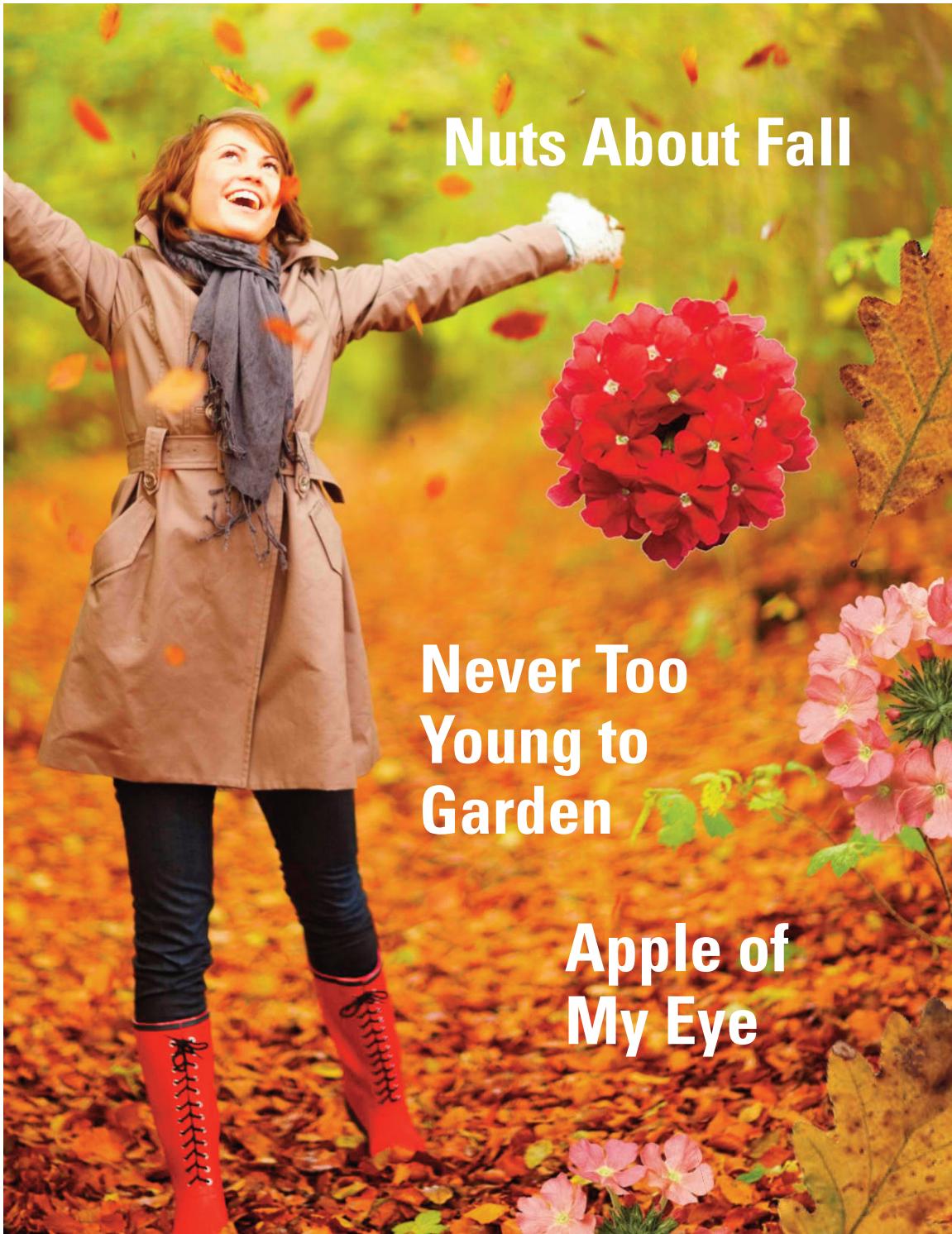


Fall 2012

the magazine for success in the garden

# PROVEN BEAUTY®



**Nuts About Fall**

**Never Too  
Young to  
Garden**

**Apple of  
My Eye**

# WELCOME FALL!

Fall is the perfect time of year to get back outdoors and refresh, renew, and redecorate your garden room! And this issue of *Proven Beauty* features several ways to help you do that. For instance, you can make your front entrance sing with autumn glory by adding cool-loving annuals like those shown on pages 4 to 6 to your front door containers. These additions will restore energy and color into tired summer containers.

