



Winter foliage

WHEN PLANNING A PLANTING SCHEME FOR YOUR GARDEN, THE NATURAL INCLINATION IS TO PLAN FOR SPRING, SUMMER AND AUTUMN, BUT WINTER INTEREST IS SO IMPORTANT, AFTER ALL WE WILL BE LOOKING OUT ONTO THE GARDEN FOR SEVERAL MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

Words: Kirsty McLean

The winter garden is not all about blooms, although you will be surprised by how many plants, shrubs, trees and wall climbers produce flower during these months, it's more about the importance of texture, shape and colour of leaf or stem.

Not only can we create seasonal interest in the garden at this time of year but you can provide your home with your very own floristry supply. With berry, leaf and stem you can make some wonderful arrangements for around the house and with Christmas on its way, creating garlands and swags is easy with the right ingredients.

WINTER JASMINE



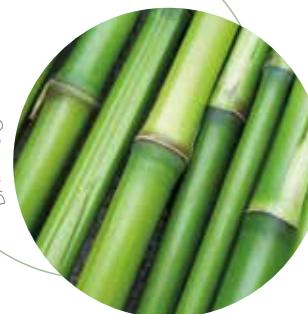
COTONEASTER WARDII



PIERIS X WILLIAMSII



BAMBOO



FOR FLOWER

Look for *Viburnum tinus*, Hellebores, *Mahonia x media* 'Winter Sun', *Sarcococca hookeriana*, *Skimmia x confusa*, *Skimmia Rubella*, winter pansies, winter flowering heathers, *Hamamelis x intermedia mollis*, *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn' or *Daphne bholua*.

Wall shrubs and climbers: *Jasminum nudiflorum* (winter jasmine), *Clematis urophylla* 'Winter Beauty', *Clematis cirrhosa*, *Lonicera x purpusii* 'Winter Beauty', *Chaenomeles superba* or *speciosa*.

FOR BERRY INTEREST

Shrubs: *Gaultheria procumbens*, *Pyracantha*, *Cotoneaster* 'Cornubia' wardii and *hybridus pendulus* as well as hollies. *Nandina domestica*. *Callicarpa bodinieri* or *Viburnum opulus* 'Xanthocarpum' *Ilex* (hollies) *x altaclerensis* 'Golden King' (female) or 'Silver Queen' (male) Holly is dioecious - literally meaning two houses. The plant bears either male or female flowers, but not both. Berries are produced by the female plant in the presence of a male plant. In rural areas, local wild holly may provide cross-pollination.

Trees: *Sorbus aucuparia*, *vilmorinii* or *cashmiriana*, *Euonymus europaeus* 'Red Cascade', *Crataegus persimilis* 'Prunifolia', *Crataegus monogyna*

FOR LEAF

Leucothoe fontanesiana 'Rainbow' or *Leucothoe scarletta* and *axillaris*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Euphorbia amygdaloides Rubra*, *Photinia x fraseri* 'Red Robin', eucalyptus and *Garrya elliptica*, dripping with catkins. The swords of *Phormium* 'Yellow Wave' or 'Pink Panther' *Heuchera*, Grasses such as *Imperata Cylindrica*, *Stipa* or *Molinia*, evergreen ferns such as *Polystichum* or *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Nigrescens' (black grass), *Euonymus fortunei*, *Fatsia japonica*, *Pieris* and *Camelia x williamsii*.

FOR STEMS

Cornus (dogwoods), bamboos, *Leycesteria formosa*, *Corylus contorta*, willows such as *Salix alba vitellina Britzensis* or *Salix gracilistyla* 'Melanostachys' which has black catkins.

And that's before you get to the bulbs! *Nerine* lilies, cyclamen, aconites...