

Garden Thyme



Monthly Newsletter of the East Central Alabama Master Gardeners Association

October, 2014

From Our President, Ann Hammond...

Seems as if fall has arrived. It has been wonderful to have a reprieve from the heat. I did not realize how many gardeners are in dire need of rain until our visit with Hayes Jackson. His plants were very much deprived. I have been blessed with rain but many areas have not been. Let's hope fall will bless them

This year is passing. My term as president is fast closing. If you or someone you know would like to take a turn please let me know. I don't want to pass anyone by. If I can do it anyone can!

Don't forget to get your plants ready for our fall plant sale. See you there.

He changes times and seasons. Daniel 2:22

Ann



October ECAMGA Meeting

Our meeting this month will be the last meeting before our Fall Plant Sale. Make plans to attend, find out what needs to be done to help with set-up and with the actual sale. Get those plants that you've been saving for the plant sale all prettied up. This is our first Fall sale – let's make it one to be proud of.

DUES

Our 2015 yearly dues are now due. They are \$30/person for 2015, which is the same as last years amount. We have to have our dues paid to AMGA by the end of the year, so help us pay them on time to the state by having your dues paid by the November 17, 2014 meeting. That is our final meeting for the year.

FALL PLANT SALE

The time has come to make the final preparations for our Fall Plant Sale

SET-UP

Friday, October 24th, 4-6 p.m.

Kiwanis Park

Brings table, chairs, PLANTS

Be prepared to help price plants, etc.

SATURDAY, October 25th

Sale opens at 8:00 so be there at 7:00

To finish set-up and get ready to

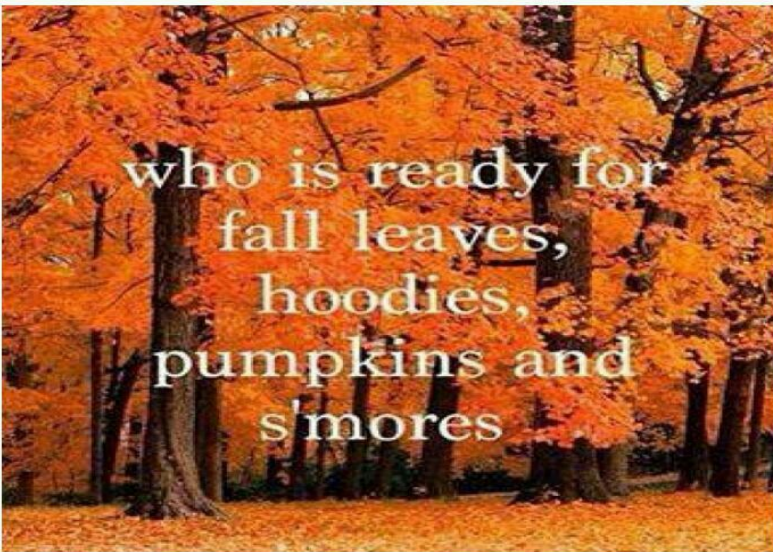
SELL, SELL, SELL!

Our final monthly meeting of 2014 will be November 17, 1:30 at Ava UMC. This meeting will be our election of officers so if you or someone you knows wants to serve as an officer for our MG association speak up and let us know. We will also be sharing our holiday pot luck meal. Also, put your thinking caps on and come up with some ideas for our 2015 "field trips".

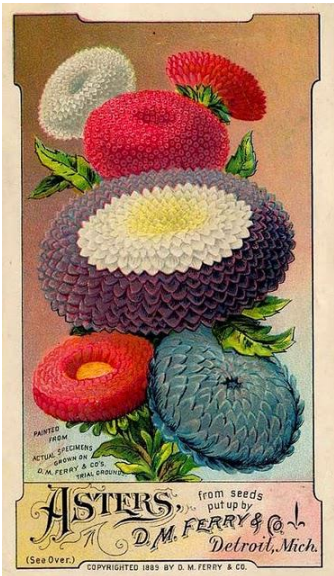




October Celebrations
 Birthdays
 John Terrano - 10/1
 Laurie Howe - 10/23
 Lonnie Smith – 10/23
 Mary Lynn Chandler – 10/25
 Anniversaries
 Syble and Ralph Benefield – 10/28



