

# September 2010

## September is for the Birds! By Linda Kay Harrison

September is a wonderful time to start watching and feeding wild birds in your yard. It's also a great time to plant.

This is the time of year when we can attract the greatest variety of birds to our yards as they migrate to their winter habitat. During this exhausting time, birds need a steady source of food, water and a safe place to rest.

One of the most important aspects to attracting birds is to have plenty of trees and large shrubs for shelter and resting places. When planted in close groupings, these provide birds with much needed shelter from bad weather and safety from predators. Conifers such as spruce and pine and cedars provide great shelter because they are full and dense during the winter.

Deciduous trees like dogwoods, maple, honey locust and ash provide great resting areas. Their open



habit provides a place to perch where birds can easily see around the area and watch for predators.

There are also a wide variety of plants that provide food for migrating birds. Some of these are mountain ash, dogwoods, cotoneaster, elderberry, pyracantha, beautyberry, coneflowers, coreopsis and sunflowers.

Migrating birds also need water, which can be difficult to find during September, our driest month. A birdbath, fountain or even a large saucer with a rock in it, are all effective ways to provide water. Be sure to change and refill the water regularly.

Lastly, the most gratifying way to attract birds to your yard is by hanging a bird feeder or two to provide seed and suet. Dennis' Seven Dees has a wide variety of feeders and seeds, as well as all the plants you'll need to assist our migrating friends on their journey south.

## Upcoming Events

### Celebrating the Fall Garden- PLANT! CREATE! PLAN!

Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

Cedar Hills, 10455 SW Butner Rd

**11 am-** Plant containers featuring Fall Magic™ plants that look great throughout fall and winter.

**1 pm-** Learn about great veggies you can plant this time of year and how to grow using organic methods.

**All Day-** Make a gorgeous natural wreath

**All Day-** Get started beautifying your home with a garden plan. Planscaper Lara DiLiberti will be giving free 15 minute landscape design consultations.

### Tomato Tasting Festival

Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> 11 am – 3 pm

Lake Oswego, 1090 McVey Ave

Taste the flavors of harvest time and make plans for next year's tomato planting! Sample new, heirloom and unusual tomato varieties and vote for your favorite. Learn about year-round gardening – now is the time to plant a fall/winter garden and we have a great selection of edibles and seeds.



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## Monthly Tips: September

- It's harvest time! Pick winter squash when the spot touching the ground changes from white to cream or gold color. Dig potatoes, onions and garlic when the tops die down. Store in a cool and dark location. Mulch carrots, parsnips and beets for winter harvesting.
- Plant new lawns or over-seed a patchy one until mid-October. It's also prime time to aerate your existing lawn. We've got the know-how and all of the supplies to help you be successful.
- Continue to plant cover crops in the vegetable garden as space opens up. This helps prevent weeds and to improve your soil for next spring.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs now. Our wide selection of daffodils, tulips and crocus will reward you with early spring color! Be sure to use Dr. Earth bone meal or bulb



food at planting time. Bulbs also make great additions to your fall/winter container plantings.

- Divide and conquer: dig up and split large patches of iris, peonies and other early spring blooming perennials. Plant or transplant trees, shrubs and perennials for a jump-start on spring. Always use a starter fertilizer when planting or transplanting and use Root Master B-1 to help establish a healthy root system quickly.
- Pro-active pest control can greatly improve your garden's productivity. Control slugs now to reduce your garden's breeding population. Use bait traps or non-toxic Sluggo or try our newest natural product, Liquid Slug & Snail Away.
- Apply beneficial nematodes to rhododendrons and azaleas suffering from root weevil damage. Bring a leaf sample to any of our garden centers for diagnosis.

## Plant of the Month: Ornamental Grasses by Linda Kay Harrison

You probably have a spot in your landscape that needs a little 'something', right? Ornamental grasses are a wonderful addition to any garden. There is a size and shape to fit almost any space. They provide an appealing contrast of texture in many plants combinations and come in a wide variety of colors from green to bronze, red to silver and even black.

There are grasses for both sun and shade, and most can also provide year-round interest. Many are drought tolerant, or suitable for rain gardens.

Dennis' 7 Dees carries a wide variety of ornamental grasses and our knowledgeable staff

can help you find just the right ones for that spot that needs a little 'something' special. Here are some of our easy-care favorites:

### Grasses for sun:

- Blue oat grass
- Blue fescue 'Elijah Blue'
- Maiden grass 'Morning Light'
- Fountain grass 'Karley Rose'
- New Zealand sedge 'Prairie Fire'

### Grasses for part sun to shade:

- Japanese sedge 'Evergold'
- Luzula 'Aurea'
- Japanese forest grass
- Black mondo grass



black mondo

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