



HAWK TALK

Fall 2009

September

GARDEN TIPS

- New Iris rhizomes should be planted early in the month.
- Take advantage of the cooler temperatures and plant trees, shrubs, evergreens and perennials now.
- Divide and transplant spring and summer-blooming perennials.
- Move tropical plants indoors before the first frost. Spray them with an insecticide in advance.
- Plant hardy bulbs for early spring color.
- Pick the herbs and flowers you want to dry before the frost.
- Cover vegetables with a floating row cover on cool nights to prevent early frost damage.
- Seed grass for a thick, healthy lawn next year.
- Core aerate your lawn or contact Hawks Landscape Maintenance Department to have it done for you.
- Apply the 4th step of Hawks lawn fertilizer program and spray your lawn to eliminate hard-to-control broadleaf weeds late this month.

Attracting Birds to Your Yard

Wisconsin is blessed with a changing and diverse group of birds that live here, move through to other territories, or stay for short periods of time. Many people like to invite these birds to stay a little longer and there are a number of ways to do that. The most natural way is to have plant material in your yard that birds like. Another way is to feed birds prepared seed mixes. The third way is to supply water, a necessity for the birds year-round.

The right plants can provide feed, nesting material, and roosting areas for birds. The natural fruit on plant material can bring many birds into the yard at different times of the year. Serviceberry can attract robins in early July, Crabapple trees bring cedar wax wings in very early spring and Pine and Spruce can bring chickadees in winter. A mixture of fruiting and seeding plants will bring the best mix of birds. Some of the best plants are serviceberry, small-fruited crabapples, mulberry, dogwood, viburnums, chokecherry, yews, junipers, arborvitae, staghorn sumac, cherries, and fruiting shrub roses. Ornamental grasses and evergreens are useful for birds in the fall and winter.



You can promote nesting in your yard by installing bird houses and nesting boxes, and by providing access to nesting materials to entice the birds to start families there. Winter roosting can be promoted with upright evergreens, like pine and spruce, or lower plants like juniper. The evergreens give the birds cover on cold days.

Bird seed mixes are the surest way to attract birds to the yard, but they are a commitment, both in cost and in time. Once you have committed the birds to stay the winter, you have to follow through by feeding them well into spring. A general mix will feed many birds, some undesirable. Special mixes can consist of niger thistle seed, sunflower seed, and safflower seed. Thistle seed will feed gold finches, redpoles, chickadees, and purple finches. Sunflower or safflower seed will feed cardinals, blue jays, and grosbeak. The location of the feeder is important; it should be close enough so you can see it, but far enough away so as to not startle the birds. The feeder should be away from bushes and overhanging branches, otherwise cats have an unfair advantage and the squirrels an even easier free lunch.

Water is a very effective way to bring a great cross-section of birds into your yard. In summer, a birdbath cleaned out every other day will give you hours of viewing fun. However, running water will bring even more birds in. In winter, running or heated water is an even bigger draw, bringing in many birds.

Birds can bring color, movement, and fun to the back yard. They can bring nature to your back door. Buy a feeder and birdbath and sit back and enjoy the show.

October

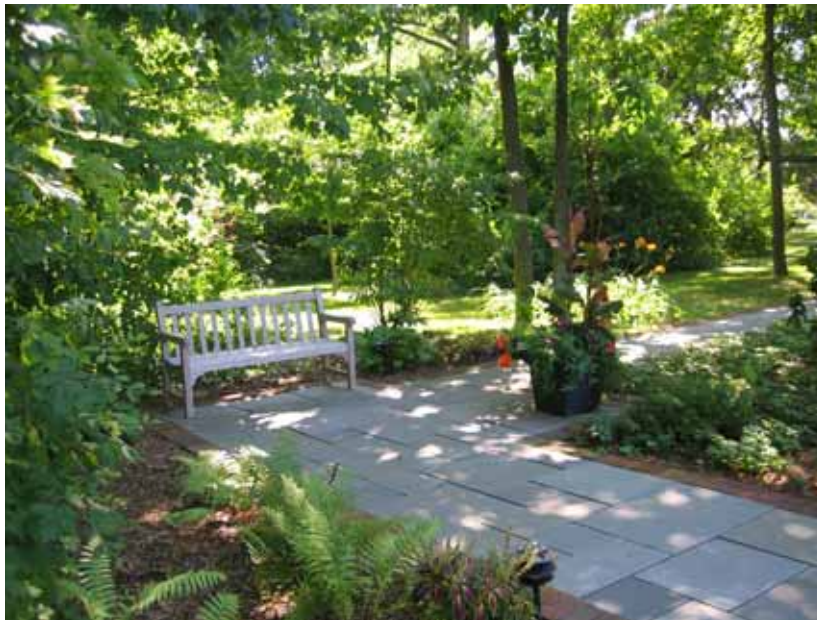
GARDEN TIPS:

