

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
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- * **#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)
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- * **#4 Groundcover**
 - Pachysandra (looks nice most of the year)
 - Vinca (Perfect under a tree)
 - Dragon's Blood Sedum
 - Ivy (Another thug)

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- * **#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

