

Joseph A. Witt Winter Garden

Celebrate winter...

Tucked away in the deep green forest, you'll find a "winter feast" for the senses in the Witt Winter Garden. Discover the garden's striking colors, textures, fragrances and structure. This small garden room contains a rare winter abundance of flowers, seeds and fruit for wildlife to nibble. You'll find winter birds make this place especially playful and lively.

Originally created in 1949, the Winter Garden underwent a substantial renovation in 1988. Credit for the garden's redesign belongs to Professor Iain Robertson, of the University of Washington Department of Landscape Architecture. He imagined a "woodland room" in keeping with the character of the Washington Park Arboretum. Western red cedar and Douglas-fir trees create a backdrop for many striking winter plants. Arboretum staff keep a dynamic plant list that includes many rare and unusual treasures. Natives grow among them to further integrate this special place with its surrounding forest. An expanse of lawn invites visitors into the center of the garden. Deservingly, the garden was named in honor of Joseph A. Witt. The long-time curator was especially devoted to this collection. The Arboretum Foundation provided funding support for the original renovation. The garden's largest bed, Bed H, was renovated in 2010 to add more diversity and color to the landscape and to open up the views to the rest of the garden. Unit 3 of the Lake Washington Garden Club funded the most recent renovation.

To find the Joseph A. Witt Winter Garden: exit the west side of the Graham Visitors Center and cross Arboretum Drive East. Then follow the large diagonal trail heading south from the orientation map on the west side of the road. Other collections in the Arboretum show beautifully through winter. Consider visiting the adjacent Woodland Garden, and further afield our collections of Birches, Camellias, Hollies, Witch Hazels, and conifers all shine during this season.

*"Hear! Hear!" screamed the jay
from a neighboring tree
where I had heard a tittering
for some time,
"Winter has a concentrated
and nutty kernel, if you
know where to look for it."*

— Henry David Thoreau

Map updated on 2/6/2018



WINTER GARDEN TOUR

BED A Featured plants of this bed include witch hazel (*Hamamelis*), and later blooming winter hazel (*Corylopsis*). The pendant butter yellow flowers of *Corylopsis* decorate this wide growing shrub. *Corylopsis sinensis* 'Spring Purple' sports five inch flowers and bronze new growth. The light green flowering *Helleborus foetidus* makes a perfect evergreen understory.

BED B *Azara microphylla* adds an interesting element to the evergreen backdrop of Bed B. The lacy, tiny green leafed tree has tiny yellow flowers that smell like white chocolate when they bloom. Evergreen silk-tassel bush (*Garrya*) grows in the foreground where its elegant vertical tassels can be appreciated. Don't miss the fruity fragrance of the winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera standishii*) shrubs at the south end of this bed. These and the *Mahonia* (now *Berberis*) species attract our year-round resident, Anna's hummingbird.

BED C Colorful stems provide the theme of this bed, known informally as the "twig bed." *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' blazes yellow, orange and red, and willows (*Salix*) add to the mix. Black Mondo grass (*Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Ebony Knight') carpets the bed beneath the yellow-twig dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera* 'Flaviramea'). The green backdrop shows off delicate wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*) blossoms. These fragrant flowers are pale yellow with reddish centers.

BED D Bark is the highlight of this bed. These birches (*Betula albosinensis* var. *septentrionalis*) just might be the most striking trees in this garden. Their peeling, bright pinkish-white bark as well as their placement in the garden make them top contenders. This is especially true when low winter sun shines on and through its bark. These members of the genus *Betula* share the spotlight with the paper bark maple (*Acer griseum*), and the coral bark maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Sango-kaku'). A mixture of heath species (*Erica*) and hellebores (*Helleborus*) provide evergreen interest and flowers below the trees.

BED E One plant of interest is the sparkly *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Variegatus'. It looks like a holly but unlike holly it has opposite leaves and doesn't seed around the garden. The white-flowering forsythia (*Abeliophyllum distichum*) also has a misleading "common name" as it is not a member of the genus *Forsythia*.

BED F This bed has been recently updated with plantings of the late winter blooming manzanita, *Arctostaphylos* 'Howard McMinn', and the fragrant Nepalese paper bush, *Edgeworthia chrysantha*.

BED H This bed was renovated in 2010, and new plants continue to be added today. Look for a variety of early blooming rhododendrons in bright colors, and herbaceous plants such as *Epimedium*, *Hellebore*, *Cyclamen coum* and ferns. There are also three young trees that will offer excellent bark effects as they mature: *Acer tegmentosum* 'Joe Witt', a variety of the Manchurian stripe-bark maple selected here in the Arboretum for its especially white bark, *Stewartia sinensis*, a tree with bark that will show attractive patterns of cinnamon, grey and cream as it ages, and *Acer palmatum* 'Japanese Sunrise' which has brightly colored young shoots in yellows and reds.

