

## Colorful Plants for Fall and Winter

By Irene Wanat, Rutgers Master Gardener

**TYPICAL FALL PLANTS** - *Tropicanna cannas*, ornamental grass and mixed coleus (*Solenostemon scutellarioides*, *Plectranthus scutellarioides*), Kale (*Brassica oleracea* 'Peacock Red'), Kale (*Brassica oleracea* 'Nagoya Red'), Pansy (*Viola x wittrockiana* 'Blues Brothers Mix'), Cape daisy (*Osteospermum* 'Orange Symphony')

### **PLANT PERENNIALS WITH MULTI-SEASONS OF INTEREST**

*Corydalis lutea* (Fumewort)  
*Dicentra* 'Luxuriant' (Wild or Fringed Bleeding Heart)  
*Zizia aurea* (Golden Alexanders)  
*Calamintha nepeta*  
*Geranium* 'Rozanne' (Hardy Geranium, Cranesbill)  
*Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firetail' (Smartweed, Knotweed)  
*Nepeta* 'Walker's Low' (Catmint)  
*Verbena bonariensis* (Brazilian Verbena)  
*Perovskia atriplicifolia* (Russian Sage)

**FOLIAGE ANNUALS** - *Solenostemon scutellarioides*, *Plectranthus scutellarioides* (Coleus) Caladiums, Mixed, *Alternanthera* 'Party Time', *Alternanthera* 'Multicolor', *Tradescantia zebrina* (Wandering Jew), *Ipomoea batatas* (Sweet Potato Vine), *Hypoestes phyllostachya* (Polka Dot Plant), *Strobilanthes dyerianus* (Persian Shield) and *Senecio cineraria* (Dusty Miller)

### **FOLIAGE PERENNIALS**

*Agastache foeniculum* 'Golden Jubilee' (Anise Hyssop)  
*Artemisia ludoviciana* 'Valerie Finnis' (Wormwood)  
*Persicaria microcephala* 'Red Dragon' (Smartweed)  
*Athyrium niponicum var. pictum* (Japanese Painted Fern)  
*Euphorbia x martinii* 'Ascot Rainbow' (Flowering Spurge)

### **FALL BLOOMING PERENNIALS**

*Nipponanthemum niponicum* (Montauk, Sea Bright Daisy)  
*Lespedeza thunbergii* 'Gibraltar' (Pink Bush Clover)  
*Boltonia asteroides* 'Snowbank' (White Doll's Daisy)  
*Chelone lyonii* 'Hot Lips' (Turtlehead)  
*Aconitum carmichaelii* 'Arendsii' (Monkshood)  
*Chrysanthemum a.k.a. Dendranthema* 'Sheffield Pink'  
*Solidago rugosa* 'Fireworks' (Goldenrod)  
*Symphotrichum laeve* 'Bluebird' (Smooth Aster)  
*Eurybia divaricata* (White Wood Aster)

## **EVERGREEN PERENNIALS FOR MULTI-SEASONS OF INTEREST**

*Helleborus* spp. (Hellebore) - *Helleborus orientalis* (Lenten Rose), *Helleborus foetidus* (Stinking Hellebore), *Helleborus niger* (Christmas Rose), *Helleborus argutifolius* (Corsican Hellebore)

*Heuchera* spp. and hybrids (Coral Bells)

*Heuchera villosa* 'Citronelle' (Coral Bells)

*Bergenia* 'Bressingham Ruby' (Heartleaf, Pigsqueak)

*Bergenia cordifolia* 'Winterglut' (Winter Glow Heartleaf)

*Sedum reflexum* 'Blue Spruce' (Stonecrop)

*Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina' (Stonecrop)

*Sempervivum* (Hens & Chicks)

*Carex comans* 'Frosted Curls' (New Zealand Hair Sedge)

*Carex flagellifera* (Weeping Brown Sedge)

*Carex morrowii* 'Ice Dance' (Japanese Variegated Sedge)

*Nassella tenuissima* a.k.a *Stipa tenuissima* (Mexican Feather Grass)

## **ORNAMENTAL GRASSES FOR FALL AND WINTER INTEREST**

*Panicum* spp. (Switch Grass, Panic Grass)

*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' (Feather Reed Grass)

*Calamagrostis brachytricha* (Korean Feather Reed Grass)

*Schizachyrium scoparium* (Little Bluestem) 2022 Perennial Plant of the Year

*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Carousel' (Little Bluestem)

*Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Blue Heaven' (Little Bluestem)

## **PLANT SHRUBS WITH MULTI-SEASONS OF INTEREST**

*Aronia melanocarpa* Low Scape® Mound (Chokeberry)

*Calycanthus* 'Hartlage Wine' (Carolina Allspice)

*Fothergilla gardenii* (Dwarf Witch Alder)

*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight'

*Itea virginica* 'Henry's Garnet' (Virginia Sweetspire)

*Caryopteris x clandonensis* 'Lil Miss Sunshine' (Bluebeard)

*Vaccinium angustifolium* (Lowbush Blueberry)

*Cornus sericea* 'Silver and Gold' (Yellowtwig Dogwood)

*Cornus stolonifera* 'Arctic Fire' (Redtwig, Red Osier Dogwood)

*Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' (Bloodtwig Dogwood)

*Heptacodium miconoides* (Seven Son Flower)

## **OTHER TREES WITH INTERESTING BARK**

*Acer palmatum* 'Sango Kaku' (Japanese maple)

*Stewartia pseudocamellia* (Japanese stewartia)

*Acer griseum* (Paperbark maple)

*Lagerstroemia* 'Natchez' (Crape myrtle)

*Betula nigra* (River birch)

*Prunus serrula* (Paperbark Cherry, Tibetan Cherry, Ornamental Cherry)

*Platanus occidentalis* (American sycamore)

## **EVERGREEN SHRUBS**

### **CONIFERS**

*Picea pungens* ‘Globosa’ (Dwarf Globe Blue Spruce)

*Thuja occidentalis* ‘Congabe’ (Fire Chief™ Globe Arborvitae)

**Miniature conifers** – grow less than 1 inch per year. A typical miniature will be 10 to 12 inches tall or less 10 years and twice as wide.

**Dwarf conifers** – grow 2 and 6 inches per year, reaching 2 to 6 feet tall in 10 years

**“Intermediate size” conifers** – grow 6 to 12 inches per year, with most getting 6 to 15 feet tall

**Large conifers** – grow more than 12 inches per year, the majority reaching 15 to 70 feet tall

### **BROADLEAF SHRUBS**

*Nandina domestica* ‘Fire Power’ (Heavenly Bamboo)

*Osmanthus heterophyllus* ‘Goshiki’ (False Holly)

*Aucuba japonica* ‘Variegata’ (Japanese Laurel, Gold Dust Plant) *Aucuba japonica* ‘Sulphur’, *Aucuba japonica* ‘Picturata’

*Pieris japonica* (Andromeda, Lily-of-the-Valley Bush)

### **WINTER BLOOMING SHRUBS/TREES**

*Erica carnea* ‘Springwood Pink’ (Winter Heath)

*Erica carnea* ‘Foxhollow’ (Winter Heath)

*Mahonia japonica bealei* (Grape Holly)

*Jasminum nudiflorum* (Winter Jasmine)

*Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Arnold Promise’ (Witchhazel)

*Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Jelena’ (Witchhazel)

*Hamamelis x intermedia* ‘Diane’ (Witchhazel)

### **SHRUBS/TREES WITH BERRIES**

*Ilex* spp. and cvs.

*Skimmia japonica*

*Skimmia japonica* ‘Rubella’

*Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry Holly)

*Ilex verticillata* ‘Berry Poppins’ (Winterberry Holly)

### **FALL/WINTER/SPRING DELIGHT!**

*Viola* × *wittrockiana* (Pansy)

### **ONLINE INFO:**

Chicago Botanic Garden <http://www.chicagobotanic.org>

Mt. Cuba [www.mtcubacenter.org](http://www.mtcubacenter.org)

Jersey-Friendly Yards Plant Database [www.jerseyyards.org](http://www.jerseyyards.org)

Missouri Botanical Garden <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>

Brooklyn Botanic Garden <https://www.bbg.org>

The New York Botanical Garden <https://www.nybg.org>

<https://www.google.com> type in plant name and rely on site links ending in .edu and .org.

Most .com sites are commercial entities selling plants.

**RESOURCE LINKS:**

The Native Plant Society of NJ: [https://www.npsnj.org/pages/nativeplants\\_Sources.html](https://www.npsnj.org/pages/nativeplants_Sources.html)

Jersey Friendly Yards: <https://www.jerseyyards.org/jersey-friendly-plants/where-to-buy-native-plants/>