



Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article October 24, 2016

Celebrate the Seasons

by Lydia Holley

Now is the time to plant bulbs that will bloom in spring. It is so exciting to see those bulbs magically spring forth just as you have grown weary of winter, heralding the change of the seasons. Those blooming bulbs celebrate the warming of the soil, just as the sun begins to change its position in the early spring sky, and brings cheer to your soul. Spring is best celebrated with an abundance of bright, beautiful bulbs.



Summer is celebrated with an abundance of blooms from roses, salvias, lilies, daylilies, hydrangeas, and many other plants. Hummingbirds chatter to each other, eagerly awaiting for their feeders to be filled. Red cardinals and bright bluebirds add to the garden's summer colors.

Are you celebrating autumn right now? As the trees turn colors and lose their leaves, you should have autumn blooms from firebush (*Hamelia*), asters, beautyberry (*Callicarpa*), blue mist shrub (*Caryopteris*), and the graceful Japanese anemone. Butterflies fly freely filling up with nectar, while garden spiders expectantly spin their webs. It is time to say goodbye to the hummingbirds, but remember to keep feeding them until they leave.

Autumn is also when grasses take over as the main attraction. Plumes sway in the breeze, adding another dimension to the garden. Elegant upside down tassels or tiny seed heads bounce above stems of grass. Golden seed heads of northern sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) dangle like charms on a bracelet. Soft, pink gulf muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*) looks like fluffy swirls of spun sugar, reminding you to enjoy some cotton candy at the county fair.

Winter can be celebrated with holly stems full of berries, with treasured blooms from winter honeysuckle, hellebores, camellias, and other plants that bloom when the soil is cool and the sun is low in the sky. In the coldest part of the year, the structure of the garden comes alive, showing off its evergreen jewels when the rest of the garden is dormant.

Celebrate each season in your garden. You will find that no matter the season, your garden can give you a daily gift to look forward to, and to appreciate.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com or visit www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org.

