

PLANTS WITH COLORFUL TWIGS IN EARLY SPRING

This year's weather has been a none-too-gentle reminder that March is still a winter month in New England. Color in the winter landscape is a subtle thing and comes largely from evergreens and the colored twigs of some deciduous shrubs and trees. As plant metabolic processes accelerate in early spring, the already colorful twigs of some plants become even brighter. The following shrubs and trees are outstanding for their stem color in winter and early spring:

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Stem or Twig Color</i>
<i>Cornus alba</i> 'Sibirica'	Siberian Dogwood	Coral red
<i>C. sericea</i>	Red-Osier Dogwood	Scarlet
<i>C. sericea</i> 'Flaviramea'	Goldentwig Dogwood	Yellow
<i>Salix alba</i> 'Tristis'	Golden Weeping Willow	Golden yellow
<i>S. alba</i> 'Chermesina'	Redstem Willow	Red-orange

The following plants are not so striking in twig color as those listed above, but are still relatively colorful when in high vigor:

<i>Ceanothus ovatus</i>	Inland Ceanothus	Reddish pink
<i>Cornus alba</i>	Tatarian Dogwood	Crimson
<i>C. alba</i> 'Kesselringii'	Purpletwig Dogwood	Purplish
<i>C. amomum</i>	Silky Dogwood	Dark reddish
<i>C. rugosa</i>	Roundleaf Dogwood	Olive green to rosy scarlet
<i>C. sanguinea</i> 'Bloodtwig'	Dogwood	Dark reddish
<i>C. sanguinea</i> 'Viridissima'	Greentwig Dogwood	Yellow-green
<i>C. sericea</i> 'Kelseyi'	Kelsey Dwarf Dogwood	Dark reddish
<i>C. sericea</i> 'Nitida'	Greentwig Dogwood	Green
<i>Forsythia viridissima</i>	Greenstem Forsythia	Green
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Kerria	Green
<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	Virginia Rose	Red
<i>Salix daphnoides</i>	Daphne Willow	Olive to scarlet, bloomy

Vigorous growth is important for best development of stem color in most of these plants. One of the simplest ways of maintaining a high state of vigor is to prune heavily. All of the shrubs listed can be pruned almost to the ground occasionally, some more often than others. Plants like *Kerria*, *Forsythia viridissima*, and most species of *Rosa* should be pruned this severely only once in 3 to 5 years, while any willow kept as a shrub will probably require severe pruning at least every 2 or 3 years. The dogwoods with colorful twigs are also best when pruned severely every 2 or 3 years, or even annually.

HARRISON L. FLINT

1967 Spring Classes at the Arnold Arboretum

Field Class, Jamaica Plain

Friday Mornings, 10 a.m.-noon
April 28-May 26

Informal outdoor talks and field trips on the grounds of the Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Mass., will be directed by Dr. Donald Wyman and the Arboretum's horticultural staff. This is a continuation of the class which has been offered for many years and in which the various plants are studied as they come into bloom. In case of rain, meetings are held indoors. Those attending will meet at the Administration Building, Jamaica Plain entrance. There will be five sessions on Friday mornings.

Registration fee \$2.00

Field Class, Case Estates, Weston

Wednesday 2:30-4:30 p.m.
April 26-May 24

There will be five informal field classes on the Case Estates in Weston, led by Dr. Gordon DeWolf. Emphasis will be placed on the means of recognizing the spring flowering plants, both wild and cultivated. Classes will meet at the parking area near the Barn at 135 Wellesley Street. In case of rain, meetings will be held indoors. A hand lens or magnifying glass is desirable equipment.

Registration fee \$2.00



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