Or consider planting perennials and flowering shrubs in the fall for seasons – and years – of beautiful color and texture in the garden. See pages 14 to 17 for ideas for perennial plantings and tips from our experts on how to do it successfully.

And don't forget that including children in your fall gardening redecoration makes it fun for everyone. Be inspired by 10-year-old Haley Loehfelm's story on page 7 about gardening with her family or inspire a child you know to love nature by enjoying arts and crafts projects like those found on pages 8 to 11 to celebrate the season.

While you're creating your fall environment, don't forget to get out there and enjoy it.

Roast marshmallows in your fire pit, or just get out and jump into a pile of leaves.

Wishing you a fall full of many colors,



Danielle Ernest  
*Editor*



**Download a pdf of this issue  
by clicking here.**

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*Proven Beauty* is an emagazine devoted to educating and inspiring gardeners. It is published four times a year. Send comments, questions, or story ideas to [danielle@provenwinners.com](mailto:danielle@provenwinners.com).

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SUPERBENA® Royale Peachy Keen and  
TUKANA® Scarlet Star *Verbena* hybrids

# FALL

The perfect time to  
refresh, renew, and  
redecorate your garden

On table at left: DOLCE® Licorice *Heuchera* hybrid  
On table at center: SUPERBELL® Red *Calibrachoa* hybrid with Overdam  
*Calamagrostis acutiflora* and Helena's Blush *Euphorbia amygdaloides* hybrid  
On table at right: GRACEFUL GRASSES® Toffee Twist *Carex flagellifera*



# PEACHY KEEN

## AND OTHER PLANTS THAT LOVE THE COOL NIGHTS OF FALL

There's nothing like a cool night under the stars after weeks of summer heat and humidity. And that's not just true for us humans. There are many plants that not only enjoy the break from the heat but that actually flourish when the temperatures drop.

As you can see by the cool-loving varieties shown here, cool temperatures can still meant hot colors – and lots of them.

Let the change of seasons bring a breath of fresh, cool air not only through your windows but into your landscape and combinations.



### VERBENA

At left and above:  
SUPERBENA® Royale Peachy Keen *Verbena* hybrid



OSTEOSPERMUM



DIASCIA



CALIBRACHOA



NEMESIA



PROVEN WINNERS ENTIRE  
FALL PLANT COLLECTION

Diascia: FLYING COLORS® Coral and Red *Diascia* hybrids

Osteospermum: Orange and Lemon SYMPHONY *Osteospermum* hybrids

Nemnesia: SUNSATIA® Cranberry and Lemon *Nemnesia* hybrids

Calibrachoa: SUPERBELL'S® Coralberry Punch *Calibrachoa* hybrid



At left:  
SUPERBELL® Dreamsicle *Calibrachoa* hybrid  
and SUPERBELL® Saffron *Calibrachoa* hybrid

Lower left:  
Ogon *Acorus gramineus*  
FLYING COLORS® Coral *Diascia* hybrid  
'Angelina' *Sedum repens*  
GARNET BROCADE™ *Sedum* hybrid

Below:  
Butterfly *Argyranthemum frutescens*  
SUPERBELL® Yellow Chiffon *Calibrachoa* hybrid  
DOLCE® Licorice *Heuchera* hybrid  
Creeping Wirevine *Muehlenbeckia*

## FRESHEN UP FOR FALL



Back-to-school time doesn't mean the end of outdoor activities. In fact, the cooler temperatures bring their own celebration opportunities: tailgate parties, fall cookouts, and evenings on the patio with a sweater over your shoulders.

Add to the atmosphere of those fun fall festivities by refreshing your outdoor space with plants that create a strong sense of the season. The combinations of Proven Winners plants shown here demonstrate how beautiful fall-inspired plantings can be and how long color can last in your garden, even as the days grow shorter and the temperatures grow cooler.



MORE FALL-THEMED  
CONTAINER IDEAS

# Starting Small

## YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO BE A GARDENER.

Just ask Haley Loehfelm. At 10, she was the youngest attendee at this spring's Proven Winners Outdoor Living Extravaganza in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Haley won the tickets as part of a promotion by a local greenhouse and brought her mother, Beth, so they both could learn more about the joys of growing plants.

Haley's interest in gardening was inspired by her grandpa and his neighbors who for years have been planting a big vegetable garden along with some flowers. "My grandpa's neighbor was a prisoner of war," says Haley. "He told me that he survived because he learned to grow vegetables. Gardening saved his life."

