

10 Shade Plants for Winter

Some ideas for plants that add winter interest in the Northwest:



Broadleaf Stonecrop (*Sedum spathulifolium*) has succulent leaves that are hairless, gray to sage green or even red, and are 2" to 8" tall. This perennial has yellow flowers that bloom in mid-summer and will grow on rocky outcrops from coastal cliffs to alpine elevations.

Many ferns grow well including Deer Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) that has dark-green leaves that grow in tufts up to 40" tall.



Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*) is a large species with erect evergreen fronds forming a circular crown approximately 3 to 5 feet tall.



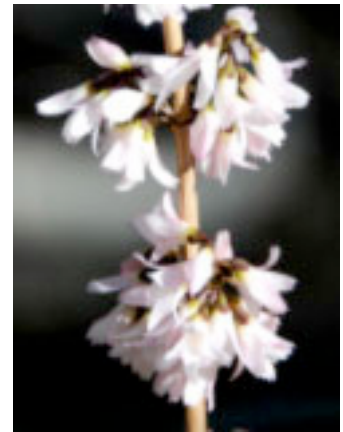
Skimmia is an evergreen shrub that is slow growing and compact. It has bright red berries in the fall and winter on the female plants. You will need both male and female to produce berries.

Dawn Viburnum (*Viburnum x bodnantense*) will grow to 10' tall and 6' wide. Dark green leaves up to 4" long turn dark scarlet in fall and then drop off. Blooms are fragrant pink that appear from fall to spring.



White Forsythia (*Abeliophyllum distichum*) is a Korean native resembling forsythia in growth habit and an abundance of mid- to late winter blooms.

It grows 3–4' tall and wide with bluish green 2" leaves.



Salal (*Gaultheria shallon*) is a very hardy plant that can reach 4 to 10 ft tall. Glossy bright green leaves that are nearly round up to 4" long. It has black fruit that are like large huckleberries which are attractive to birds.



Hellebores (*Helleborus* species) are good dry shade plants and have attractive perennial foliage in the summer and carry their dangling bell flowers in winter and spring.

For background color and form, the Vine Maple (*Acer circinatum*) is a good addition that is famous for its fall color. It is a multi-trunked deciduous tree that will grow up to 25' tall.



Chinese Witch Hazel (*Hammamelis mollis*) bloom in late January to March with interesting form in winter. The blooms are bright yellow with red centers. This shrub can reach 10' to 15' in height and its foliage turns red, purple or yellow in the fall.

References

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