October is
 National Cookie Month
 National Dessert Month
 National Apple Month
 and
 October 3 – National Caramel Custard Month
 October 5 – National Apple Betty Day
 October 8 – National Fluffernutter Day
 October 9 – National Dessert Day
 October 10 – National Angel Food Cake Day
 October 14 – National Chocolate Covered Insect Day
 October 16 – World Food Day
 October 17 – National Pasta Day
 October 18 – National Chocolate Cupcake Day
 October 22 – National Nut Day
 October 23 – National Boston Cream Pie Day
 October 24 – National Bologna Day
 October 25 – National Greasy Foods Day
 October 27 – National Potato Day
 October 28 – National Chocolate Day
 October 30 – National Candy Corn Day
 October 31 – National Caramel Apple Day



Two Weeping Yaupons and eight Fire Nandina have been planted. The Smart Yard is looking “smart”! Drive by and check it out, pull some weeds, utilize the rain barrel! This is our public garden so show your pride!



Need a Soil Test?
 Contact your ACES agent for information.



BASIL

by Gary and Janet Smith

We are quite pleased with the reception our first herbal article in the September 2014 "Garden Thyme." We hope you will also enjoy the second helping.

It is difficult to imagine Italian cuisine without pesto, or many Asian dishes without basil steamed in the rice. This is especially true of Thai dishes.

Basil, *Ocimum basilicum*, is a strongly aromatic member of the Lamiaceae (mint) family. There are several flavors of basil that lend their signature aria and flavor to so many wonderful foods. Sweet basils, like Genovese, are well recognized constituents in Italian dishes, while the more anise flavored Thai and Siam basils give Thai, Laos, and Cambodian dishes their flavor. It's hard to imagine Thai dishes without steamed Jasmine rice with Thai basil wilted in the final stages.

Like Thai and Laos foods, Indian dishes also commonly feature basil and hot peppers. They are not only included for their flavor, but their nutritional qualities. The antioxidants in basil help clean and balance.

The tulsi or holy basil, *Ocimum sanctum*, is an important symbol in the Hindu religious tradition and is worshiped in the morning and evening by Hindus at large.

The same aromatic oils that give basil its flavor notes also contribute to its medicinal properties. Oh yes, basil is another common culinary herb that has healing and therapeutic properties.

Sweet basils contain eugenol, which gives them a clove scent, lemon and lime basil's overtone of citrus aroma comes from a greater presence of the aldehyde *citral* and limonene, which gives actual lemon peel its scent. African blue basil's strong camphor smell is the result of camphor and camphene in higher proportions. Anise or Thai basil contains anethole, the same chemical that makes anise smell like licorice.

All basils are antibacterial, antiviral, and antispasmodic. They repel insects and, failing that, if you are bitten or stung by a venomous snake or insect, a poultice of basil has a centuries-old reputation for drawing poison to it (so does plantain, a weed commonly found in our yards, but that's another story). Eugenol is a potent topical



www.healadvice.com

antiseptic and analgesic (eugenol is still used by dentists and is popular over the counter remedies for tooth and gum infections and discomfort). The herb, when used in tea, has been used to relieve stomach and PMS spasms, help clear lung congestion, and reduce fevers. Farmers who are plagued by four-legged pests from bunnies to Bambi have found that many wild herbivore animals dislike basil's scent and won't walk through a basil border to get to some of their favorite treats.

Tulsi (Holy) Basil is popularly used in ayurvedic medicine to treat common colds and influenza, stomach disorders, inflammation, heart disease, some poisoning cases, and malaria. (Interesting side note for Alabama farmers - Holy Basil has been under study at Alabama A&M for several years as a potentially profitable specialty crop for small acreage Alabama farmers).

It is easy to grow in our area, almost too easy. Like mint, which it is related to, it will spread like wildfire from cuttings or grow out of existing patches. It self-seeds prolifically as well.

Genus: *Ocimum*
Family: Lamiaceae
Category: Tender annual, six to eight hours of bright light daily, even moisture, fertilize sparingly.



photo www.flickr.com

According to *Cunningham's Encyclopedia of Magical Herbs*, "Basil brings wealth to those who carry it in their pockets, and is used to attract customers to a place of business by placing some in the cash register or on a doorsill."

