



Keep Color in the Winter Garden with Berries

“That’s a produce showy fruit. Callicarpa Chokeberry does have showy nice looking dichotoma ‘Early Amethyst’, flowers. Clusters of white flowers flower on that with the appropriate common appear in early spring followed by rose over there. But what I really name of Beautyberry, has small berries that ripen in late summer want to know is...what are its lavender pink flowers that are to a lustrous red. The birds hips like?” This is not a phrase nice but not terribly noticeable. don’t seem to like them often heard at your local garden The flowers are followed by (“choke” berry) so they center. But this savvy gardener clusters of bright purple, 1/8” persist through much of the knows that roses often have berries all along the stems. The winter. In fall, the shiny dark showy fruit called hips. Fruit, berries appear in early fall on this green leaves on this 6 to 8 foot whether in the form of hips, 3 to 4 foot tall shrub. There is tall plant, turn a brilliant red, berries or even on trees like even a white-berried variety, rivaling any burning bush. crabapples are an excellent way ‘Leucocarpa’ that when seen to extend the ornamental appeal usually prompts the Now from A to...V? Well, we of a plant; sometimes even into response, ”Huh. That’s didn’t make it quite to the end winter. interesting. Gimme one of those but we can’t pass up Viburnums. Not all species of

Let’s look at roses. You may Viburnum produce showy fruit but never have seen hips on your Next, imagine that someone took one of the best is V. dentatum or roses. One reason for this is the hundreds of ½” foam balls, gave Arrowwood. This native reaches pruning done to roses to keep them a light spray of magenta- 6 to 8 feet or more. The creamy them looking attractive. If you pink, and then glued them on a 4 white flowers appear in spring. dead-head your plants, no hips to 5 foot tall shrub with arching Fruit matures in late fall will ever form. The other reason branches. That describes becoming bluish black. The fall is that some roses make small Symphoricarpos doorenbosii color is variable ranging from hips or none at all. One group of ‘Amethyst’. In addition to its yellow to red to reddish purple. shrub roses called rugosas is striking berries, ‘Amethyst’ will Several cultivars have been especially noted for its hips. tolerate a fair amount of shade. introduced, among them Chicago Lustre, Autumn Jazz and others. These hips are generally orange-

red, globe-shaped or slightly As we continue to browse There is some debate over flattened, and may be one inch or through the berries, let’s head whether it is necessary to have more. to the top of the alphabet and more than one cultivar present stop at Aronia arbutifolia. nearby to cross-pollinate, leading

Some plants, like rugosa roses, Specifically the variety to better berry production. It have both showy flowers and ‘Brilliantissima’ known as the can’t hurt, and may help to have fruit. Others may have Red Chokeberry. Unlike the more that on variety, just in case. inconspicuous flowers, but previous plants, the Red

Another viburnum with bountiful mature. The cultivar 'Elegans' flower color and fruit color, your berries is *V. trilobum* or American has streaky variegated white and bound to find one for your Cranberrybush *Viburnum*. green foliage. garden. 'Lancelot' has white 'Wentworth' is a large 10 to 12 flowers followed by 3/8" gold foot cultivar. The white flower Not all fruit are berries as is the fruit. It is a small 8 to 10 foot tree clusters of spring give way to case with crabapples. Don't roll that spreads about 8 feet. berries that begin yellow but your eyes or throw up your hands 'Prairiefire' blooms a little later mature to bright red by late when you hear crabapple. Yes, than many crabs with purplish red summer. A shorter variety, many of us have had crabs that flower on an upright spreading 15 'Bailey's Compact' reaches are practically defoliated by late foot tree. The 1/2 " maroon fruit 5 to 6 feet. Both have excellent summer due to leaf diseases. stay on the tree through most of red fall color. Like the And no one likes to mow under the winter. There are weeping Arrowwood, berry production one that has dropped fruit and crabs, narrow upright crabs, there might be enhanced by the made a sticky, smelly mess. But I are even crabs...without fruit presence of another cultivar. would defend the crabapple as (gasp!). probably the most beautiful

Let's swing on over to a vine. flowering tree in the Chicago Ampelopsis brevipedunculata or area. (Shall we say pruning porcelain vine is a fast growing shears as 20 paces?) Nothing clinging vine that reaches 10 to can beat a crabapple in full bloom 15 feet. Showy, metallic, in spring. Luckily, there are now porcelain-blue berries cover the many varieties with disease plant in autumn. Often the berries resistant foliage and persistent in a cluster vary from green to (hangs on all winter) fruit. With purple to porcelain-blue as they a wide range or size, shape,



The fruit on this crabapple provides color in the winter garden.