



ALL THE LATEST DIRT

Vol. 8, Issue 3



Fall Hours

Monday-Friday
8am-6pm
Saturday
8am-5pm
Closed Sunday

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DESIGN & PLANT THIS FALL

Fall is the sneakiest of the seasons. The cooler, end-of-summer days gradually become the warmer, early days of fall; a sly seasonal transition that leaves us turning back the clocks and sending children off to school. In the nursery and garden centre industry, autumn brings forth bittersweet emotion; we say goodbye to seasonal staff and students who have put in long hours and helped to make our season what it was, and look forward to fall with anticipation of the great planting season that it can be. Cooler air temperatures, combined with the warm soil temperatures make for ideal planting conditions, and fresh nursery stock is always arriving making the possibilities for additions to the garden endless. Perhaps its time to add some graceful ornamental grasses to your garden design. They provide texture and movement, and many varieties are available ranging in height from eight inches to nine to ten feet at maturity. Most grasses come into their prime in fall as this is their season to bloom; stunning plumes stand above the foliage and move gracefully with the slightest breeze. For a smaller grass, consider Blue Fescue, Blue Oat Grass, or varieties of Dwarf Fountain Grass. If height is preferred, Feather Reed Grass, Zebra Grass, or many varieties of Maiden Grass will perform well. Most ornamental grasses prefer hot and sunny locations, and require cutting back in the spring.

Right: Zebra Grass with Summer Phlox
Below: Mixed perennials and Chrysanthemum planter



Fabulous Fall Planters

Try incorporating perennials such as Hosta, Heuchera, Rudbeckia, and Coreopsis into your fall planters. They give great contrast to Chysanthemums and Kale, and should be transplanted into the garden before frost settles in. By doing this, you can create unique planters and reap the rewards of large perennials in the garden next spring.

Fall Checklist

Fall is a great time to be outdoors and in the garden. As temperatures become more moderate, fall gives us the opportunity to enjoy the work that has been put into creating a paradise. While the heat of summer becomes a memory, and the buzz of mosquitoes fades into the distance, we can spend time sitting outdoors and appreciating all that our gardens have to offer. Finally, a chance to acknowledge the long blooming times of late summer perennials such as coneflowers, coreopsis, and sedums. A chance to notice the differences in textures of foliage and what great combinations have been created through careful planning and hard work all season. So mix up some cocktails, invite friends and family over, and make a toast to your own private paradise because you've earned it! (Oh, and while the friends and family are over, here's a checklist of things that do need to be done in the fall...)

- Patio tropicals like hibiscus, oleander, and mandevilla should be brought indoors before temperatures begin to fall below 10 degrees Celsius. Use an insecticidal soap to spray plants before moving them in.
- 'Spring ahead' with lawn care. Fall is an excellent time to top-dress and seed or overseed your lawn. If grubs were a problem and you haven't applied any control, do so now as most grub control products are effective up until the end of September.
- Rejuvenate nutrient depleted garden soil. Add a layer (5cm or so) of compost or well rotted manure to your soil and leave this to breakdown over the winter and into early spring.
- Make room in the garden for hardy chrysanthemums, ornamental kale, and millet. Planted in the fall, these plants provide colour and interest right through until frost. Mums are considered a tender perennial, but will survive the winter provided that they receive a good watering before the ground freezes, and mulch around their roots.
- Protect concrete statuary, fountains, and birdbaths. Concrete products do not withstand the tests of time without being protected from winter. Wherever possible it is recommended to store concrete out of the elements completely, i.e. in a garage or shed. If that is not an option, wrap the piece entirely in burlap and then in plastic to ensure water tightness. The majority of damage occurs when moisture gets into the concrete and freezes, causing cracking.



Outstanding autumn colour of Amur Maple (top) and Common Witchhazel.



*Don't forget to use your **Gardener's Discount Card** right up until December 31, 2004. Receive discounts on fall bulbs, fall mums, kale, houseplants and more! Best of all, fall is a great time to plant so be sure to use your card to receive discounts on perennials, trees, and shrubs. Happy Planting!*

Worth Mentioning Maples Again!

Last fall, an article appeared in All The Latest Dirt describing various problems affecting trees, and shrubs. Since June of this season, numerous customers have expressed concerns over the appearance of the leaves on their Maples, so here is the description of Tar Spot taken from the previous article.

Tar Spot On Maples:

Symptoms usually appear mid-June as pale yellow spots. They are usually 1/8 inch in diameter. As the spots enlarge the colour intensifies. A single black spot appears in the yellow spot in early August. There are several different strains of Tar Spot but the treatment is always the same. In some cases the fungus will also attack the seed pod. A common reaction by the tree will be premature leaf drop. Very little long term damage has been noticed in the infected trees.

Treatment: Research has found that a sanitary approach is often the most effective. Any infected leaves that drop to the ground should be removed from the site and disposed of immediately. The fungi that causes Tar Spot can over-winter on fallen foliage. By spring of the next year the spore pod ruptures and minute spores become air borne. The application of fungicides should only be considered when there is a high level of infection. Control of Tar Spot is difficult and once a fungicide is used it will likely be needed every year after that.



Fall Special

Exclusive To Our Newsletter Recipients

***30% Off
Fall Bulbs!***

We value your business, so for all of those who frequent Connon Nurseries and receive our newsletter by mail, here is a little thank-you. Please come in with this newsletter and enjoy **30% off** your purchase of regular priced fall bulbs at the Waterdown or Trenton Garden Centre.

This offer applies only once, and will expire on **September 30th, 2004.**

ANNUAL 50% off FALL SALE!

We're on the Web!
www.connon.ca

FOUR DAYS ONLY!

Trenton, Ontario Sept. 15 - 18

Waterdown, Ontario Sept. 22 - 25

SALE HOURS: Wednesday 10am - 8pm, Thurs. & Fri. 8am - 8pm, Saturday 8am - 5pm

3 Locations To Serve You!

TRENTON

956A Old Highway #2
Trenton, Ontario
K8V 5P5
Tel: (613) 392-0402
Fax: (613) 392-0287
Hwy #2 b/n Trenton & Belleville

WATERDOWN

383 Dundas St. E.
Box 1218
Waterdown, Ontario
L0R 2H0
Tel: (905) 689-4631
Fax: (905) 689-3554
Hwy #5 Just East of Waterdown

PRODUCTION YARD & TREE FARM

656 Robson Road
Waterdown, Ontario
L0R 2H0
Tel: (905) 689-7433
Fax: (905) 689-4900
Just North of Waterdown



*Waterdown Sale
is at the Robson
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potted trees, spruce, pine, evergreens,
flowering shrubs, perennials, water
plants, fruit trees, ornamental grasses,
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