Winter Flowers, Inspiration for Your Garden

Charles Cresson, Horticulturist

1. Hedgleigh Spring House, under a foot of snow
2. Bark of *Chionanthus retusus* (Chinese Fringe tree), *Lindera glauca* var. *salicifolia* foliage, *Miscanthus* grass, ostrich fern
3. *Cornus alba* ‘Sibirica’ twigs, *Ilex x koehneana*, *Ilex verticillata*, *Nandina domestica* ‘Leucocarpa’, *Skimmia japonica*
4. Discovering first flowers of the year: snowdrops and winter aconite
5. Winter Garden, Cambridge University Botanic Garden, England
6. *Cornus* ‘Midwinter Fire’ staged with evergreen foliage
7. Bringing life to scene with winter flowers – snowdrops under red-twig dogwood
8. Winterthur—one of the world’s great plantings of winter flowers
9. Winter Blooming Plants  
   -Like deciduous shade  
   -Like shelter of evergreens and structures  
   -Adapt to average garden conditions  
   -Are often fragrant to attract pollinators  
   -Are opportunists
10. Winter Flower Strategies: Tough it out with very hardy flowers or don’t open all buds at once
11. The 2 most important winter flowers for our climate: Witch-hazels and Snowdrops
12. Winter Blooming Woody Plants
13. Witch-hazel colors: ‘Strawberries & Cream’, ‘Wisley Supreme’, ‘Gimborn’s Perfume’, ‘Jelena’. *Hamamelis virginiana* for autumn bloom.
14. Witch-hazel fall color – red or orange *Hamamelis x intermedia* cultivar
15. The dilemma of clinging foliage: ‘Gimborn’s Perfume’ with dead leaves, ‘Limelight’ without.
16. Yellow ‘Limelight’ has more impact in landscape than red ‘Birgit’
17. Yellow and orange witch-hazels intermingled: ‘Moonlight’ (dead leaves cut off!), ‘Jelena’
18. *H. mollis* ‘Early Bright’ as espalier in Fragrance Garden at Swarthmore College
19. *Viburnum x bodnantense* ‘Dawn’, an opportunist, blooming when weather cycles permit
20. *Prunus mume* ‘Peggy Clarke’ (Japanese Flowering Apricot) – another opportunist
21. *Mahonia japonica*, very fragrant! February-March; *M*. ‘Arthur Menzies’, November into winter.
22. *Camellia japonica* ‘Spring’s Promise’, ‘April Remembered’, ‘Berenice Boddy’ - all can start early!
23. *Camellia chekiangoleosa*, a new hardy species from China, blooms late winter-early spring
24. *Camellia* ‘Winter’s Beauty’ – December-January bloom, season permitting!
25. *Camellia japonica* ‘Korean Fire’– one of the Korean introductions – some cultivars flower in November as well as late winter-spring.
26. *Edgeworthia chrysantha* ‘Snow Cream’ (Oriental Paperbush)
27. *Chimonanthus praecox* (Winter Sweet)
28. *Cornus officinalis* ‘Lemon Zest’ (Japanese Cornel Dogwood)
29. *Corylopsis sinensis var. calvescens* (Winter-hazel)
30. *Jasminum nudiflorum* (Winter Jasmine) – another opportunist
31. Winter jasmine cascading over a wall
32. *Chaenomeles* ‘Crimson and Gold’ (Flowering Quince) – an especially precocious cultivar
33. *Sarcococca hookeriana humilis* (Sweet Box) in February
34. *Sarcococca orientalis* in December
35. *Daphne odora* (Winter Daphne) with *Camellia japonica* ‘Berenice Boddy’
36. Winter Blooming Bulbs and Perennials
37. *Galanthus* ‘S. Arnott’ in Snow
38. Galanthus ‘S. Arnott’ with *Narcissus* ‘Rijnveld’s Early Sensation’
39. Early to late Snowdrops: G. reginae-olgae in October, G. elwesii ‘Potter’s Prelude’, ‘Xmas’ in late December, ‘Standing Tall’ in January, ‘Atkinsii’ in January-February, ‘Merlin’ in February, *G. woronowii* in February-March.
40. Snowdrop diversity: ‘Diggory’, ‘Scharlockii’, ‘Wasp’, ‘Trumps’, ‘Primrose Warburg’, ‘Walrus’
41. Double snowdrops: *Galanthus nivalis* ‘Flore Pleno’, ‘Ophelia’, ‘Blewbury Tart’, ‘Ballerina’, ‘Lady Beatrix Stanley’, ‘Lady Elphinstone’
42. *Galanthus elwesii* (Giant Snowdrop) at Winterthur
