

Triangle

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HOME

DESIGN & DECOR®





OUTDOORS

365 DAYS OF COLOR

*Your winter landscape
doesn't have to mimic the grey
skies; enjoy a colorful display
in every season.*

By Anne Marie Ashley

The Piedmont climate is mild and temperate, perfect for creating landscapes that can last all year. Even better, the large variety of plants that can be used make it possible to have year-round color *and* fragrance in your yard. David Payne, owner of Home & Garden Landscapes, has some tips for keeping your yard looking and smelling great through all four seasons.

Spring is nature's rebirth, naturally bursting with colors and fragrances in landscapes across the country. "You'll always find a plethora of spring plants that make your yard beautiful in the spring," Payne says. "But get a head start on blooming season with American dogwood and redbud. Redbuds first bloom in February, followed by the native dogwood, and then the Korean dogwood known as Kousa." Payne says these three trees can add color to your yard during the typically gloomy late February days and will last through the hot start to summer in early June. "If you want to enhance it even more, add flowering cherry and crabapple trees as well," he suggests.

Luckily, the Piedmont is dotted with crape myrtles, providing glorious colors from late June to September. Payne says you can add to the colors and textures of myrtles by incorporating a cultivated variety like the Natchez, which has spectacular branching and trunk coloration. "And, if you have room, nothing beats the bloom and fragrance of the Southern magnolia," he says. "You can often smell the lemon-like fragrance on summer nights when the trees are in bloom, which is my idea of heaven."



Another often-overlooked small tree is the golden rain tree, which puts on a display of yellow flowers in the heat of the summer as well.

"Our climate allows us plenty of time in all four seasons to see some great color in the fall," Payne says. Some great trees to plant for fall colors include various cultivars of red maple-like 'Autumn Blaze' and 'October Glory' to get magnificent reds. For



brilliant oranges, choose a sugar maple, which once established flourishes in the Piedmont climate. And for bright yellows, choose 'Princeton' American elm and river birch. "Just make certain you plant river birch well away from the house and foundations," Payne suggests.

Winter is when textures really stand out, particularly if you have the different varieties of crape myrtles that have interesting colors and textures during the colder months. "Other trees with winter beauty include river birch and evergreens, including evergreen hollies and heat tolerant varieties of spruce and pine," Payne offers.

The South offers incredible weather conditions for doing some really different and exciting things with our landscapes. In fact, planting color year-round seems like a downright luxury to some other regions of the country. "Take advantage of our beautiful climate," Payne says. "With a little forethought, we can enjoy our yards every day of the year." ♦

Are you looking for help creating a year-round landscape? Home & Garden Landscapes can help. For more information, or to make an appointment for a consultation, visit www.homeandgardenlandscapes.com or call 919-801-0211.