ISSUE 1

A NATIVE PLANT JOURNAL

Autumn 2024

THE 5-MINUTE FIX FOR A DRAB LANDSCAPE... HERE'S HOW

EASTERN BLUEBIRD

WHEN EVERYTHING IS DRAPED IN DRAB BROWN

The grass has never been browner and you might be hard pressed to find something not drab in your landscape. There is a way...to see past all that brown. Just like adding a splash of color with a throw blanket, this one thing will brighten the dull.

There are certain times of day for whatever reason that my yard (whether front or back) is silent. But it never lasts long. In a matter of seconds it can all change. A bird lands to survey the landscape, or a breeze will blow. The trees appear lifeless, but in truth, the roots are having a party down below.

If you plant native plants that provide for all seasons, your yard will never be dull. For example: a variety of nectar-producing flowers, berry-bearing shrubs, and pines or cedars for winter hiding spots and shelter. And you leave those spent flowers and leaves were they lay. Very important!

A 5-minute walk through a native plant garden will having you seeing far beyond the brown. **That's your fix.**

Maybe you will spot a wooly bear caterpillar or hear a wren belting out a tune. Perhaps a walnut-carrying squirrel will gallop past.

Inside all that brown there is life. It is all there. Under a brown blanket of leaves.

Native Plants Provide:

- Beauty
- Biodiversity
- Food for Wildlife
- Shelter for Wildlife
- Habitats
- Year-round Interest

Favorite Plants of Autumn

Winterberry Holly

Ilex verticillata

- Deciduous: loses its leaves in the fall, making the berries even more prominent.
- Dioecious: requires both male and female plants for berry production.
- Hardy: Tolerates a wide range of climates, from USDA zones 3 to 9.
- Attracts wildlife, provides food for birds during the winter.

Eastern Red Cedar

Juniperus virginiana

- Thrives in a wide range of soils and climates.
- Can be a fast-growing tree.
- Popular low-maintenance nature.
- Wildlife habitat: Provides food and shelter for birds and small mammals.

Cranberrybush Viburnum

Viburnum trilobum

- Vibrant berries: In fall, bright red berries that resemble cranberries in clusters. These berries are a favorite food source for birds and other wildlife. Leaves turn a deep red in fall. Bright white flowers in spring

Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta

- Native to North America and are often seen growing in meadows, along roadsides, and in other sunny areas. Goldfinches and juncos eat the seed heads in the winter.

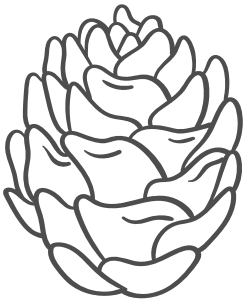
A Few Notes To Remember

- Planting a variety of native plants will help ensure that the wildlife around has plenty of selection. In fact, not all birds come to feeders. Pictured above, a purple finch is eating from our Hop Hornbeam trees.
- Other things to look and listen for in Autumn: yellow-shafted flickers are often seen on the ground or at the base of trees digging up ants. Listen for different bird calls in comparison to summer months. Notice how some birds are solitary, while others keep to groups.

Native Plant Journal

Spring

Summer



Autumn

Winter

The term "phenology" comes from the Greek words phaino, meaning "to appear, to come into view", and logos, meaning "to study". It was first introduced in 1853 by Belgian botanist Charles Morren.

I love to study my garden and document the changes.

Thank you for reading!