BED I The brightly variegated *Elaeagnus pungens* 'Maculata' lightens this sheltered path. Also find another selection of silk-tassel bush, *Garrya elliptica* 'Siskyou Jade', and an unusual camellia species, *Camellia lutchuensis*.

BED K Deciduous shrubbery surrounds a beautiful grove of *Camellias*. Among them, you'll see *Camellia sasanqua* 'Kokinran' with peppermint-striped flowers. Even more varieties of witch hazel (*Hamamelis*), including the stately *Hamamelis japonica* var. *arborea*, grow here. Find *Stachyurus chinensis* with its late winter creamy flowers, and two *Viburnum* species (*V. foetens* and *V. farerri*).

BED L The unusual and tiny evergreen *Ruscus aculeatus* in this bed apparently has medicinal properties. *Viburnum tinus* contributes year-round beauty with long blooming white flowers, metallic blue fruit, and evergreen leaves. Some of these varieties of *Camellia* were planted in the 1950's. They make a fabulous flowering background.

BED M Situated at the north entrance of the garden, Bed M makes a great first impression. Both fragrant witch hazels and the low, green stemmed winter blooming Jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) display yellow flowers. Bright pink *Cyclamen coum* blooms below the cinnamon bark of the tall *Stewartia* (*Stewartia monadelphica*). Bark, fine structure, white flowers in early summer, and red fall color make this tree a year round knock-out. *Sarcococca* species throughout the garden offer dark, glossy green foliage and fragrant (though small) flowers. These make a great choice for shady places.

BED O *Mahonia* (now *Berberis*) 'Arthur Menzies' makes a bold statement all year, but its wintertime yellow flower spikes provide the icing on the cake. Just stand there a moment and you'll likely see hummingbirds. The variety 'Arthur Menzies' was selected here in the Washington Park Arboretum for its cold hardiness.

KAEMPFER BED The early spidery flowers of the witch hazels (*Hamamelis*) such as *Hamamelis mollis* 'Gold Crest', fill the air with fragrance. Their winter flowers, structure, and fall color make them outstanding garden plants. Several varieties are strategically placed in the garden to create a canopy under which to pass before reaching the wide open space or "woodland room" in the center.

PLANT LIST

BED A

- 1 *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Ruby Glow'
- 2 *Helleborus foetidus*
- 3 *Hamamelis x inter.* 'Orange Beauty'
- 4 *Helleborus x hybridus*
- 5 *Pulmonaria* sp.
- 6 *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *digyna*
- 7 *Mahonia (Berberis) x media* 'Lionel Fortescue'
- 8 *Rhododendron* 'Seta'
- 9 *Rhododendron dauricum*
- 10 *Rhododendron* 'Anchorite'
- 11 *Rhododendron* 'Saunders Ruby'
- 12 *Corylopsis sinensis* 'Spring Purple'
- 13 *Ribes laurifolium*
- 14 *Mahonia (Berberis)* 'Arthur Menzies'
- 15 *Hamamelis x inter.* 'Westerstede'
- 16 *Rhododendron cyanocarpum*
- 17 *Mahonia (Berberis) gracilis*
- 18 *Acer circinatum*
- 19 *Hamamelis x inter.* 'De Belder #965'
- 20 *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Primavera'

BED B

- 1 *Helleborus x hybridus*
- 2 *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Pallida'
- 3 *Berberis x gladwynensis* 'William Penn'
- 4 *Bergenia cordifolia* 'Rotblum'
- 5 *Rhododendron* 'Cilpinense'
- 6 *Ribes sanguineum* (Early Betty)
- 7 *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Ebony Knight'
- 8 *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Goshiki'
- 9 *Erica x darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze'
- 10 *Hydrangea anomala* ssp. *petiolaris*
- 11 *Garrya elliptica* 'Evie'
- 12 *Garrya x issaquahensis*
- 13 *Cornus stolonifera* 'Kelsey's Dwarf'
- 14 *Lonicera standishii*
- 15 *Lonicera fragrantissima*
- 16 *Azara microphylla*
- 17 *Mahonia (Berberis)* 'Arthur Menzies'
- 18 *Helleborus argutifolius*
- 19 *Cyclamen hederifolium*