While Haley doesn't have those worries, the neighbor's story and the passion for growing plants took root for the fifth-grader. "My mom and I plant together and take care of the plants," she says. "And I do the watering."

One of her favorite plants is **Superbells® Cherry Star**, which she received at the Grand Rapids event. She also met P. Allen Smith, another highlight of her day.

"It was really fun going up on stage and having P. Allen Smith hand me his container book. And I learned a lot too about new kinds of flowers and how they come up with them. Now I know more about how to feed plants and take care of them. It was a really fun day."



Haley Loehfelm with P. Allen Smith's *Container Gardens* book







# NUTS ABOUT FALL

You don't have to be a squirrel to appreciate the bounty that fall brings. In fact, the acorns and leaves that drop out of the trees this time of year are the perfect raw materials for a variety of crafts that you can make to decorate your home for the colorful harvest season.

Maybe you want to preserve some of the brilliant autumn leaves to create decorative window swags for the fall holidays. Or maybe you want to make a handmade gift of an acorn wreath or frame for yourself or a friend. The links shown here provide instructions to help you make something special from Mother Nature's fall bounty.

HOW TO MAKE AN  
ACORN CAP FRAME

HOW TO MAKE AN  
ACORN WREATH

HOW TO PRESERVE FALL  
LEAVES IN BEESWAX

## DID YOU KNOW?

That acorns have been used for centuries as a food source?

EDIBLE ACORNS

ACORN CAKE

# APPLE OF MY EYE

HOW DO KIDS MOST ENJOY THEIR APPLES? COVERED IN CARAMEL? COVERED IN PAINT? FALL IS THE PERFECT TIME TO ENJOY BOTH.

With the projects featured here, apples become more than a nutritious snack. They also become artwork. Click on the links on this page to find out how to create **apple print t-shirts** and **tote bags** and how to create additional designs with other fruits and vegetables, compliments of Mother Nature.

And after the crafts are made, slice up some fresh apples, spoon up a bowl of caramel sauce, and enjoy that, too.

HOW TO MAKE AN  
APPLE PRINT TOTE BAG



HOW TO MAKE AN  
APPLE PRINT T-SHIRT



OTHER VEGETABLES  
TO USE AS STAMPS





# ASK THE EXPERT

## *Lorene Edwards Forkner*



**Lorene Edwards Forkner** describes herself as a “handmade gardening gal – part eco-friendly, non-traditionalist, part crafty creative with more ideas than money.” For almost 20 years, she has shared her ideas with the world of horticulture as a specialty nursery owner, an award-winning gardener, and a popular writer, speaker, and blogger. She recently released *Handmade Garden Projects*, a book that includes step-by-step instructions for 31 garden projects and the inspiration for gardeners to bring their own ideas to life. In April, she was named the editor of *Pacific Horticulture*, a quarterly magazine for the avid gardener and curious naturalist. Lorene lives in Seattle with her husband, James. For more information on her books, recipes, and gardening resources, visit her website: [www.plantedathome.com](http://www.plantedathome.com).

**PROVEN BEAUTY:** What item in your garden shed can you not live without?

**LORENE EDWARDS FORKNER:** I’m very much a hands-on gardener, down on my knees or wading into beds to get up close and personal with my plantings. I’ll always reach for a hand tool over a fancy gadget or power tool. With my deep scoop trowel, my trusty FELCO pruners, a hori hori knife, and a bit of effort I can tackle almost any garden project. I really believe the only noise in a garden should be birdsong or trickling water. Of course, I couldn’t keep track of all these little tools without my plastic garden trug to keep everything in one place; it’s my garden toolbox.

**PB:** What gives you the greatest inspiration for your garden projects?

**LEF:** Function comes first. Whether I’m crafting a structure for training a flowering vine or laying a gravel pathway, my projects serve a purpose in the garden beyond simply décor. Gravel pathways are a super-easy, eco-friendly DIY project, but face it – not the most exciting finish in the world. Upgrade this hardworking but humble permeable surface with decorative insets, a small pebble mosaic, or a bluestone paver “welcome mat” to lend interest and accessorize your garden from the ground up.

**PB:** What are the secrets to designing small gardens with big impact?

**LEF:** Small gardens should be personal – they should reflect their owners. Decide what makes your heart sing and focus on making that happen. Do you love lavender? Plant a big swathe of it rather than just one. There’s power and impact in multiples.

