About the Scott Arboretum

The Scott Arboretum is a green oasis uniquely situated on the Swarthmore College campus. Over 300 acres create the College landscape and provide a display of the best ornamental plants recommended for Delaware Valley gardens.

Established in 1929 as a living memorial to Arthur Hoyt Scott, Class of 1895, through a bequest from his family, the Arboretum continues to thrive today. There are over 4,000 different kinds of plants grown on the campus, selected for their outstanding ornamental qualities, ease of maintenance, and resistance to disease. Major plant collections include: flowering cherries, crabapples, hollies, lilacs, magnolias, tree peonies, rhododendrons, hydrangeas, conifers, vines, summer flowering shrubs, viburnums, and witch hazels.

Maps and specialized brochures on plants growing on the campus are available at the Arboretum headquarters, which also houses a horticultural reference library. The Arboretum grounds are open from dawn to dusk year-round. Admission is free. The Arboretum is supported in part by the Associates of the Scott Arboretum, a membership group. For additional information, call 610-328-8025, Monday through Friday, 8:30 to noon and 1:00-4:30.
About the Winter Garden

"Sweeter yet than dream or song of Summer or Spring are Winter's sometime smiles."
- Coventry Patmore

Explore the Winter Garden and see the colorful stems, bark, berries and flowers winter can bring. These bits of color extend the pleasures of gardening year-round. In the Philadelphia area winter is generally thought of as the time between Thanksgiving and mid-March. Some of the best plants for providing interest during this period for Delaware Valley gardens are displayed in the Winter Garden.

The Winter Garden exists between the Lang Performing Arts Center (PAC) and Lang Concert Hall. The plants in the Winter Garden and throughout the Arboretum are easily identified by their black display labels, which give the plant's scientific, common and family names. Below is a description which includes the mature height and distinctive winter feature for selected plants in each area.

Trees and Shrubs

_Acer griseum_ - paperbark maple

Deciduous tree with an oval or rounded habit; 20-30'; stems a rich red-brown; outer bark peels away to reveal cinnamon-colored bark which makes a landscape statement even when tree is young; leaves three-parted and blue-green in color.

_Betula nigra Dura Heat™_ - river birch

Deciduous tree; to 60'; often multi-stemmed; bark flakes off to reveal shades of salmon and creamy-white; in late winter pendulous 2-3" catkins (male flowers) are produced and add interest; disease and insect resistance make it by far the best birch for Delaware Valley gardens.

_Cedrus atlantica Glaucia Group_ - blue Atlas cedar

Evergreen tree; 40-60'; light green to silvery-blue needles; extremely picturesque in maturity, its beauty perhaps unmatched by any other conifer.

_Corylopsis pauciflora_ - buttercup winterhazel

Deciduous shrub; 6 to 8'; spreading habit; fragrant primrose-yellow flowers bloom in late March; best used in a woodland setting protected from wind, full sun, and avoid high pH soils.

_Crataegus viridis 'Winter King'_ - green hawthorn

Deciduous tree; 20' with a similar spread; rounded habit; gray-green bark provides an excellent contrast to the quantities of shiny, bright red berries; fruit persists all winter; also lovely in spring when cloaked in clusters of white flowers.

_Jasminum nudiflorum_ - winter jasmine

Deciduous shrub; 3-4'; arching stems; yellow 1" star-shaped flowers bloom during warm spells from late December to March on green, leafless stems; at its best when allowed to cascade over a wall as you see it here.

_Pinus bungeana_ - lacebark pine

Needled evergreen; 30-50'; bark peels away to reveal a camouflage pattern of green, white, purple, brown and yellow; often multi-stemmed and most attractive when limbed up so the bark is visible.

_Stachyurus praecox_ - stachyurus

Deciduous shrub; upright and arching; 6-8'; cream to pale yellow flowers appear in late March and are borne in stiff 2-3" pendulous clusters.

_Stewartia pseudocamellia var. koreana_ - Korean stewartia

Deciduous tree; 20-30'; often multi-stemmed; ornamental, sinuous bark flakes off to reveal patches of gray, brown, orange and cream; summer blooming, with white, saucer-shaped flowers; has been called the crème de la crème of woody flowering trees.

_Viburnum xbonantense 'Dawn'_ - Bodnant viburnum

Deciduous shrub; to 9'; multi-stemmed and upright; beautiful rose-colored buds open to pale pink or white fragrant flowers on warm days beginning in January; fragrance wafts through the air on sunny winter days; flowers force well for winter bouquets.

_Yucca flaccida 'Bright Edge'_ - Adam's needle

Evergreen shrub; 3-4' with similar spread; stiffly erect sword-shaped leaves are edged with gold; attractive when used in combination with plants that have yellow stems or flowers.

Herbaceous Perennials

_Helleborus x hybridus_ - Lenten rose

Perennial; 15-18"; leathery, dark green leaves; nodding white to pink or purplish flowers are 3-4" wide and often freckled; blooms from February to May.