

# ARNOLDIA



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## WOODY PLANTS WITH INTERESTING BARK IN WINTER

A TRIP through the Arnold Arboretum in the dead of winter will disclose a number of plants with interesting bark characteristics, some of them new to many gardeners. The lists appended to this issue of *Arnoldia* are the results of just such a trip. Some of the plants are commonly known; others, possibly unusual in gardens, should very definitely be noted as potential colorful contributors to winter gardens. The more color in the winter landscape, the more interesting the garden.

The color and general characteristics of a tree's bark come with old age, and mature trees are valued specifically for these characteristics. However, shrubs with colored twigs frequently can be forced to grow brighter-colored twigs for winter display if a few simple maintenance items are practiced.

*Cornus alba*, the Tatarian dogwood, is known to have red one-year twigs. The color will not be pronounced on an old plant which has been growing in poor soil for some length of time, and the one-year growth may be only two or three inches in length. This is not conducive to a colorful display. If the same plant is heavily pruned in the early spring, possibly even cut to the ground, then it will send out vigorous young shoots which will color nicely by winter. Applying a nitrogenous fertilizer will also help in the production of colorful bark. In fact, any practice which aids the rapid vegetative growth of the shoots, will aid in the coloration of the bark of the twigs.

Varieties might well be selected which are known to be vividly colored. The best of all the shrubby dogwoods for colored winter twigs is *Cornus alba sibirica*, the Siberian dogwood with twigs a brilliant red, and when the plant is forced into vigorous growth during the growing season, there is not a woody plant with bark more prominently colored in winter.

Sunshine plays an important part in the coloration of some twigs, just as it does in promoting more intensive color in the fall foliage. Some of the blueberries, for

instance, may have green to greenish one-year twigs when they are grown in the shade, but in the sunshine their one-year twigs turn a bright red. This is especially true of such plants as *Cornus alba sibirica* and *Salix alba chermesina*, both of which can produce twigs of brilliant color. The older these plants become, the less brilliant this color, merely because the one-year twigs become smaller and more dispersed throughout the plant. When the plant is young, or when it has been pruned heavily, then the one-year shoots are confined to a smaller space, and make a much more brilliant display.

The following list of shrubs and trees include about 150 plants which have colored bark or colored twigs in winter, and all are growing in the Arnold Arboretum. Certainly there are sufficient to make possible an interesting selection for any winter garden. The seventy plants listed with an asterisk (\*) have bark more interesting than the others and might be given preference wherever possible. Of course, there are other plants of interest for their bark characteristics in winter, but the ones listed are some of the more important.

#### Plants with Red Twigs or Red Bark

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|--|----------------------------------|--|
| <p><i>Acer palmatum</i><br/> <i>Acer pseudo-sieboldianum</i><br/> <i>Acer Sieboldianum</i></p> | <p style="font-size: 2em;">}</p> | <p>Twigs red, but dispersed over such a wide area<br/>         that the color is mostly unnoticeable from a distance</p> |
| <p><i>Ceanothus pallidus rosea</i> — dull red</p>  |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Cornus alba</i></p>   |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Cornus alba sibirica</i> — bright red, bark more colorful than any other dogwood</p>    |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Cornus amomum</i></p>  |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Cornus arnoldiana</i></p>  |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Cornus australis</i></p>   |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Cornus glabrata</i></p>  |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Cornus obliqua</i></p>   |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Cornus pubescens</i></p>   |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Cornus stolonifera</i></p>  |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Cornus stolonifera coloradensis</i> — young twigs dull red</p>                          |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Cornus Walteri</i> — young twigs dark red</p>  |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Gaylussacia baccata</i> — twigs of current year's growth red</p>                        |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Gaylussacia frondosa</i> — twigs of current year's growth red</p>                        |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Hydrangea petiolaris</i> — young twigs a shiny reddish brown</p>                         |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Leucothoe racemosa</i> — twigs of current year's growth red</p>                          |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> — bark of upper branches and trunk red</p>                         |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Rosa acicularis</i> — young twigs dark red</p>  |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Rosa canina</i> — young twigs dark red</p>  |                                  |  |
| <p><i>Rosa centifolia</i> — young twigs dull red</p>   |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Rosa coriifolia cinerea</i> — young twigs glossy red</p>                                |                                  |  |
| <p>*<i>Rosa Kochiana</i> — twigs bright red, one of best</p>                                   |                                  |  |



**PLATE X**

Left—*Ulmus parvifolia*: the true Chinese elm. Apparently not all plants of this species have this desirable interesting bark characteristic. Trees should be propagated asexually from native trees with this type of bark. Right—*Stewartia korranana*: Korean Stewartia. Several other Stewartias also have this interesting type of bark.

