-3 feet	The central "cone" of the flower is the seed head and remains through winter. Native to Illinois.				✓			
<i>Sedum spectabile</i> Showy Sedum	18-24 inches	Broad, flat seed heads stay through winter. Non-native.				✓			
Ornamental Grasses									
<i>Calamagrostis acutiflora</i> Feather Reed Grass	3-4 feet (4-6 feet in flower)	Tall, upright seed spikes mature to tan in winter. Remains upright for much of the winter season. Non-native.			✓	✓			

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<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> Northern Sea Oats	2-3 feet (3-4 feet in flower)	Flower and seed heads are flattened. They hang on long stems and rustle in the wind. Native to Illinois.			✓	✓			
<i>Erianthus ravennae</i> Hardy Pampas Grass, Ravenna Grass	4-5 feet (12 feet in flower)	Seed heads are cream colored in winter. Non-native.			✓	✓			
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> Miscanthus (considered invasive in some areas)	4-6 feet (5-8 feet in flower)	Showy, fluffy, whisk-like seed heads persist into winter. Non-native.			✓	✓			
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> Switch Grass	5-7 feet (6-8 feet in flower)	Airy seed clusters mature to white or brown and persist. Native to Illinois.			✓	✓			
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> Little Bluestem	3 feet	Seed heads mature to fluffy plumes. Native to Illinois.			✓	✓			
Trees, Shrubs and Vines									
<i>Abeliophyllum distichum</i> White Forsythia (shrub)	3-5 feet	Small, pinkish-white flowers in early spring. Non-native.							✓
<i>Acer griseum</i> Paperbark Maple (tree)	20-30 feet	Shiny cinnamon-brown bark that peels extensively. Non-native.					✓		
<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i> Striped Maple (small tree)	15-20 feet	Stems and young trunks are green with long, white vertical stripes. U.S. native					✓		
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i> Alleghany Serviceberry (tree)	15-25 feet	Smooth gray bark. Native to Illinois.					✓		
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> Red Chokeberry (shrub)	6-10 feet	Small, round bright red fruit persist well into winter. Native to United States.		✓					
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> Black Chokeberry (shrub)	3-6 feet	Small, round dark purple to black fruit persist well into winter. Native to Illinois.		✓					
<i>Betula nigra</i> River Birch (tree)	40-70 feet	Strongly peeling bark in shades of cream, cinnamon brown and red brown. Native to Illinois.						✓	
<i>Betula populifolia</i> 'Whitespire' Whitespire Gray Birch (tree)	40-50 feet	White bark. Non-native.					✓		

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Trees, Shrubs and Vines (continued)									
<i>Buxus microphylla</i> variety <i>koreana</i> Korean Boxwood (shrub)	3-4 feet	Evergreen leaves. Success in growing boxwood in zone 5 depends on careful selection of winter hardy cultivars. Non-native	✓						
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i> Common Boxwood (shrub)	15-20 feet (or smaller)	Evergreen leaves. Success in growing boxwood in zone 5 depends on careful selection of winter hardy cultivars. Non-native.	✓						
<i>Callicarpa</i> species Beautyberry (shrub)	4-6 feet	Clusters of small, bright violet-purple berries late fall into early winter. Non-native.		✓					
<i>Cornus kousa</i> Kousa Dogwood (tree)	20-25 feet	Horizontal branches give the tree a unique layered appearance; mottled bark. Non-native.			✓		✓		
<i>Cornus mas</i> Corneliancherry Dogwood (tree or shrub)	15-20 feet	Clusters of tiny yellow flowers in early spring; mottled bark. Non-native.					✓		✓
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i> Bloodtwig Dogwood (shrub)	6-15 feet	Winter stems are a mix of green and red. Non-native.					✓		
<i>Cornus sericea</i> Redosier Dogwood (shrub)	7-10 feet	Winter stems are red. Native to Illinois					✓		
<i>Cotoneaster apiculatus</i> Cranberry Cotoneaster (shrub)	2-3 feet	Low, spreading form, slightly mounded. Non-native.			✓				
<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i> Rockspray Cotoneaster (shrub)	2-3 feet	Winter branches have an interesting 'fish bone' pattern. Red berries persist into early part of winter. Non-native.		✓	✓				
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> Cockspur Hawthorn (tree)	20-30 feet	Distinct horizontal branching bright red fruit often lasting into winter. Native to Illinois.		✓	✓				
<i>Crataegus phaenopyrum</i> Washington Hawthorn (tree)	20-30 feet	Distinct horizontal branching bright red fruit often lasting into winter. Native to Illinois.		✓	✓				
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i> Common Persimmon (tree)	35-60 feet	Thick, blocky bark. Native to Illinois.						✓	

