I Keep Rhododendron

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I keep Rhododendron and Kalmia (Mountain Laurel) out of my site line in winter. Their turned in leaves sadden me but then there are other evergreens that look wonderful all year if given a somewhat sheltered sight. Otto Luyken—the Cherry Laurel, and Skimmia Japonica keep their dark glossy leaves all year round and have fragrance too. Cytisus (Broom) and Kerria Japonica stay bright green and Daphne ‘Carol Mackie’ keeps its variegated leaves most of the winter. A winter flower arrangement of these with Lonicera Fragrantissima (has deliciously sweetly scented flowers), Viburnum bodnantense ‘Dawn’ and an early Hamemelis (Witch Hazel) will keep you going until your forced Forsythia and early bulbs begin. PS: None of the shrubs mentioned are eaten by my deer herd.

Joan Sargent, a longtime member and master gardener who passed away in August 2012; wrote about 30 gardening columns for NCBL through the years for our newsletter. We are reprinting them again.

Above, Skimmia Japonica white, and below the Rubella.

Otto Luyken, the Cherry Laurel is a dwarf form of the regular cherry laurel, idea for smaller

Above, Daphne ‘Carol Mackie’, the bloom and inset, the leaves.

Bottom right, Viburnum bodnantense ‘Dawn’. Leaves turn red in the fall.