

BERRY BONANZA

> While less juicy and delicious than their fruity counterparts, ornamental berries are no less appealing to the eyes. Available in an assortment of colors, shapes, and sizes, they complement almost any flower and foliage and provide texture, which makes a design more intriguing — and increases their perceived value. Better yet: They're very user friendly (just drop a few stems in a vase or bouquet sleeve), so even novice designers can make them look good — a huge advantage during the busy holiday season.

Berries' popularity grew in the 1990s with the rise of mixed bouquets. "They give a good base to bouquets," says Peter Kolster, whose family business in the Netherlands, Kolster BV, breeds plants and flowers sold in more 90 countries. "We see demand for certain flowers go up and down, but berries (especially seasonal ones like rosehips, snowberries, and ilex) are always wanted."

Hypericum, grown largely in South America and Africa, can be sourced year round. Rosehips, snowberries, and ilex are available in the fall, with the latter extending through December. All boast a strong vase life — especially ilex — which can last well past two to three weeks.



'PEACH TOP' HYPERICUM
Sun Valley Farms

Many berries, including ilex, rosehips, and some snowberries, preserve nicely too. "I have rosehips in vases from last autumn," says Kolster. "They're dried but still beautiful."

Here are a few berries that will make your designs even more appealing. 🌿

Katie Vincent is the senior contributing writer and editor of *Floral Management*.



'TASTY ORANGE' HYPERICUM
Fifty Flowers



RED ILEX
Sun Valley Farms



'COCO RIO' HYPERICUM
Fifty Flowers



'AUTUMN PRIDE' ILEX
Sun Valley Farms

Fresh Choices



'MAGICAL ROYAL PRINCESS' HYPERICUM
Kolster BV



'MAGICAL DEEP PURPLE' CALLICARPA
Kolster BV



'MAGICAL TEMPTATION' SNOWBERRY
Kolster BV



'MAGICAL GREEN POWER' HYPERICUM
Kolster BV



'MAGICAL MILKY WAY' SNOWBERRY
Kolster BV



'MAGICAL SNOW QUEEN' CALLICARPA
Kolster BV



GOLD ILEX
Oregon Flowers



'MAGICAL CITRONELLA' ILEX
Kolster BV



'MAGICAL DAYDREAM' ILEX
Kolster BV



'MAGICAL AMARANTH' ILEX
Kolster BV



'MAGICAL MIRACLE' ROSEHIP HYBRID
Kolster BV



'MAGICAL AUTUMN'S GLORY' ROSEHIPS
Kolster BV



RED ILEX
Oregon Flowers



'MAGICAL DELIGHT' ROSEHIP HYBRID
Kolster BV