FALL HAPPENINGS

Just when we think we're getting a breather from summer gardening there seems to be a plethora of events beckoning us to "come on out, check out what else you need to see, do and/or learn". Here's a list:

OCTOBER

10 – Fall Gardening Extravaganza hosted by Tallapoosa County Extension Office and Tallapoosa County Master Gardeners. Held at Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City. \$15/person registration (includes lunch) with deadline of October 3rd. [4 CEUs for full day.](#)

14-16 – Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, GA. An agricultural-based trade show held at Spense Field in Moultrie.

17-18 – 2014 Fall Flower and Garden Fest held at the Truck Crop Experimental Station in Crystal Springs, MS. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. both days. If interested in attending contact Ann, Martha or Sheila for more information.

18 – Loachapoka Syrup Sop held in Loachapoka, AL (by Auburn). Volunteers are always needed and volunteer hours can be earned. If interested in volunteering contact Dani Carroll for more information. It's a great time to just go and walk around!

20 - Regular monthly meeting of ECAMGA , 1:30 at Ava UMC.

25 – **ECAMGA PLANT SALE** at Kiwanis Park in Wedowee.

NOVEMBER

13 – Super Dooper Hypertufa – Learn to make a lightweight concrete garden pot. Take it home once it cures. Materials provided. Dress for the mess! \$10/person. Cane Creek Gardens at McClellan. Registration required.

As you can see, the fall schedule is busy. If you see something you're interested in attending contact Sheila at 256-354-2188 or sheilabolen@hotmail.com for more information.

2014 Officers

President Ann Hammond
ashmmnd@gmail.com
Vice President Vickie Stapler
vickiestapler@yahoo.com
Secretary Sheila Bolen
sheilabolen@hotmail.com
Treasurer Almeta Partin
almeta@teleclipse.net
Historian Syble Benefield



All Bugs Good and Bad 2014 Webinar Series



Photo Credit: Jerry A. Payne, USDA-ARS, bugwood.org

Where Have All the
Honey Bees Gone? Hope
for the Future

November 7, 2014
2:00 PM EST

Dr. John Skinner

Please join us for this webinar series for information you can use about good and bad insects. Webinars will be on the first Friday of each month at 2:00 PM EST.

Why do we have fewer honeybees these days? What caused the decline? What can we do to help? These questions and more will be answered in this webinar presented by Dr. John Skinner, a Professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at the University of Tennessee.

For connection information, visit: <https://learn.extension.org/events/1375>.

For more information on the series visit:
<http://www.extension.org/pages/70120>.



Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities

Brought to you by these extension
Communities of Practice: Imported Fire Ants,
Urban IPM, Bee Health, Invasive Species, Gardens and Landscapes &
Disasters.



Options for photos: Jim Oost, BugNet, Insect.org, Jerry A. Payne, USDA-ARS, Insect.org,
Baker, Trivedi, DC Shaw, USDA-ARS, Insect.org, USDA-ARS, Insect.org, David Crippen,
Michigan State University, Insect.org, Shigehiko Kawanishi, Georgia Southern University, Insect.org.

"God made a beautiful garden
With lovely flowers strown,
But one straight, narrow pathway
That was not overgrown.
And to this beautiful garden
He brought mankind to live,
And said "To you, my children,
These lovely flowers I give.
Prune ye my vines and fig trees,
With care my flowers tend,
But keep the pathway open
Your home is at the end."

God's Garden"
— Robert Frost

Remember our "Garden Friends" program. If you need help with your garden let us know.

Nature's Harvest

As September closes out most of our gardening season here in Birmingham, I have been hearing a usual sound of autumn hitting the roof of my mountain cabin. Hosts of hickories and oaks have begun dropping their babies to the ground in a plethora of acorns and nuts.

According to one of Extension's publications; "Management of Hardwood Forests for Timber in Alabama", we have around 200 different hardwood species in Alabama, including 28 oaks and 8 hickories. Because Southern Pines dominate our timber industries, many people tend to overlook hardwoods. However, based on US Forest Service inventory research, hardwoods comprise the majority of Alabama's standing timber volume. Here at my Talladega cabin I have black, blackjack, cherrybark, chestnut (mountain), northern red, post, southern red, water, white, and willow oaks. I also have mockernut, pignut, and shagbark hickories along with a whole host of additional hardwoods.

