NANDINA domestica

Nandina domestica is an evergreen plant that changes color as the season progresses. Many cultivars have small flowers in late May to early June and then produce vibrant red berries in the fall. This plant ranges in size from two feet to eight feet and is grown in USDA hardiness zones 6-10. Some cultivars are hardy to zone 5. Nandina grows well in sun or part shade and generally needs no pruning, but can spread by underground runners. Nandina is very toxic to birds and animals and is used in deer and rabbit resistant plantings.

My emphasis today is on the dwarf cultivars because they can be used in winter pots as well as an edging for planting beds. These plants add color to the winter landscape and containers. Three cultivars of note are: Fire Power (2 feet to 2 ½ feet high and is very red in the fall and winter), Nana (used for a low hedge with foliage turning from lime green to crimson), and Obsession (2 feet to 2 ½ feet with scarlet foliage). These can be combined with evergreens, grasses and perennials to give a soft colorful shape to a winter container or garden plot. One very nice characteristic of this plant is that you can trim it to fit your size requirements.