



Landscape Design

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Year-Round Garden Color in Five Easy Steps

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Right behind the mythical “no-maintenance yard,” year-round color is the second most requested garden attribute. The good news is year-round garden color IS something you can achieve. How? Here are my top five techniques:

First, add permanent color to your garden plantings by incorporating evergreen shrubs that have colored foliage. For example, take advantage of the purple in many *Loropetalum chinense* (Fringe Flower) varieties, the white trim on *Pittosporum tobira* ‘Variegata’ (Variegated Tobira), the lime green in *Helichrysum petiolare* ‘Limelight’ (Licorice Plant) or the rainbows of color found in countless *Phormium* (New Zealand Flax) varieties.

Second, punch up your now-established color base with those more traditional seasonal blooms. My trick here is to incorporate Australian shrubs like *Grevillea* and *Correa* (Australian Fuchsia), many of which bloom during our winter months.

Third, add knock-out fall color with eye-catching deciduous trees and shrubs like *Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese Pistache) and *Viburnum opulus* (European Cranberry Bush) varieties.

Fourth, when you’re looking for garden color, make sure you think outside of the flower box. Give your landscape a color punch with accents like pottery, garden art, a painted chair or a color-washed flower box.

Finally, think of your yard as an outside room and look at the “walls.” Nothing says the garage wall needs to be the same color as the house. Paint a fence or two to go along with it, and you’ve created a garden with year-round color.