

# Winter Interest



- \* **#1 Flat is Boring**
  - Leave interesting plants up to cut back in Spring, like Autumn Joy Sedum, Gayfeather, plants with seed heads
  - Grasses - Miscanthus giganteus (12' tall)
  - Add raised areas
  
- \* **#2 Attract birds**
  - Food – a variety (Keep niger covered)
  - Water
  - Shelter (evergreens)

## Books

- Birds of Illinois Field Guide – Tekiela
  - Sibley Guide to Birds – Sibley
  - Bird-by-Bird Gardening – Roth
  - Backyard Bird-Lover's Guide – Mahnken
- 
- \* **#3 Trees and shrubs**
    - Baby Blue Eyes Spruce (stays under 10')
    - Go for the gold
    - Weepers – Norway Spruce and Weeping Cherry
    - Amsonia
    - Interesting bark – River Birch, Paper Bark Maple, China Snow Peking Lilac
    - Rose of Sharon (mine keeps its seed pods)
    - Contorted Filbert
    - Crabapple (i.e. Holiday Gold)
    - Hydrangea (climbing takes years to bloom, worth the wait)
    - Bittersweet (Be careful - It's a thug)
    - Rhododendrons. (I've done well with PJM)
    - Virburnums that keep their leaves
    - Euonymus
    - Holly (may need male and female to get berries)
- 
- \* **#4 Groundcover**
    - Pachysandra (looks nice most of the year)
    - Vinca (Perfect under a tree)
    - Dragon's Blood Sedum
    - Ivy (Another thug)

## Winter Interest



- \* **#5 Hardscape**
  - Benches, chairs, ironwork
  - Rocks, rocks, rocks
  - Bright colored hardscape
  - Move things where you can see them
  - Sled and skates
  - Bottle tree
  
- \* **#6 Paths**
  - Flagstone
  - Rock borders
  - Mosaics
  
- \* **#7 Fences**
  - Skyline
  - Marbles
  - Cutouts
  - Interesting fence portion you can see from window
  - Paint the fence or a totem pole decoratively
  
- \* **#8 Flowers**
  - Kale
  - Snowdrops
  - Winter Aconite!!!
  - Crocus
  
- \* **#9 Enjoy the snow**
  - Get ideas at Morton Arboretum, Chicago Botanic Gardens
  - Bring a camera

"God gave us memories that we may have roses in December."

~J. M. Barrie



Visit my garden at [www.ohwhata.com](http://www.ohwhata.com)