Forest wildlife value these trees for food and shelter. Most of the food value is found in the leaves and seeds. Leaves are eaten mainly by insects that in turn are eaten by other creatures. The seeds are eaten by both small and large alike. How many times have we walked through the woods, picked up seemingly good acorns, only to later find a caterpillar in them? Yes, insects feed on seeds too! Most often, when we in Alabama think of acorns and nuts, we think of deer, turkey, and squirrels. Squirrels need large trees to survive. Squirrels live off the seed source from the trees, and especially like hickories, oaks, and pines. Deer and turkey are different. They require a variety of habitats. They like both field and forest. During the fall, acorns and nuts provide the needed fat in their diets to help see them through the lean days of winter.



Here is an interesting side note; within the white oak family (oaks that produce white lumber) the acorns mature in one year, while those in the red oak family (pink lumber) take two years to produce mature acorns. Also, white oak family acorns tend to be larger than the red oak acorns. Humans can also consume acorns, but they are not as tasty as your cultivated pecans. The meat inside the shell contains higher levels of tannic acid than what we are use to. Native Americans used to collect acorns from white and chestnut oaks along with American chestnuts, black walnut, and wild pecan as a food source for the long winter months.

Autumn is my favorite season of the year. Cool Canadian air, leaves a changing on the hillsides, and college football. It began three weeks ago with a thud on my roof. This season offers many blessings.

written by Andrew J. Baril of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, C. Beaty Hanna Horticulture & Environmental Center, which is based at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

photos from www.flickr.com



iPhones, Apps, Blogs and Gardening

As I grow older (still haven't figured out how to stop that!) I am more amazed at the technology of today and how it keeps changing at such a rapid pace. I remember when I got my first cell phone and all I could do was make phone calls, no texting, no cameras, and no internet!!! Now you have the internet at your disposal in your telephone AND there are apps and blogs for everything! So I've looked at some of the apps and blogs out there and thought I'd mention a few. Please bear in mind, I've not used them, yet, but I've read reviews and talked with folks – check them out. I will be putting some of them on my iPhone!

APPS

- Leafsnap – electronic field guide, free in itunes, for iPhone/iPad; www.leafsnap.com
- GardenCompass – Plant/disease identifier, free in itunes, for iPhone/iPad, Android; www.gardencompass.com
- SOW – a planting guide for Alabama by ACES, free in itunes, iPhone, Android
- SmartYards from ACES, free in itunes, iPhone/iPad
- Bugs in the Garden – Bug identification, \$0.99 in itunes, iPhone/iPad
- Fertilize – fertilizer calculator by ACES, free in itunes, iPhone/iPod
- BeeSmart Pollinator Gardener – plant a garden that butterflies, hummingbird and bees will love as much as you do, free in itunes, iPhone/iPad

There are thousands of apps and blogspots out there. If any of you have a favorite/s tell us about them.

GARDENING BLOGS

- GardeningGoneWild.com – collaboration of 4 gardeners with guest posts
- mrbrownthumb.blogspot.com – how-to blog with good photos to illustrate the idea
- theyarden.com - a must read for anyone interested in growing their own fruits, herbs and vegetables either in a community garden or at home
- TheCasualGardener.Blogspot.com - great blog for learning about mixing ornamental and edible plants
- SeasonalWisdom.com - good all-purpose blog with a leaning toward edibles
- theessentialherb.blogspot.com



Photo from www.pollinator



Jack and I had to make a very early morning trip to Birmingham this week. On our way back we stopped for breakfast (guess where) and we were both impressed with the use of fall flowers/colors used in the landscaping there. Thought I'd share it with you.

Photo by Sheila Bolen, taken at Cracker Barrel, exit 144 on I-20

Those funny webs in the trees? Webworms

This time of year, you've probably seen webbing in trees, while driving down the side of the road or in your own landscape. This webbing announces the presence of fall webworms.

These worms have been known to web in more than 85 types of trees in the United States. In our area, they're most commonly seen in oak, pecan, cherry, willow and river birch trees.

Fall webworm caterpillars are covered with long white to yellowish tan hairs. Two races of webworms occur in North America, the black headed and red headed.

Caterpillars of the black headed race are light greenish-yellow to pale yellow with two rows of distinct black tubercles. Caterpillars of the redheaded race are tan in color with orange to reddish tubercles.

Fall webworms become very visible in late summer and fall, when they create silken nests around leaves at the ends of branches.