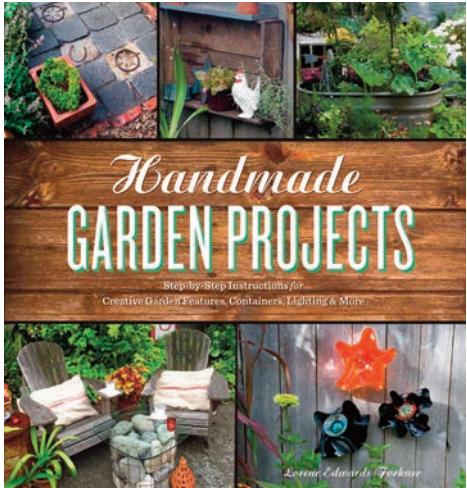
Big is a state of mind not square footage. An overhead dappled tree canopy skirted with flowering shrubs and perennials and carpeted with a tapestry of groundcovers allows your eye to linger on every level of interest rather than just focusing on plantings that are all one height.

**PB:** What steps do you take before you begin a new gardening project to ensure your success?

**LEF:** Inspiration is the sharpest tool in our toolbox. Keep your eyes wide open; observe other’s solutions. Build on their ideas and make them your own by putting your personal stamp on it.

# GREAT GARDEN DISCOVERIES

Chosen by Lorene Edwards Forkner



## **Handmade Garden Projects:**

My book from Timber Press explains how to put the play back into outdoor spaces and how to add your personal stamp on your garden.



## **Galvanized agricultural troughs:**

Provides style and value with a cool farm chic vibe.



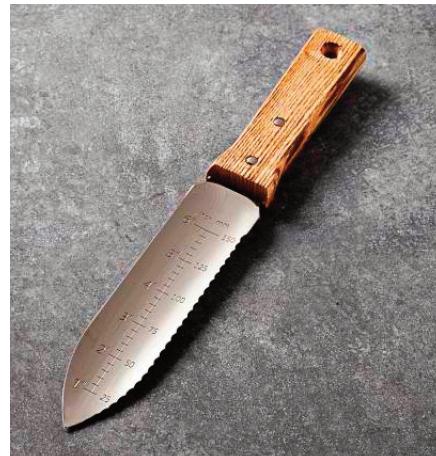
## **Spool of wire and bolt cutters:**

It's amazing what can be made from simple, basic hardware store materials.



## **Rafia hat:**

Crushable, packable, and stylish. There's an old saying from the Farmer's Almanac: "Unless you take care, the sun will pin you down. Put a hat on that foolish head of yours when you go out into the fields."



## **Hori Hori knife:**

Its sturdy blade honed on one side and serrated on the other stands up to digging weeds between rocks, dividing perennials, and even light sawing.



## PLEASING PERENNIALS

Gardeners love perennials for lots of reasons. They're distinctive, offering unique textures, colors, and growing habits. They're reliable, coming back year after year. And they're valuable, adding permanent structure and beauty to the landscape without an annual investment.

And if that's not enough, there are some perennials that add exceptional fall interest to the garden as well. The Proven Winners **Grasses** and **Sedums** shown here, for instance, are a great way to create a flourish of fall, with harvest colors, fabulous textures, and even the attraction of butterflies. Our **Baptisia Decadence** series boasts seed pods in the late summer and fall that create a special visual interest.

And with perennials like the Proven Winners **Summerific Hibiscus**, **'Shockwave' Phlox**, and **'Going Bananas' Hemerocallis** that bloom big and bright right through the fall, your fall garden will still be the envy of the neighborhood.



'Cheyenne Sky' *Panicum virgatum*



'Dust Devil' *Panicum virgatum*



'Shockwave' *Phlox paniculata* USPPAF



'Desert Plains' *Pennisetum alopecuroides*



# Taking Root

## Fall Planting Perfect for Shrubs

While you're visiting your favorite garden center and shopping for mums, pumpkins, and other fall favorites, don't forget to browse the shrub section. Autumn is a perfect time to plant shrubs, and here's why. Shorter days encourage the rapid root growth that helps plants to establish quickly, and cooler temperatures make the job much more pleasant for the gardener. Plus, many garden centers mark down their shrub selection at the end of the season, so your garden dollars go much further. To ensure success, follow these simple guidelines.

