

Plant Parade Winter Interest

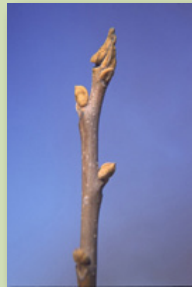
Many people chose their landscaping plants based on bloom color and timing, but it's nice to have something interesting to look at as the snow falls and the skies turn gray. As you wander the trails, look for these winter sights.

You don't need to travel far from the Visitor Center to encounter **Red Osier Dogwood**. Its bright red stems stand out against the gray forest and white snow. The berries are usually long gone by winter, but add interest during summer and early fall.



Check out our fields to take a peek at some **Little Bluestem**. It is a neat and tidy grass with a purple-red hue to the stem and leaves. It grows to only 2 or 3 feet tall and forms a nice clump.

Bitternut Hickory is an attractive tree. In winter its buds are a mustard yellow color and can be seen on the branches from mid-summer until the next spring. Bitternut hickories can be found along the river trail and throughout many of the woods here at CNC.



Look down on the ground as you venture out and see if you can find a little Wintergreen. The leaves are evergreen and the berries are bright red. The leaves and berries both have the classic wintergreen smell.

Nature Notes

If you're walking along the trails and see a green fern peeking out of the snow, you have probably found a **Christmas Fern**. These ferns are a lush green throughout the winter months.



If the odor of dirty socks wafts by you on a warm winter day, you may have just encountered a **Highbush Cranberry**. These shrubs have bright red berries that are largely ignored by the birds in the fall. However, after the berries have frozen and thawed repeatedly, they become fermented and are a tasty treat for birds in late winter and early spring.



Keep an eye out for interesting plants as you walk the trails. If you see something that catches your eye, do a little research or ask a naturalist about it and see if it's something you could add to your landscaping at home.

Visit the Visitor Center Office for program information.

This inSTALLation is available online at www.chippewanaturecenter.org under the Naturalist Section.