- Select amaryllis, tulips, daffodils, paper whites, etc. for winter forcing.
- Remove warmer season annuals.
- Plant pansies, kale, colorful peppers and asters for late season color.
- Finish planting evergreens by the middle of the month. Plant the last of your perennials by the end of the month.
- Keep watering evergreens and recently planted trees, shrubs and perennials.
- Mound hybrid roses with 12" of soil at the end of the month.
- Empty and cover fountains and water features.
- Remove soil from outdoor pots and store them indoors or cover them for the winter.
- Begin trimming perennials back at the end of the month. Leave some up for winter interest.

Interesting Solutions for Small (and not so small) Gardens

The purpose of landscape design is to create an environment that's both wonderful to see and delightful to experience. In some yards, where space is limited, the challenge is to create the fun of mystery and discovery, the peace of solitude, the delight of visual intrigue, and the satisfaction of pleasing the senses.

Some recently completed projects may be instructive in how to achieve these goals while also creating a beautiful new landscape. Many yards are longer than wide and have the issue of being completely visible all at once. Creating mystery and discovery are essential in making the yard seem larger and more interesting. By having the garden unfold more gradually, this can be possible. One way to do this is to create a winding path to enter the garden. This controls your view of the garden and acts to divide the space and allows you to enter the main landscaped area gradually. If the garden view can unfold more slowly,



it can provide the elements of surprise and mystery.

Another way to create interest is to divide the garden into two separate spaces. If this can be done with a sense of proportion and with enough space given to each area, it will make the garden appear larger. Usually, the first space is the largest and should be separated visually by steps, a low fence or hedge, or an

arbor framing the view of the smaller space. These spaces can also be separated visually by paving material such as brick or bluestone, planting material, water features, and furniture. The garden areas can be very different, yet together they can create a unified look. The arbor, for example, both joins the areas and separates them. It helps create a visual barrier while framing a view into the next garden and beyond.



Curves and diagonals can also add intrigue to your garden. By creating strong lines and curves, you can attract and direct your view into a garden. Diagonal lines can be used in a similar way. A patio laid on a diagonal to the house breaks up our customary way of looking at space and makes everything seem more spacious.

The use of detail is valuable in adding depth and dimension to small spaces. Any element that enhances our senses has the effect of expanding our garden experience. Water gardens with the sound of moving water are ideal for this. Interesting pots planted with a broad spectrum of plants, sculpture, or garden ornaments can also increase the experience. And, of course, plant material with its color and texture add vitality and softness to your garden. All of these principals interact to produce a beautiful garden experience.

November

GARDEN TIPS:

- Water heavily all newly planted trees, shrubs and evergreens before the ground freezes.
- Apply WILT-PRUF to broad-leaved evergreens and yews to help reduce winter burn. Apply when temperature stays above 32 degrees for 24 hours. Do not apply to arborvitae or junipers.
- Winterize recently planted smooth-barked trees with Tree Wrap to protect them from sun scald, but be sure to remove it by early April.
- Cover perennials, bulbs and small fruit plants with evergreen boughs after the ground has begun to freeze.
- Cover your hybrid roses with rose collars and loose soil after Thanksgiving.
- Spray plants prone to deer damage with repellents every few months when temperature remains above 40 degrees for 24 hours.
- Protect shrubs prone to rabbit damage with cylinders of ½ inch hardware cloth before the ground freezes. Push the base of these cylinders into the soil to keep animals from burrowing underneath.
- Select amaryllis, tulips, daffodils, paper whites, etc. for winter forcing.
- Get the last of your spring flowering bulbs in the ground before it freezes.
- Apply the winterizing (last) step of the Hawks lawn fertilizer program later this month.
- Reduce your mowing height to 2" for the last mow to help avoid snow mold problems.
- Be sure to order your holiday decorations or Hawks Decorating Service at least one month before you need them.



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Attention: Water Alert

This year has been especially dry, with a lack of rain and average snow recharge taking its toll. We need to give Mother Nature a helping hand.

Watering needs to start now! Watering should continue into late October. Trees and large evergreens need to be watered at least once a week. The best way is to put a hose on low and leave it at the tree for at least 15-30 minutes. If you can see the water running off, you may have the pressure too high. Shrubs and low evergreens can use at least five minutes each. Perennials and ground covers are best done with a soaker hose, not a sprinkler.

Fall watering is very important for plants, especially evergreens. Water should be applied in August/September/October, but not in November. Stopping watering allows the plant to begin to get ready for winter. As you near the end of November, start watering again for about one week. This will help the evergreens hold on to water through the winter.



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