### Choose wisely

- For instant gratification, choose a shrub that really shines in autumn, like Brandywine™ Viburnum, Sunjoy® Gold Pillar Barberry, or Arctic Sun™ Dogwood. Or, think ahead to spring and choose shrubs like Double Take™ Quince or Show Off™ Forsythia, which will brighten the landscape after the long winter.
- Only plants that are reliably hardy in your area are good candidates for fall planting. Hardiness is a way to describe the coldest winter temperatures a plant can withstand. [Click here](#) to find your hardiness zone.
- Avoid planting evergreens such as Boxwood, Holly, and Arborvitae now. Winter's low temperatures and cold winds can dry out the foliage quickly, and the limited root mass makes it difficult for the plant to recover. If you'd like to add an evergreen to your garden, put it on your list for spring planting.
- Buy local. Locally grown plants will be accustomed to the changing temperatures and light levels of your area, so they will more readily establish in your garden. Plus, plants that are grown locally will survive winter in your area.

## Time it right

- Fall planting can continue until roughly 4 weeks before the ground freezes. This gives your new shrub plenty of time to put on roots before cold temperatures bring new growth to a halt.

## Plant properly

- **Break up the roots.** Most shrubs spend the entire season in the same container, which is full of roots by autumn. This root mass must be gently untangled and separated to encourage the roots to stop growing in circles and start growing outward in their new home.
- **Don't add anything to the soil or to the hole when you plant.** Shrubs grow best in your natural garden soil, no matter when they are planted.
- **Water well.** Water the plant thoroughly after planting, and make sure it continues to get water right up until the ground freezes, especially if there is little rainfall.
- **Don't fertilize.** Fertilizer encourages new growth, which may not harden off properly before temperatures drop. It ends up being both a waste of fertilizer and of the plant's energy.
- **Mulch.** Think of mulch as a blanket that keeps the plant's roots warm and protected through winter. A two- to three-inch layer of mulch spread over the root zone is sufficient. Avoid mounding mulch right up near the shrub's "trunk."
- **Don't panic!** Though they may not look like they are doing much above ground, shrubs planted in the fall are busy growing the roots that will keep them healthy and vigorous for years to come.

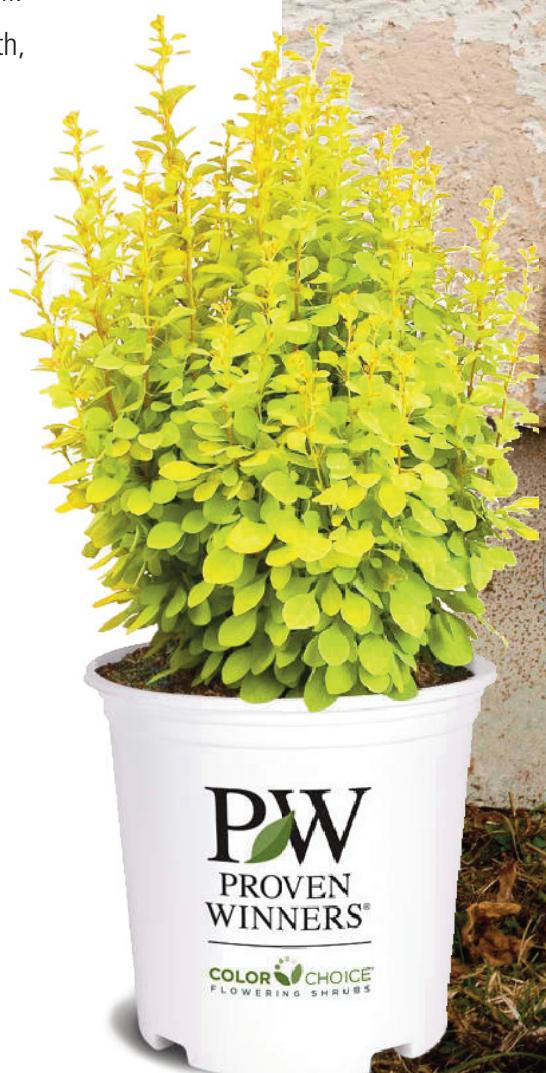
MORE FLOWERING SHRUBS

Opposite at left: ARCTIC SUN™ *Cornus sanguinea*

Opposite at right: Leaves and fruit of

BRANDYWINE™ *Viburnum nudum* in the fall

At right: SUNJOY® Gold Pillar *Berberis thunbergii*



# Be a Part of the Gardening Conversation

See what our garden gurus have to say and let your voice be heard, too

No matter where you live, we have an experienced gardener who lives there, too. She knows the challenges and rewards of gardening in your region and is willing to share her advice, tips, and knowledge with readers via the Proven Winners' blog – Wherever You Grow. **Click here** to read the online entries from all nine of our North American Gurus.

