

Timely Turf Tips

January 2012

Happy New Year! It appears winter has yet to arrive here in the Twin Cities. Dingy white. Gray. Beige. Is this the dull color palette that greets you when you gaze out into your yard during the winter? Does the lack of color and texture in your landscape make you think that winter hibernation is not such a bad idea? Well, the good news is that with some thoughtful plant selection you can have a winter landscape worth staying awake for. The first seed catalogs are already arriving in your mailbox with the color and promise of spring. Now is the best time to kick back after the busy holidays and start planning for a spring garden by studying seed and plant catalogues and the 2011 Award winning free Plant Information Online service from the U of Minnesota.

Plant Information Online

The University of Minnesota's [Plant Information Online](#) database is a free service for finding sources of plant materials, links to plant specific information, and much more. Created and maintained by library staff at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Andersen Horticultural Library, it is updated many times a day. The following highlights ways that the Plant Information Online database can be used, including as a resource to find:



- nurseries that specialize in certain plant materials (mail order)
- where to find or buy a particular plant (mail order)
- wholesale plant sources (hint: knowing local wholesalers may provide clues about local retail plant availability)
- nurseries or plant names (especially helpful when you can't remember the entire name)
- plant specific links to reliable web sites with images and information
- plant specific book and magazine citations listings
- click for tutorial <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewBPuOw0sVo>

Plants for Winter Interest

Colorful fruit: American cranberrybush viburnum, Compact American cranberrybush viburnum, Staghorn sumac and smooth sumac, Barberries, Winterberry (cvs. include 'Red Sprite', 'Shaver', 'Afterglow', 'Aurantiaca', 'Winter Red'), Crabapples ('Donald Wyman', 'Red Jewel', 'Sugartyme', 'Red Splendor', 'Indian Magic', 'Ann E.', 'Adams', 'Firebird')

Colorful stems: Red stemmed dogwood ('Cardinal', 'Ruby', 'Bailey', 'Sibirica'), Yellow stemmed dogwood ('Bud's Yellow', 'Silver and Gold'), Flame willow (Salix 'Flame') Coral bark willow (*Salix alba* 'Britzensis')

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