Life and color in the dormant season

Last week I wrote about leaving certain shrubs such as Barberries and Burning Bushes alone until after their leaves fall. This provides some color and life in your landscape longer. I mentioned we would discuss types of shrubs and trees that can provide color all year round, even showcase themselves when everything else is dead looking. There are even certain species that really stand out with a fresh canvas of snow as a backdrop.

Let’s face it, looking out the window at our yards will soon look like a dreary scene from The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. For starters, there are many colorful evergreen trees such as Colorado Blue Spruce that can provide stark blue foliage year-round as well as be a great tree for stringing Christmas lights on. There are also several deciduous tree that although losing their leaves, hold bright berries long into the winter such as ornamental Crab Apple and Mountain Ash trees. These provide stark contrast as well as fruit for overwintering birds. As for shrubs, I am a huge fan of Laurel and Holly shrubs that keep their green leaves all year and are labeled an evergreen and both have very bright berries. The dark green, waxy Holly leaves and red berries are the classic Christmas decorations we see as the centerpiece at the table and as door wreaths. While these two common plants seem to get overlooked during the growing season by show off shrubs that flower and bloom, during the winter they really shine. Another overlooked native shrub that I enjoy in the dormant season is Red twig Dogwoods. While their leaves do fall, their green summer stems turn bright red in the winter. Lastly also a native shrub that many people seem to detest but I love for the green foliage is the Oregon Grape. One more plus with these shrubs is the deer seem to leave them alone for the most part which is a benefit for many people.

More next week on preparing landscape shrubs and hedges for snow load and fall planting. As always for further questions, quotes and consultations, give us a call today and thank you in advance for your patience with our backlog.