



American Hollies fruit in November and December and provide cover and food for wildlife. Evergreens give a sense of enclosure and can screen unsightly views.

The meadow is cut in fall after the asters have set seed, and provides a textured ground plane when covered with snow. Birds will visit and geese may encamp if they have enough takeoff room.

Witch Hazel has late fall or early winter flowers.

Crabapple or Peegee Hydrangea will keep fruit and flowers, respectively, through the winter, and can be pruned in the winter for architectural form.

Plant deciduous trees of differing forms to be highlighted by snow and the occasional ice storm.

Tall ornamental grasses like Miscanthus keep their plumes throughout the winter and indicate the wind force and direction.

Rhododendrons provide cover for birds, and in addition to being evergreen they are also a temperature indicator, rolling up their leaves when the thermometer falls below 32 degrees.

Use uprights to accent specimen trees and highlight architectural features in the landscape and plantings. A snowy landscape looks beautiful at night, especially if you can see the snowflakes dusting the garden elements.

A bird feeder is essential and should be located where you will see it from inside.

A clipped privet or yew hedge or fieldstone walls give form to the outdoor room and divide the ordered inner garden from the wilder plantings outside. Be sure to clip privet so it is neat throughout the winter.

Urns that can be covered and left out all winter provide elegant framing for the garden room's threshold. Lunaform of Maine is my favorite studio for urns and pots.

A wood or wrought-iron bench echoes memories of sitting in the garden in summer, and will be a nice place to pause on a sunny winter's day as well.

Gates add a beautiful transparent screen to axial views and separate the foreground room from the more natural distant landscape.

An evergreen groundcover, such as Vinca minor or pachysandra, will soften the gray and white tones of a snowy landscape because of its texture and dark color.

Mowed grass panels should be clipped at the end of the growing season to give a uniform ground plane for snowfall.

A tumbled-stone slab walkway provides a surface that can be shoveled and will melt before snow melts from the grass. Keep the panels of snow on either side pristine and untrampled except by birds and critters.

Boxwood globes give articulation to the path and provide nice shadows when ground is white.

A Garden for Midwinter

An outdoor landscape "room" designed for winter should always be located so it gets sun and is viewed from the places in the house where you spend a lot of time during the day. Here are some key features to keep in mind.

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT KATHERINE FIELD, KATHERINE FIELD AND ASSOCIATES, NEWPORT