This pest overwinters in the pupal stage. Pupae are usually in the ground but can be located in old nest remains, under loose bark and in leaf litter. The adults emerge from late May into July, then eggs are laid on the undersides of leaves in early to midsummer.

The eggs hatch in about a week, then the caterpillars feed for six weeks before dropping to the ground to pupate into adults, then more eggs are laid and the cycle continues. In the South, there may be as many as four generations.

All of the feeding occurs within the webworms' silken nests. The caterpillars remain inside the webbing; if food runs out, new foliage is encased.

This pest usually eats leaves late in the season, and the nests are generally concentrated to limited areas. Because of this, very little real damage is done to most trees.

However, the nests can look very unsightly, and in Southern states, where several generations of attack can severely defoliate trees, control measures are needed.

How to control webworms

Webworms tend to go through periodic population explosions. Outbreaks can occur every four to seven years, and may last for two to three years. Then natural control agents greatly reduce the activity. In the meantime, here are five ways to control webworms:

MECHANICAL CONTROL –

Removal of nests: Small nests can be pruned out of small-to medium-sized trees. Monitor trees early to detect the nests when only several leaves are involved. These small nests can be easily crushed. Do not burn or torch the nests in trees as this may do additional damage to the tree.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL – encourage predators and parasites: More than 80 species of parasites and predators have been identified in North America. Social wasps (yellow jackets and paper nest wasps), birds, predatory stink bugs and parasitic flies and wasps are the most important.

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL –

Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt): The bacterial insecticide Bt is quite effective against fall webworms if it is applied when the larvae are small. Use formulations with UV protectants and thoroughly cover leaves nest to nests. As these leaves are incorporated into the nest and eaten, the Bt will be ingested.

CHEMICAL CONTROL –

standard insecticide sprays: Locate nests early and merely wet the nest and cover nearby foliage. As the larvae walk on the nest surface or incorporate new foliage, they will contact the insecticide. Second applications may be needed if additional generations occur.



Photo from www.flickr.com

CHEMICAL CONTROL –

Systemic insecticides: Extensive nests may occur in tall trees that are difficult to spray with ground equipment. These trees can often be treated with translocated systemic insecticides that are applied to the soil for root uptake.



Photo from www.goingtoseedinzone5.wordpress.com

By Danielle Carroll Regional Extension Agent II, Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

from *The Anniston Star*, October 5, 2014

Wild About Our Back Yards AMGA 2014 Fall Seminar

On September 16th, Wyoleen Sikes, Jack and I attended the AMGA 2014 Fall Seminar at Guntersville State Park. We had a great visit on the ride up and back and while there we heard four great speakers.

Patti Donnellan spoke on All About Eagles and what a fount of information she was on Eagles. Things I didn't know about Eagles – they stand 2-3 feet tall, and have and on average their wingspan is 6 foot; they fly at 40mph, dive at 100mph; live 30 years or longer; they mate for life and return to the same nest every year; their nests can weigh 2000 pounds! Both parents incubate their eggs for 35 days and 1-3 eaglets will be born in January. There are approximately 7000 feathers on an adult eagle and each talon can hold five pound by itself. June 28, 2007 the Interior Department took Bald Eagles off the endangered species list. In winter 2006-2007 there were 77 confirmed nests in Alabama with Marshall County having 18 of those nests – the most of any county; between 700-1000 eagles winter-over in Alabama. In January and February, 2015 Lake Guntersville State Park holds “Eagles Awareness Weekend” every weekend. The programs are free and open to the public.

Harvey Cotton, co-author of *Easy Gardens For the South*, Vice President & Chief Horticulturist at the Huntsville botanical Garden spoke on his book subject – Easy Gardens For the South. He is a wealth of information on gardening in general and especially in Alabama. His book is a very useful and user friendly source for gardening.

David Moore, Publisher and Editor of *Good Life Magazine*, spoke on Nature Calls: Photographing your Backyard and Beyond. I love taking pictures, my family would say I'm obsessed with it – little do they know!!!! What I took away from David is to always pay attention to your perspective. Do you want to photograph kids from up above them or from their level?; Do you want to photograph the bottom of objects (other than the rare occasion), if not then try to get on the same level of them. The object you want to photograph does not have to be in the center of the picture – frame your pictures to show the main “object” as part of the background not just in front of the background – perspective.

