



## **Four Season Landscaping & Fall Color**

**By Mary Saba Fall 2011**

### Consider:

- Forms – overall shape; short squat to tall thin, arching, architectural
- Texture – fine (boxwood) to large (Oakleaf Hydrangea)
- Color – leaves & twigs and bark – think beyond the flower

### Design– the most important element

- Structure: Design the permanent elements that you see year around and build around these
- Structure can portray your style and set the 'mood'.
- Focal Points with Garden Art, plants as complements

### What does it look like in Winter?

- Basic shape of design for six months of the year
- Back to Form, Texture, Color

### Components of Four-Season Plant Interest:

- Berries Rosa Glauca / Holly Royal Family (evergreen)  
Viburnums (Wentworth) / Holly Red Sprite (deciduous)
- Cones : Alder (similar to a Birch tree) & Accrocona Spruce
- Twigs & Bark – overall form  
Dogwoods / Cornus  
Harry Lauder's Walking Stick – overall form - architectural  
Ninebark – peeling bark  
Heptacodium minicoides / Seven-Son-Flower

### Evergreens with color; look for dwarf varieties if your space is tight – many shades of green/blue/lime/yellow

- Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce / Picea p. Glauca Globosa or Montgomery
- Goldmound Mops / Chamaecyparis p. Mops – golden to lime
- Junipers – Blue Mountain and Blue Forest – Blue Star
- Depth of color & architectural form – Chamaecyparis / False Cypress Soft Serve

### Evergreens – play needle textures off each other / soft with stiff

Cool blue evergreen spruce Montgomery in a pocket of sun with lime & golden hosta

Chamaecyparis Pendula / Weeping Falsecypress Nootka

Evergreen that are not conifers: Yucca Color Guard, Rhododendron

Maple / Acer, Paperbark – Acer griseum

Other maples with good fall color

Heptacodium / Seven Son Flower

Witchhazels – Hamamelis Jelena & Fire Charm

Cornelian Cherry Dogwood tree or shrub form / Cornus mas Golden Glory

Redbuds / Cercis Canadensis species, Forest Pansy

Redbud – fall color – Forest Pansy is red/copper and species is yellow

Redbud Cercis Lavender Twist – wonderful architectural form, winter interest

Oregon Grape Holly / Mahonia

Cotoneaster Hessei – arching, berries, groundcover

Rhododendron / PJM (lavenders, evergreen) & Gibraltar (orange, deciduous)

Serviceberries (Juneberries) / Amelanchier – both shrub and tree forms

Hawthorne / Crataegus

Viburnum family – all have good fall color (plant more than 1 for pollination for better berrie set)

Blackhaw & Knighthood – shrub or small tree, Summer Magic dwarf

Judd, Cayuga and Carlesii – fragrant

Summer Snowflake – rebloomer

Blueberry Muffin

Burning Bushes / Euonymus – dwarf form Rudy Haag 3-4' and Compacta 6-7'

Malus – The Crabapples

Sugar Tyme – fragrant white flowers

Sargent – multi-stem and shrubby

Tina – mini tree form

Golden Raindrops – golden fruit

Royal Raindrops, Purple Prince, Prairiefire – dark flowers and red fruit

Adirondack – upright, narrow growth

Ninebark – Physocarpus – burgundy leaves all summer, peeling winter bark – several varieties & heights

Chokeberry / Aronia – dwarf Iroquois 2-3' to taller Elata 4-6'

Magnolia virginiana – creamy color, fragrant, seed pods, good for a wet site

Shrub roses – grown on own roots

Meidiland White

Sunny Knockout and Carefree Sunshine (yellows)

Hips of Rosa Glauca

Carefree Celebration – Coral Peach Pink

Rugosas

Rosa Glauca – red leaf rose

Rose Hips – Rugosas

OsoEasy Roses

Rhus Tiger Eye – Sumac – golden foliage – very architectural

Sumac – Rhus lancinata Morton and R. aromatica Gro-Low (good groundcover)

Hydrangeas – Pinky Winky, Quick Fire, Annabelle & Limelight - new smaller form Little Lime

Hydrangeas – Oak leaf, H. quercifolia – dwarf and taller forms

#### Grasses

Chasmathium / Northern Sea Oats, cat tolerate some shade

Miscanthus plumes

Miscanthus Little Zebra / Nicky – yellow & green stripe

Imperata Red Baron – Japanese Blood Grass (can be invasive)

Panicum Shenandoah – burgundy tipped leaves, pink frothy flowers

Panicum Northwind

Pennisetum – Hamelyn (perennial, white) Rubrum (annual, purple)

Little Blustem and Prairie Drop Seed

#### Perennials: Stachy's minima

Iris Siberica – loves a moist or wetter site

Beautyberry / Callicarpa (purple-pink berries in fall)

Bergenia

Heuchera / Coral Bells – need well drained or drier soil (good for under trees)– both sun & shade types

Ajuga Black Scallop

Hellebores Golden Sunrise, yellow, pink and green-white shades

Geum – yellow, oranges, reds, pinks (keep away from soggy winter soil)

Sedums – tall types (Autumn Fire) and Mr. Goodbud (new this year)

low Dragon's Blood, Golden Acre, Kamtschaticum & many others

Geranium Biokovo (lt. pink) & Karmina (magenta) & fall/winter leaves

Amsonia

Chelone Hot Lips – leaf texture and seed heads

Amsonia – thin leaved is A. hubrichtii / wider leaved is A. tabernaemontana