

FOREVER EVERGREEN

The perfect plants for any time of year

When selecting plants for your landscape, it's important to consider all seasons. Since we do experience winter temperatures for a quarter of the year, it is especially key to find plants that can withstand the cold.

Although a broad term, evergreens keep their leaves during the winter months unlike deciduous plants. Evergreen shrubs come in a wide range of colors, leaf shapes, and textures that make it easy to add color and interest into the winter landscape.

Evergreen plants work well as anchors in the framework of your garden. The more common boxwood, yew, holly, and junipers are some of the best choices for a base. Once you have a good base of green, then bring in a few interesting plants — dwarf or weeping varieties, plants with variegated leaves, or ones with unique leaf color — to add character to your space.

VARIEGATED OR UNIQUE LEAF COLOR

It is possible to find almost any plant with a variegated leaf. Boxwoods and hollies have varieties with both green and white leaves. Certain rhododendrons have a maroon tint that adds a nice color to a garden. Fraser's

photinia leaves are bright red in the spring and change to a dark green as the plant grows.

DWARF VARIETIES

It is very common to find dwarf varieties of most plants out there. Some of the better varieties for use in a landscape include the vardar valley boxwood, dwarf English boxwood, and Japanese spreading yew.

FLOWERING EVER-GREEN SHRUBS

Many rhododendrons and some azaleas have leaves that last through winter (also flowering in early spring). Camellias are more common in the south and have become increasingly possible to grow in our area, as well. Depending on the variety, they will flower in late fall or early spring.

NOT SO COMMON EVER-GREEN SHRUBS

In the right location, a weeping plant such as a blue Atlas cedar, Norway spruce, or hemlock can make a wonderful accent. In a more formal garden, try topiary, the practice of training live perennial plants to form certain shapes, which shows off the artistic side of landscaping.

— Brian Wildeman

GET INSPIRED



PHOTO BY JEN VARNER

Felted Ball Garland

As the bitter cold of winter settles in, there are plenty of reasons to be merry. Namely, the colorful interiors that come with holiday decorating. Adding a touch of personal style to a Christmas decor staple, this do-it-yourself felted ball garland project brings out the craftiness in us all.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Wool roving
(comes in single colors)
Thread
Needle
Soap
Warm water

DIRECTIONS:

First, take a handful of wool roving and ball it loosely in your hand. Run it under warm water. After that, lather the wool with hand soap and begin rolling it with both hands. Continue adding water and soap until the fibers start to "felt." If you see small cracks where the ball

didn't come together, just wrap another layer of roving around the entire ball and begin the water, soap cycle again until firm. Once you have all of your felt balls rolled (I did about 30), let them sit until completely dry, which can take up to 24 hours. Then, take a needle and thread through each ball, spacing them about 1 to 2 inches apart. Once threaded, let the decorating begin. Hang your festive creation along fireplace mantels, on your Christmas tree, around door or window frames, or use it as an accent against any plain wall.

— Trisha Weber

OBJECT OF DESIRE



PHOTO BY DAKOTA MOODY

ERIC ADAMS' INFINITY CHAISE

Evansville artist Eric Adams describes his own work as "elegantly funky." What makes his work stand out is the unique mixes of material he uses in each art piece. "If done carefully," says Adams, "the material contrasts can produce something marvelously sensual." His Infinity Chaise, displayed at the Begley Art Source (915 Main St.), uses a titanium frame with leather upholstery and measures 34 inches tall, 24 inches wide, and 70 inches long. Priced at \$2,500, the piece makes a statement in any room.

— Dakota Moody