George Bennett, President of Bennett Nurseries, Inc, in Huntsville was full of GREAT ideas on how to make your landscape interesting. George is a firm believer in using native plants, trees and shrubs and his nursery is full of them. He brought many natives to the seminar and I must say, they were very interesting.

All-in-all it was a very educational day, lots of great speakers, good food, wonderful fellowship and LOTS of door prizes. Wyoleen won a pot of Amaryllis! I do have to say though, that one of the best things of the whole day was looking out the HUGE windows of the Goldenrod Room at the Guntersville State Park Lodge and seeing this

Photo and story by Sheila Bolen



Tennessee River, Lake Guntersville

Gardening in the month of October

Here are a few gardening tasks and projects that you can do this month to help keep your garden looking it's best for the rest of this season, and prepare for the long cold winter and upcoming spring.

Fall Care of Annuals, Perennials, and Bulbs

Right now spring may seem a long way off, and it's not really on your mind.

Remember the feeling you got as you went into your garden last spring, and there it was... the first new growth of the new year??? Felt great, didn't it?

There is still time left to plant perennial seeds and bulbs!

With a little effort at fall planting time, you will speed the timing of that first new growth by as much as a month. During the fall months, after soil temperature drops below 60°F., the bulbs of spring flowering Tulips, Daffodils, Hyacinths, Siberian Squill, Dwarf Irises, Anemone, and Crocus should be planted. Select healthy, disease free bulbs. Add Bone meal or Bulb fertilizer into the planting hole, as you prepare the soil.

Most spring flowering bulbs should be in the ground by the early part of this month, with the exception of Tulips which can be planted up until early November.

Gladiolas, Dahlias and other tender bulbs should be dug before the ground freezes, and stored in a cool, dark area. Dahlia and Begonia tubers should be stored in a box of slightly moist peat moss. Gladiola corms can be stored in a paper bag without additional packing.

Be sure that new plantings and perennials which were divided and moved last month are kept watered if there has been insufficient rainfall.

There is still time to set out winter Pansies, Ornamental Kale and Cabbage and fall Mums. Keep a little color in the garden for as long as possible.

Watch your thermometer on colder nights. A windless, cold, clear night usually means a killing frost.... You can keep your Chrysanthemums and Aster plants blooming.

for quite a while longer if you take the time to provide a little frost protection for them.

A small, simple frame covered with cheesecloth or an old bed sheet placed over your plants on frosty nights, can add a month or more of garden blooms. (Don't forget to remove the cover as

soon as the danger has passed!)

Geraniums, Begonias, Fuchsias, and other tender plants should be brought indoors or moved to a cold frame before the first frost.

Mulching fall planted perennials will keep the soil warmer longer, allowing root growth to continue, however, the plants do need time to harden off for winter. Spread a thin layer of mulch after fall planting, and then add a thicker layer once the ground has frozen.

Collect and save seeds of Wildflowers to sow next spring.

Shrub and Tree Care

Throughout the fall and winter months you can plant or transplant both evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs. During these months of dormancy you can do your shrub and tree moving with only minimal shock to the plants.

If your Rhododendrons or other shrubs have root weevils, release parasitic nematodes to soil under the affected plants.

Fall Lawn Care

Keep mowing as long as your grass is growing....

Caring for your House Plants

Both Christmas Cactus and Poinsettias need to be kept indoors in a spot where they get ten hours of bright light and fourteen hours of total darkness, each day. Room temperatures should be around 65 to 70 degrees for the Poinsettias, but cooler (around 55 to 60) for the Christmas cactus.

The longer your house plants were allowed to remain outside in the fall, the more shock they will go through when they are finally moved indoors. If you haven't brought them in yet, do it now!!

Continue to watch for insect or disease damage and take the necessary steps to control the problem.

Odds and ends

You are probably sick of hearing it... but get those slugs!!! The fall rains have once again gotten slugs and snails moving through the garden. One last application of slug bait will eliminate a lot of slugs and prevent them from reproducing again this fall.

Result: Fewer slugs next spring.....

One last effort at weeding will help to improve the appearance of your garden throughout the winter. Any weed that you can eliminate from the garden this fall will possibly prevent thousands of weed seeds from sprouting in the garden next spring!

Keep lawn and garden raked clean of leaves and debris. Fallen leaves, old plant parts and grass clippings should be added to the compost pile.

