

# Winter Scent Garden

Nothing evokes thoughts of spring and summer better than bright flowers and beautiful floral perfumes. Winter though, is seen as the time of the year where there is no real colour or scents in the garden to brighten it up. In fact, the opposite is true, with some amazing flowers and perfumes to fill your garden in the depths of winter. We have chosen five of the best that when planted together will give you a garden to brighten up the dreariest of winter days.



# Wintersweet

Originating in China, Wintersweet are thought of as a shrub but in fact is a small deciduous tree that can grow up to 5m tall. Through their growing season they produce leaves as their only ornamental feature and drop them in autumn. What is special about Wintersweet is that in the middle of winter they burst forth with small bright yellow flowers with a strong sweet fragrance. Their petals are unusual as they are waxy, butter yellow with a hint of purple. They have a surprising powerful fragrance that some say is the most beautiful of the fragrant flowers. After they have bloomed they will fade away and drop, leaving the tree in a deciduous state until new growth begins in spring.

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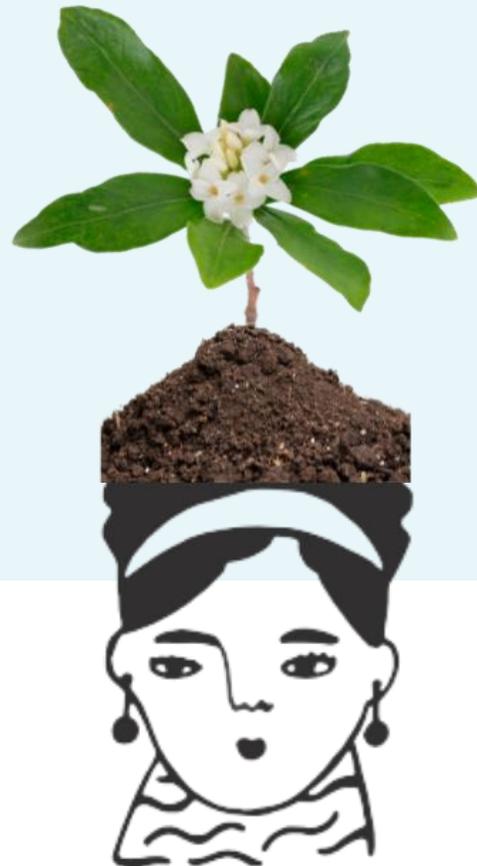
# Daphne

Daphne is one of winter's most well-known scents in New Zealand's ornamental gardens. Daphne is an evergreen winter-flowering shrub that grows up to 1.5m tall - depending on the cultivar - and is happiest in partly shaded areas in the garden. They prefer slightly acidic soil that is high in organic content. They dislike growing in wet boggy conditions. They do their best in cooler temperate regions and tolerate light frosts well.

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# Witch Hazel

Witch hazels are a family of showier deciduous shrubs, producing flowers in harlequin colours of orange, red and yellow. They have a sweet and spicy fragrance and bloom after the shortest day, providing colour and perfume as the days begin to lengthen. Probably the most well-known is Chinese Witch Hazel, which is also the most fragrant. It is prized not only for its colour and scent, but its medicinal uses as well. Smaller cultivars are suitable for planting in pots and make a stunning addition to any courtyard or patio.

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# Sweet Box

Sweet box is a plant that comes alive with colour and scent in winter when everything else is going to sleep. Another great thing about sweet box is that they are incredibly hardy and thrive in conditions that are not ideal for a lot of other plants. You can plant them under larger trees, around buildings in dry, shaded areas, and they will be happy. Their flowers are highly scented and can fill a room with perfume. They are perfect for growing in containers or close to a door, where on warm winter days you can open up and let the aroma flow into your house. Sweet box is closely related to the common Buxus used in hedging, however it has sweeter smelling winter flowers.

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