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<i>Forsythia</i> species and hybrids Forsythia (shrub)	Range of sizes	Bright yellow flowers in early spring. Non-native or of hybrid origin.							✓
<i>Hamamelis x intermedia</i> Hybrid Witchhazel (shrub/tree)	15-20 feet	Fragrant flowers (ranging from yellow to red), in early spring (as early as March). Of hybrid origin.							✓
<i>Hamamelis mollis</i> Chinese Witchhazel (shrub/tree)	10-20 feet	Fragrant yellow flowers, in early spring (as early as March). Non-native.							✓
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i> Vernal Witchhazel (shrub)	6-10 feet	Fragrant flowers (ranging from red to yellow), in early spring (as early as March). Native to United States.							✓
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> Common Witchhazel (shrub/tree)	12-20 feet	Fragrant yellow flowers, in late autumn (October-November). Illinois native							✓
<i>Heptacodium miconioides</i> Seven Sons Flower	12-20 feet	Curling, papery bark. Non-native.						✓	
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> Panicle Hydrangea (shrub)	10-15 feet	Clusters of dry flowers persist through autumn and into winter. Non-native				✓			
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> Oakleaf Hydrangea (shrub)	3-6 feet	Clusters of dry flowers persist through autumn and into winter. Native to the United States.				✓			
<i>Ilex x meserveae</i> Meserve Hybrid Holly (shrub)	6-8 feet	Lustrous, blue-green, evergreen foliage all year; bright red fruit on female plants in winter. Hybrid	✓	✓					
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> Winterberry (shrub)	6-9 feet	Bright red fruit on female plants. Native to Illinois.		✓					
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> Chinese Juniper (ground cover/shrub)	Varies by cultivar	Evergreen foliage. Non-native.	✓						
<i>Juniperus communis</i> Common Juniper (shrub)	5-10 feet	Evergreen foliage. Native to United States, Asia and Europe.	✓						

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Trees, Shrubs and Vines (continued)									
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i> Oregon Grapeholly (shrub)	3-6 feet	Leathery, evergreen leaves; leaves turn purplish in winter. Native to United States.	✓						
<i>Malus</i> species Crabapple (tree)	Varies by cultivar	Fruit late summer into fall and winter (some cultivars). Some species native, some non-native.		✓					
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> Bayberry (shrub)	6-12 feet	Clusters of gray, waxy, aromatic berries on female plants. Native to the United States.		✓					
<i>Picea abies</i> Norway Spruce (tree)	40-60 feet	Evergreen needles; graceful, pendulous branches. Non- native.	✓		✓				
<i>Picea glauca</i> White Spruce (tree)	40-60 feet	Evergreen needles. Native to United States.	✓		✓				
<i>Picea omorika</i> Serbian Spruce (tree)	40-60 feet	Evergreen needles; graceful habit. Non-native.	✓		✓				
<i>Pinus bungeana</i> Lacebark Pine (tree)	30-50 feet	Evergreen needles; bark peels in patches, revealing a mottled pattern of green, tan and brown. Non-native.	✓		✓		✓		
<i>Pinus flexilis</i> Limber Pine (tree)	30-50 feet	Evergreen needles. Non- native.	✓		✓				
<i>Pinus strobus</i> Eastern White Pine (tree)	50-80 feet	Evergreen needles. Native to United States.	✓		✓				
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> Douglasfir (tree)	60-75 feet	Evergreen needles. Native to United States.	✓		✓				
<i>Rhus typhina</i> Staghorn Sumac (large shrub/small tree)	15-25 feet	Upright clusters of red, hairy fruit (on female plants only) in late summer, persisting into winter. Native to Illinois.				✓			
<i>Salix alba</i> 'Britzensis' Red stem Willow (shrub)	10 feet**	Coral colored stems on vigorous young growth. Non-native. Prune heavily to encourage colored stems.					✓		
<i>Salix caprea</i> Goat Willow (small tree)	15-25 feet	Small, fluffy catkins (flowers) in very early spring, similar to pussy willow. Non-native.							✓

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Trees, Shrubs and Vines (continued)									
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> Common Snowberry (shrub)	3-6 feet tall	Fruits are white and berry-like from September through November. Native to Illinois.		✓					
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i> Coralberry (shrub)	2-5 feet	Fruits are coral-red and persist into early winter. Native to United States		✓					
<i>Syringa pekinensis</i> Peking Lilac (tree)	15-20 feet	Peeling bark with a shiny brown to cinnamon color. Non-native.					✓		
<i>Syringa reticulata</i> Japanese Tree Lilac	15-25 feet	Cherry-like bark (shiny with horizontal lines). Non-native.					✓		
<i>Taxodium distichum</i> Bald Cypress (tree)	50-75 feet	Neat pyramidal habit and slightly shredding, reddish brown bark. U. S. native			✓			✓	
<i>Taxus cuspidata</i> Japanese Yew (tree or shrub)	Varies by cultivar	Evergreen foliage; red fruit on female plants. Non-native.	✓	✓					
<i>Taxus x media</i> Anglojap Yew (tree or shrub)	Varies by cultivar	Evergreen foliage; red fruit on female plants. Of hybrid origin.	✓	✓					
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> Eastern Arborvitae (tree)	20-40 feet**	Evergreen needles. Native to the United States. Some cultivars smaller than 20 ft.	✓						
<i>Thuja plicata</i> Western Arborvitae	50-70 feet	Evergreen needles. Native to the United States.	✓						
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> Canada Hemlock	40-60 feet	Evergreen needles. Native to the United States	✓						
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> Lacebark Elm (tree)	40-50 feet	Bark peels and flakes give mottled appearance. Non-native.					✓		
<i>Viburnum farreri</i> Fragrant Viburnum (shrub)	6-9 feet	Very fragrant flowers, white or pink, in clusters in early spring. Non-native.							✓
<i>Viburnum lentago</i> Nannyberry Viburnum (shrub/ tree)	15-18 feet	Bluish black fruit often persisting into early winter. Native to United States.		✓					
<i>Viburnum plicatum</i> var. <i>tomentosum</i> Doublefile Viburnum	8-10 feet	Branches growing very horizontal, giving a tiered appearance. Non-native.			✓				
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i> Am. Cranberrybush Viburnum (shrub)	8-12 feet	Bright red fruit in clusters in late summer and autumn Native to Illinois.		✓					