BED C

- 1 *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Ebony Knight'
- 2 *Chimonanthus praecox*
- 3 *Iris foetidissima*
- 4 *Carex morrowii* 'Variegata'
- 5 *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire'
- 6 *Salix gilgiana*
- 7 *Callicarpa japonica*
- 8 *Salix irrorata*
- 9 *Salix alba* 'Vittellina'
- 10 *Ilex verticillata* 'Afterglow'
- 11 *Cornus stolonifera* 'Flaviramea'
- 12 *Salix acutifolia* 'Pendulifolia'
- 13 *Salix melanostachys*
- 14 *Ilex verticillata* 'Southern Gentleman'
- 15 *Cyclamen hederifolium*
- 16 *Acorus gramineus* 'Ogon'

BED D

- 1 *Erica x darleyensis* cultivars
- 2 *Acer palmatum* 'Sango-kaku'
- 3 *Acer griseum*
- 4 *Helleborus x hybridus*
- 5 *Betula albo-sinensis* var. *septentrionalis*
- 6 *Brachyglottis* 'Sunshine'
- 7 *Helleborus* 'HGC Pink Frost'
- 8 *Rhododendron* 'Bubblegum'
- 9 *Daphne odora* 'Zuiko Nishiki'

BED E

- 1 *Rhododendron arboreum* hybrid
- 2 *Helleborus x hybridus*
- 3 *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Variegatus'
- 4 *Abeliophyllum distichum*
- 5 *Acer palmatum* 'Matsumurae'
- 6 *Acer tegmentosum* 'Joe Witt'
- 7 *Daphne bholua* 'Jacqueline Postil'
- 8 *Ruscus hypoglossum*
- 9 *Acer circinatum*

BED F

- 1 *Ilex verticillata* 'Red Sprite'
- 2 *Arctostaphylos* 'Howard McMinn'
- 3 *Magnolia stellata* 'Rosea'
- 4 *Erica x darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze'
- 5 *Edgeworthia chrysantha*
- 6 *Calluna vulgaris* 'Robert Chapman'
- 7 *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn'
- 8 *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* 'Vancouver Jade'

BED G

- 1 *Acer palmatum* 'Burgundy Lace'
- 2 *Acer palmatum* 'Kagiri-nishiki'
- 3 *Acer palmatum* form
- 4 *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilus*
- 5 *Galanthus nivalis*

BED H

- 1 *Acer palmatum* 'Murogawa'
- 2 *Epimedium* 'Black Sea'
- 3 *Ribes davidii*
- 4 *Adiantum venustum*
- 5 *Daphne bholua*
- 6 *Corylus maxima* 'Atropurpurea Superba'
- 7 *Danae racemosa*
- 8 *Rubus tricolor*
- 9 *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn'
- 10 *Callicarpa bodinieri* var. *gir.* 'Profusion'
- 11 *Acer palmatum* 'Japanese Sunrise'
- 12 *Rubus hypoglossum*
- 13 *Corylopsis sinensis* var. *calvescens*
- 14 *Corylopsis spicata*
- 15 *Rhod. mucronulatum* 'Cornell Pink'
- 16 *Rhododendron lutescens*
- 17 *Rhododendron barbatum*
- 18 *Rhododendron moupinense*
- 19 *Rhododendron strigillosum*
- 20 *Rhododendron* 'PJM Elite'
- 21 *Rhododendron* 'PJM Regal'
- 22 *Acer tegmentosum* 'Joe Witt'
- 23 *Acer palmatum* 'Japanese Sunrise'
- 24 *Ophiopogon planiscapus*

- 25 *Daphne odora* 'Zuiko Nishiki'
- 26 *Salix fargesii*
- 27 *Epimedium pinnatum* 'Thunderbolt'
- 28 *Helleborus* 'Golden Sunrise'
- 29 *Helleborus* 'HGC Cinnamon Snow'
- 30 *Helleborus* IVORY PRINCE ('Walhelivor')
- 31 *Epimedium x versicolor* 'Cherry Tart'
- 32 *Leucothoe fontanesiana* 'Nana'
- 33 *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Deben'
- 34 *Vib. x bodnantense* 'Charles Lamont'
- 35 *Bergenia* 'Ruby Elf'
- 36 *Salix* 'Swizzlestick'
- 37 *Rhododendron argipeplum*
- 38 *Rhod. mucronulatum* (dwarf form)
- 39 *Rhododendron* 'Landmark'
- 40 *Rhododendron dilatatum*
- 41 *Cyclamen coum*
- 42 *Daphne mezereum* f. *alba* 'Bowles's Variety'
- 43 *Viburnum farreri* 'Candidissimum'
- 44 *Stewartia sinensis*
- 45 *Pulmonaria* 'Sissinghurst White'

