

window box recipes *for winter*

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by Jay

As the cold days of winter approach, there's no reason your window boxes should look empty and drab. Any small 1-gallon evergreen will fit perfectly in most window boxes and give your home a welcoming and relaxing look. Pinecones and berries give some interest without looking too holiday specific. If you want a holiday look, you can easily add ribbons and small lights. Small evergreens require little care in the winter as they become dormant. Just make sure to water them well just before the first hard frost and they should be fine until spring. In the spring, when it's too early for annuals, place pansies and spring flowers in between the evergreens for a fresh look and splash of color. This will keep your boxes appealing until after the frost date when you can then change to bold colors of summer. Don't be afraid to experiment with some of your own ideas or try some of mine listed below. — Shauna Lindsey, Staff Horticulturist at Flower Framers



winter welcome

This is a traditional planting and very easy to decorate with mini lights and real or artificial swags or bows.

Alberta Spruce — *Picea glauca* 'Conica'
Boxwood — *Buxus x* 'Green Gem'
Artificial berries & boughs

Alternate the Alberta Spruce and the Boxwood. Add artificial berries to the shrubs and place the boughs across the front of the box.



emerald glow

This planting gives a soft look to your home for winter. The barberry will lose their leaves late, but the crimson twigs left will add color and texture. Pinecones and artificial berries also add some highlights.

Emerald Arborvitae — *Thuja occidentalis* 'Emerald'
Crimson barberry — *Berberis thunbergii* 'Crimson Pygmy'
Artificial berries & boughs

Alternate the Arborvitae and Barberry. Add the berries & pinecones in between if desired.



winter blues

Blue toned shrubs give a soft frosty look to your boxes which is especially attractive in winter moonlight. The addition of white frosted berries set the blues off nicely.

Canadian Hemlock — *Tsuga Canadensis*
Blue Star Juniper — *Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star'
Blue Rug Juniper — *Juniperus horizontalis*
White artificial berries and frosted dried eucalyptus

Place the Hemlock in the center of the box. Add Blue Stars on either side of the Hemlock to fill out the box to each end. Finish the ends with the Blue Rugs, which will hang over the box slightly for a nice draping effect. Add white berries and eucalyptus in between for a finishing touch.



winter purity

This one is somewhat of a modern look. The Pieris will bloom small white clusters of flowers in the spring.

Emerald Arborvitae — *Thuja occidentalis* 'Little Giant'
Japanese Pieris — *Pieris japonica* 'Purity'
Blue Rug Juniper — *Juniperus horizontalis*

Place the Arborvitae in the center of the box. Add Pieris on each side of the Arborvitae. Finish to each end of the box with the Blue Rugs. Add some red berries at the front for some extra color.