

Winter Interest Spotlight: 2015

Winter has been going easy on us this year, with unexpectedly warm weather and lingering green in the landscaping. However, it is only a matter of time before the snow blankets the ground and the green grass becomes a distant memory. The winter quiet is a time of rest and calm in the garden, but it doesn't need to be bleak or boring. There are many plants whose hidden beauty can shine through in the winter. Persistent foliage, lingering flower heads, and striking bark are all features that bring life to the sleeping garden and enhance your winter snowscape. We've selected one tree, shrub and perennial to highlight this season that offer winter interest for your home: Lacebark Pine, panicle Hydrangeas, and Karl Foerster ornamental grass.

Lacebark Pine

Pinus bungeana



Height: 30-50' **Spread:** 20-30' **Growth Rate:** Slow

Lacebark Pines have exfoliating bark that begins orange and fades to green. Young trees will show some mottling in the bark, but as the tree matures the true color display unfolds. The combination of old and new bark gives almost a camouflage appearance to the trunk.

Panicle Hydrangea

Hydrangea paniculata



Height & Spread: varies by cultivar, anywhere from 3-10'

Bloom Time: July-September

Panicle Hydrangeas come in a variety of cultivars, with bloom colors ranging anywhere from lime-green, to creamy white, or brilliant pink ('Vanilla Strawberry' pictured above, left). As the blooms mature they fleck with burgundy and eventually fade to a parchment color. Shrub sizes vary; dwarf varieties such as 'Little Lime' are as small as 3' and the larger varieties can be as tall and wide as 12-15'. Annual pruning can minimize the size, though it is best to pick the right cultivar for the space you have available.

Karl Foerster

Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'



Height: 3-5' **Spread:** 1.5-2' **Bloom Time:** May-February

Karl Foerster grass has a varying height – the foliage only reaches 3', whereas the wheat-like blooms approach 5' tall. The growth habit gives the grass a full appearance at the base, and a more delicate display above. This cultivar is one of the earliest blooming ornamental grasses, giving it more seasonal interest throughout the year. Spent foliage can be cut back in late winter or early spring, before the new growth begins to fill in.