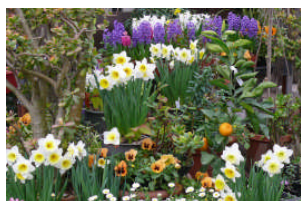


*e - articles*

edited by  
*Dale Harvey*

for more e-articles and information visit [www.daleharvey.com](http://www.daleharvey.com)



# Winter Gardens

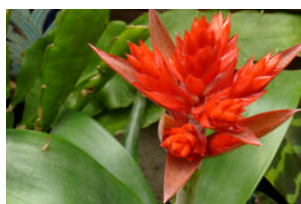
*Here is how to make a winter garden*

September 1 marks the calendar beginning of spring but the truth of the matter for most Gardeners in cool temperate climates is that the first real "spring days" are still some weeks away. While Subtropical Gardeners have been experiencing spring-like days for some time and it shows throughout the garden.



Wise gardeners know that there is a special 'tonic' almost guaranteed to lift the spirits, rekindle hope, and inspire renewed motivation even in the face of relentless pounding late season storms. The tonic: a bright winter garden. The sparkle it can bring proves it to be a powerful medicine.

Even a few choice flowering plants in containers on the windowsill, a cluster of pots by the back door or a small winter-sheltered garden bed can have as much impact as a field of spring wildflowers.



Hardy winter flowers often are natives of drier regions where they naturally flower at this time of year when weather is both cooler and damper. Others are hardy species that produce flowers under adversely cool or cold conditions and short growing seasons.

Winter flowers enjoy sunshine and warmth as much as the rest of us. Successful winter gardens are carefully planned to benefit from all available sunshine and warmth. In colder climates winter flowering species are limited and will start flowering later in the season.



Mild Subtropical climates can maintain quite diverse and attractive displays all winter. As day length and temperature increase so does flowering; often reaching a peak around late winter and early spring. Advanced seedlings or instant color pots can bring an immediate splash of colour and fragrance to brighten a winter-weary garden.

for more information and pictures visit [www.daleharvey.com](http://www.daleharvey.com)