- Rosa Luciae* — young twigs dull reddish purple  
*Rosa multiflora* — young twigs dull red  
*Rosa pomifera* — young twigs glossy red  
 \**Rosa setigera* — twigs bright red, one of best  
*Rosa Spaldingii* — young twigs glossy red  
 \**Rosa virginiana* — twigs bright red, one of best  
 \**Salix alba chermesina* — vigorous young branches a bright red  
 \**Vaccinium corymbosum* — twigs of current year's growth red  
 \**Viburnum opulus nanum* — younger twigs red

#### **Shrubs with Gray Twigs**

(These are sufficiently prominent to afford a colorful contrast in the winter)

- Acanthopanax Sieboldianus* — all twigs gray  
*Aesculus parviflora*  
*Aralia* sp.  
 \**Buddleia alternifolia* — young twigs gray, older branches light brown  
 \**Clethra alnifolia*  
 \**Cornus racemosa*  
 \**Elaeagnus umbellata*  
 \**Ilex decidua* — both young and old twigs gray  
 \**Lonicera Morrowii* — all twigs gray  
*Lonicera tatarica* — all twigs gray  
*Lycium chinense*  
*Myrica pensylvanica*  
 \**Neillia sinensis* — all twigs gray  
 \**Prinsepia* sp. — all twigs gray  
*Spiraea cana*  
*Viburnum Opulus*  
*Viburnum Sargentii*  
*Viburnum trilobum*

#### **Plants with Green Twigs**

- Coronilla emeroides*  
*Coronilla Emerus* — but not a good color  
 \**Cytisus praecox*  
 \**Cytisus scoparius*  
 \**Cytisus supinus*  
*Genista radiata*  
 \**Jasminum nudiflorum*  
 \**Kerria japonica*  
 \**Poncirus trifoliata* — twigs, older branches green  
 \**Rosa Wichuraiana*  
*Salix blanda* — twigs green to brown





**PLATE XI**

Left—*Acer griseum*: the Paper bark maple with lustrous brown exfoliating bark.  
Right—*Pinus Bungeana*: the Lace bark pine, the best of all the pines for ornamental bark.

## Bark of Trunk Cherry-Like

(sometimes exfoliating)

- Betula lutea* — bark of older trunks yellowish brown  
\**Prunus Sargentii*  
\**Prunus serrula* — bright red, one of best!  
\**Prunus Schmittii* — very glossy, red  
*Prunus* — many other species of course, but above are some of the most outstanding  
*Syringa amurensis japonica*

## Bark of Trunk or Older Branches Exfoliating, Either Shredding Off in Long Strips or Flaking Off in Regular or Irregular Patches

- \**Acer griseum* — one of best, light brown color  
*Acer triflorum*  
*Betula davurica* — purplish brown bark, very good and peculiarly interesting in that the bark peels or flakes off in regular strips an inch or so square  
*Betula lutea* — bark of older trunks yellowish, cherry-like, exfoliating  
*Betula nigra* — dark, blackish, plated bark on older trunks, often chipping off  
*Betula* — white-barked species  
*Clethra acuminata* — older bark brown, exposed young bark gray  
*Cornus officinalis*  
*Deutzia glabrata* — peculiar exfoliating bark, light brown new bark, dark brown old bark  
*Euonymus sanguinea* — dark gray exfoliating bark, irregularly colored patches remaining on older stems  
\**Hicoria ovata* — stiff older bark flaking off  
\**Hypericum arnoldianum* — peeling and a lustrous reddish brown  
\**Kolkwitzia amabilis* — bark shredding off in long strips  
\**Lonicera Ferdinandi* — bark shredding off in long strips  
*Lonicera iberica* — bark shredding off in long strips  
\**Parrotia persica* — bark flaking, older bark red brown  
*Physocarpus* sp. — shredding bark  
\**Platanus acerifolia* — greenish underbark on some specimens and not on others, flaking off in irregular patches  
\**Platanus occidentalis* — white underbark, gray outerbark flaking off in irregular patches  
\**Pinus Bungeana* — bark flaking off in irregular patches, underbark almost white  
*Rosa Roxburghii* — bark shredding off in long strips  
\**Stewartia koreana* — mottled bark and of the best! Older bark brown, younger bark light brown  
*Stewartia pseudo-camellia* — also mottled but not as ornamental as *S. koreana*

\**Ulmus parvifolia* — mottled bark, flaking off in irregular patches. Apparently this is a clonal characteristic, for some trees do not appear to have it

#### Miscellaneous

- Acer capillipes* — green striped bark  
\**Acer pensylvanicum* — green and striped bark  
*Ceanothus americanus* — bark green to light brown  
*Decaisnea Fargesii* — gray to yellow old and young twigs  
\**Euonymus alata* — corky wings on twigs and older branches  
\**Phellodendron amurense* — bark corky on mature trees  
*Prunus triloba* — bark of older branches a pronounced black  
*Quercus montana* — corky bark on mature trees  
*Rubus occidentalis* — twigs whitish to pinkish  
*Salix fragilis* — bark of young branches yellow brown  
\**Salix purpurea* — twigs reddish purple  
*Ulmus alata* — corky wings on twigs  
*Zelkova serrata* — corky ridges on bark of twigs and small branches

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