

Other Suggested Cutback Woody Plants at Chanticleer

At Chanticleer, we grow other cut-back woody plants that deserve a place in the garden.

- ***Cornus sericea* ‘Bud’s Yellow** (sometimes listed under *Cornus alba* and spelled as ‘Budd’s Yellow)

A focal point in the Tennis Court Garden and as a seasonal shrub in the Teacup Garden, ‘Bud’s Yellow’ produces bright yellow twigs in winter. It can reach up to 5-8’ tall, forming a twiggy framework of medium to dark green leaves. ‘Bud’s Yellow’ is supposedly less disease prone than some of other dogwoods selected for their stems.



- ***Cornus sericea* ‘Cardinal’**

Bred by the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, ‘Cardinal’ is another cut-back shrub used in drifts in the Tennis Court Garden. Lighting up the colder months, its stems transform from coral in fall to bright red in winter. Dark green leaves follow with clusters of creamy white flowers that attract butterflies. These leaves will turn anywhere from yellow to dark red in fall. At maturity, it can reach 8-10’ tall and 8-10’ wide.

Cut the stems flush to the ground in early spring.

- ***Paulownia tomentosa* (Empress Tree)**

Considered a weed tree in urban areas, *Paulownia tomentosa* was originally imported to US for its wood that is prized in Japan for ceremonial chests and furniture. While the purple foxglove-like flowers are exotic and beautiful, the tree unfortunately is a prodigious self-sower. However, treating this Chinese native as a cut back plant curbs its reproductive tendencies by preventing the flowers. In addition, larger heart-shaped leaves are produced and create a tropical effect in our temperate climate. We have trained one through one of the 'windows' in the Ruin Garden and in the past used it as part of the subtropical plantings at Chanticleer House and Tennis Court Garden.

Cut the stems flush to the ground or to the desired height for effect.

- ***Salix alba* 'Britzensis' (Redstem Willow)**

A male cultivar propagated from seed in Britz, Germany, 'Britzensis' forms the centerpiece of the Serpentine in the quieter months when the beds are not planted with edible or economic crops. Planted to mimic the olive trees not hardy here, 'Britzensis' has leaves with blue-green undersides that give a shimmery and silvery effect. To drive the semblance more to olive trees, we train the branches down by hanging weights and weaving them together. The similarity to olive trees ends when it sheds its leaves in autumn and reveals the outstanding bold red stems. 'Britzensis' is best pollarded and coppiced rather than permitted to grow unpruned.

Cut the stems to the desired height for effect.



- ***Salix* 'Flame' (Flame Willow)**

Discovered by the Bergeston Nursery in Minnesota, 'Flame' has brilliant red to orange stems that are maintained through regular hard pruning. The yellow green catkins, which appear in late spring, are a beautiful contrast against the green leaves and the colorful stems. Best in full sun and moist soil, 'Flame' can reach up to 12' with a spread of 8'. Although some references place it as a cultivar of the white willow (*Salix alba*), it is considered to be a putative hybrid of *S. alba* 'Britzensis' and *S. x fragilis*. We use 'Flame' en masse in the Tennis Court Garden where Narcissus 'Precocious' echoes the stem color in its orange trumpet color.

Cut the stems flush to the ground in early spring.