BED I

- 1 *Helleborus x hybridus*
- 2 *Viburnum tinus* 'Variegata'
- 3 *Ilex x altaclerensis* 'Hendersonii'
- 4 *Garrya elliptica* 'Siskiyou Jade'
- 5 *Elaeagnus pungens* 'Maculata'
- 6 *Camellia lutchuensis*

BED K

- 1 *Hamamelis japonica* var. *flavopurpurea*
- 2 *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *digyna*
- 3 *Viburnum tinus* 'Lucidum'
- 4 *Viburnum foetens*
- 5 *Camellia sasanqua* 'Shichi Fukujin'
- 6 *Camellia sasanqua* 'Mine-no-yuki'
- 7 *Stachyurus chinensis*
- 8 *Chimonanthus praecox*
- 9 *Viburnum farreri*
- 10 *Viburnum farreri* 'Nanum'
- 11 *Hamamelis japonica* var. *arborea*
- 12 *Camellia sasanqua* 'Setsugekka'
- 13 *Camellia sasanqua*
- 14 *Camellia sasanqua* 'Kokinran'
- 15 *Bergenia cordifolia* 'Rotblum'
- 16 *Polystichum setiferum* 'Rotundatum Cristatum'

BED L

- 1 *Vaccinium ovatum* 'Vacsid1'
- 2 *Abeliophyllum distichum*
- 3 *Berberis wilsoniae*
- 4 *Polystichum polybleperum*
- 5 *Viburnum tinus* 'Pink Prelude'
- 6 *Iris foetidus*
- 7 *Sarcococca confusa*
- 8 *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *digyna*
- 9 *Mahonia (Berberis)* 'Arthur Menzies'

- 10 *Ruscus aculeatus*
- 11 *Camellia x williamsii* 'Stryker 50-1-3'
- 12 *Camellia* 'Wabisuke'
- 13 *Camellia pitardii* 'Apple Blossom'
- 14 *Camellia x williamsii* 'Mary Christian'
- 15 *Camellia sasanqua*
- 16 *Camellia*. sp
- 17 *Polystichum setiferum* 'Rotundatum Cristatum'

BED M

- 1 *Pieris japonica* 'Mountain Fire'
- 2 *Hamamelis mollis*
- 3 *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *digyna*
- 4 *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Hiltingbury'
- 5 *Jasminum nudiflorum*
- 6 *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Jelena'
- 7 *Picea mariana* 'Nana'
- 8 *Liriope muscari* 'Big Blue'

- 9 *Cyclamen coum*
- 10 *Stewartia monadelph*
- 11 *Euonymus fortunei* var. *radicans* 'Gracilis'
- 12 *Garrya x issaquahensis* 'Carl English'
- 13 *Camellia sasanqua* 'Hinode-gumo'
- 14 *Hamamelis vernalis*
- 15 *Nandina domestica* 'Harbor Dwarf'
- 16 *Mahonia (Berberis) x media* 'Winter Sun'
- 17 *Sarcococca hookeriana* var. *humilis*
- 18 *X Fatshedera lizei*
- 19 *Sarcococca confusa*
- 20 *Camellia* 'Ack-Scent Sno'
- 21 *Camellia* 'Ack-Scent White'
- 22 *Camellia* 'Ack-Scent Star'
- 23 *Epimedium x perralchicum*
- 24 *Helleborus* 'HGC Josef Lempert'



BED O

- 1 *Epimedium x perralchicum*
- 2 *Mahonia (Berberis)* 'Arthur Menzies'
- 3 *Leucothoe fontanesiana* 'Rainbow'
- 4 *Polystichum setiferum* 'Rotundatum Cristatum'
- 5 *Rhododendron barbatum*
- 6 *Hamamelis x inter.* 'Winter Beauty'

KAEMPFERI BED

- 1 *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Fire Charm'
- 2 *Hamamelis japonica* 'Zuccariniana'
- 3 *Hamamelis mollis* 'Gold Crest'
- 4 *Cornus oblonga*
- 5 *Corylopsis gotoana*
- 6 *Corylopsis glabrescens*
- 7 *Rehderodendron macrocarpum*
- 8 *Mahonia (Berberis) pinnata* 'Ken Hartman'

Joseph A. Witt Winter Garden

-  = Tree from the plant list
-  = Large conifer, not listed