Clean and oil your garden tools for winter storage. Place some sand and some oil in a large bucket, then slide your garden tools in and out of the sand. This will do an excellent job of cleaning them, as well as applying a light coat of oil to prevent rusting.

Clean your gutters and downspouts to remove fallen leaves and other debris. Plugged gutters can cause serious damage to your home as well as your garden when the winter rain and snow arrives.

Send in your requests for gardening catalogs now, so that you will have something to read and ponder on those loooooong winter nights ahead.

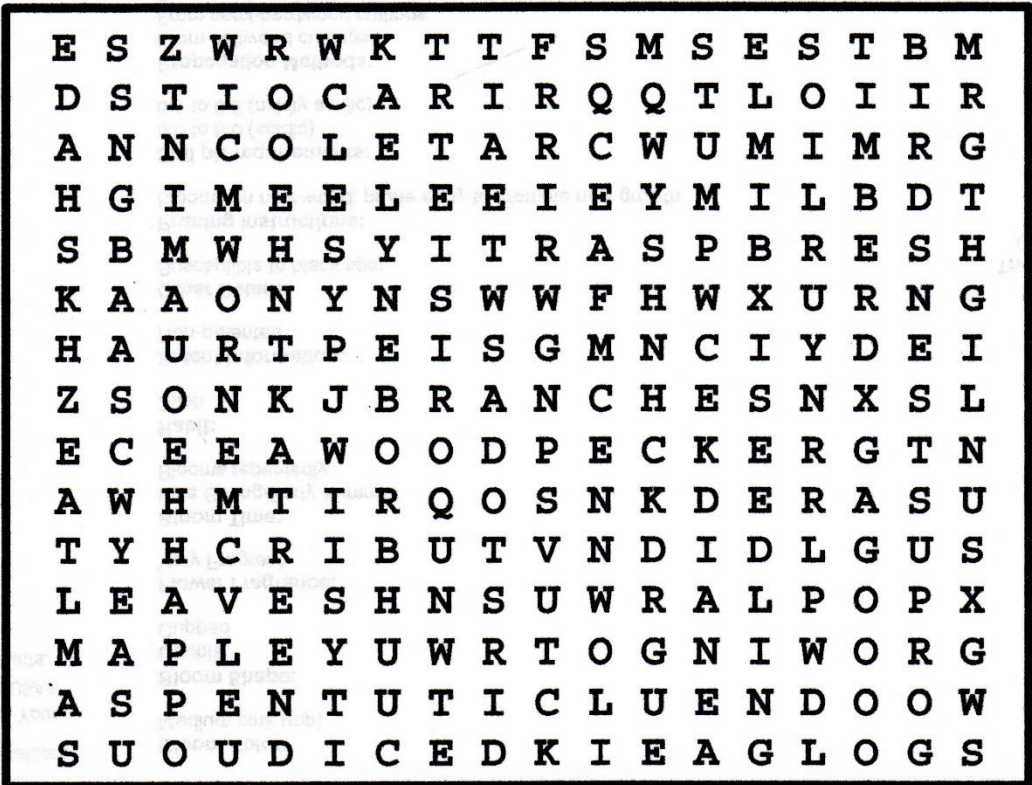
Mark your perennials with permanent tags, or create a map showing their locations so you'll know where and what they are when they die back at the end of the season. This will help you to avoid digging up something you intended to keep when you plant bulbs and plants this fall and next spring.

The birds will soon begin their winter migrations. Give them a helping hand by providing them with some food for their long journey. No one likes to travel on an empty stomach, and you may even persuade a few of them to stick around for the winter, if they know they have a reliable food source!

Continue to watch for insect, or disease damage throughout the garden, and take the necessary steps to control the problem.

from The Garden Helper
www.thegardenhelper.com

Deciduous Trees



- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|------------|
| shade | majestic | wood | woodpecker |
| bark | leaves | seedling | sway |
| trunk | growing | birch | timber |
| maple | tire swing | green | logs |
| elm | branches | insects | majestic |
| white oak | squirrel | rustle | deciduous |
| water | bird's nest | wind | buds |
| soil | stump | hammock | aspen |
| sunlight | rings | chestnut | poplar |
| tall | tree house | acorn | willow |

To find the answer to the trivia question, look for a word or phrase that is hidden in the puzzle, but not in the word list

Trivia: An oak tree will not produce its first acorn until it reaches this age.

Answer: _____