43. *Eranthis hyemalis* (Winter Aconite) with *Crocus tommasinianus*
44. *Eranthis hyemalis* under deciduous shrubs, rare white flowered *E. stellata* from Eastern Asia
45. Winter Aconites and Snowdrops naturalized at Winterthur
46. *Crocus tommasinianus* at Longwood Gardens
47. *Crocus tommasinianus*, *Crocus* ‘Ruby Giant’ and *Galanthus elwesii*, naturalized
48. *Crocus vernus* (Dutch Crocus)
49. Crocus jewels: *Crocus angustifolius*, *Crocus imperati* ‘de Jaeger’, *Crocus olivieri* ssp. *balansae* ‘Zwanenburg’, *Crocus biflorus* ssp. *isauricus* ‘Spring Beauty’, *Crocus* ‘Early Gold’, *Crocus sieberi* ‘Tricolor’
50. Making Peace with Critters – protection from birds tearing up flowers and other creatures
51. *Cyclamen coum* in March
52. *Cyclamen coum* with *Iris reticulata*
53. *Leucojum vernum* (Spring Snowflake) with *Crocus vernus*
54. *Leucojum vernum* ‘Gertrude Wister’ – originated in the Wister Garden at Swarthmore College
55. *Scilla mischtschenoana* (Striped Squill) naturalized in grass at Longwood
56. *Scilla mischtschenkoana* (Striped Squill)
57. *Scilla siberica* (Siberian Squill), *Chionodoxa forbesii* (Glory-of-the-snow)
58. *Scilla siberica* under deciduous Oakleaf Hydrangea
59. *Iris reticulata* ‘J. S. Dijt’ with *Crocus seiberi* ‘Tricolor’
60. *Iris reticulata* Hybrids: ‘Katherine Hodgkin’, ‘Harmony’, ‘Finola’, ‘Purple Gem’, ‘J. S. Dijt’
61. *Iris unguicularis* (Algerian Iris) with *Cyclamen coum*
62. *Iris unguicularis* with *Helleborus* ‘Ivory Prince’, *Iris unguicularis* ssp. *cretensis*
63. *Adonis amurensis ‘Fukuju Kai’* on the March Bank at Winterthur
64. *Adonis amurensis* cultivars: ‘Fukuju Kai’, ‘Kinsekai’, ‘Beni Nadeshiko’, Green double
65. *Helleborus foetidus* (Stinking or Bearsfoot Hellebore)
66. *Helleborus hybridus* ‘Gold Finch’ with *Narcissus* ‘Nosie Posie’
67. Hybrid Hellebores: *H. x ballardiae* ‘Cinnamon Snow’, *H. x b.* ‘Merlin’, ‘Rome in Red’, ‘Blushing Bridesmaid’, ‘Maid of Honor’, ‘Rio Carnival’, ‘True Love’, ‘Confetti Cake’
68. *Hacquetia epipactis* – among the earliest blooming perennials
69. Early Daffodils: ‘February Gold’, ‘Mite’, ‘Nosie Posie’, ‘Small Talk’, ‘Midget’, *N. obvallaris* and some of the other cyclamineus and trumpet hybrids
70. Narcissus ‘Rijnveld’s Early Sensation’, the earliest large trumpet, may need protection under a plastic storage box during a late winter cold snap
71. Using Winter Blooming Plants  
    -Keep them close  
    -Group near windows and doors  
    - microclimates  
    -Give them a background  
    - them together and create combinations  
    -Plant in masses
72. *Mahonia* ‘Arthur Menzies’ in December
73. South facing rock garden with Algerian Iris and Heathers
74. Witch-hazel with *Crocus tommasinianus* at Winterthur
75. Orange witch-hazel in a sea of *Crocus tommasinianus* in a front yard
76. Winter aconite and *Galanthus* ‘Magnet’ beneath *Hamamelis* ‘Wisley Supreme’
77. Late winter bed with red-twig dogwood, stinking hellebore and *Crocus tommasinianus*
78. Glory-of-the-snow and winter-hazel at Winterthur
79. Winter-hazel and Korean rhododendron at Winterthur
80. Winter-hazel, Korean rhododendron, ‘Pink Giant’ glory-of-the-snow and ‘February Silver’ daffodils in the Winter Border at Hedgleigh Spring
81. Winter Border at Hedgleigh Spring with Japanese flowering apricot, Japanese mahonia
82. Winter Border at Hedgleigh Spring with Japanese flowering apricot, Japanese mahonia
83. Winter Border at Hedgleigh Spring with ‘Pink Frost’ hellebore and ‘S. Arnott’ snowdrop
84. Winter Border at Hedgleigh Spring under snow again

Plant Sources. All ship:

Plant Delights Nursery

Odyssey Bulbs

Brent and Beck’s Bulbs

Camellia Forest Nursery

Far Reaches Farm