

Earthly Elements

"Helpful Information From The Trenches"

Issue 3

Fall Edition

September 2005



Autumn Cheer



A festival of colors arrive
at this favorite time of year.
The days become much cooler now,
yes, fall is finally here.

The leaves are gently falling,
and turning awesome shades.
Look 'round to see the beauty,
that God alone has made.

Take the time to listen and
you'll hear the laughter ring,
from children rolling in the leaves
oh, what joy this season brings.

This time of year brings thoughtfulness
on which we can reflect.
A time to spend with those we love,
and time to reconnect.

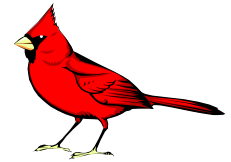
By all these lovely tokens
fall is finally here,
with summer's best of weather,
and autumn's best of cheer.

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Red Flurry in Flight....

some facts and antics of the beloved
Northern cardinal.



IDENTIFICATION

These cheerful red birds are native to the eastern part of the United States and Canada. However, a bird watching study has indicated that the population, as well as the range of this species, is increasing. This is due, at least in part, to the many backyard feeders being installed by bird lovers all over the cardinal's range.

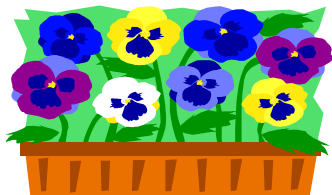
You can easily distinguish the male from the female by its coloring. An adult male cardinal is bright red, with a black face and an orange bill, while the adult female is brown, with a red-tinged crest, wings and tail. She has less black on her face, but her bill is orange, too. A pair of cardinals remains together year round. So if you see one, look closely for its mate, as it will probably be nearby. Generally, one of the pair keeps a lookout while the other feeds. Once cardinals mate, it's for life. These non-migratory birds build neat little nests out of roots, twigs, hair and string, in shrubs or a tangle of brush. In spring, the female lays three to four brown-speckled, gray green eggs that hatch within two weeks.

ATTRACTING CARDINALS

Cardinals are one of the most popular birds for backyard feeders, and it's easy to attract them to your garden. The most important thing is habitat—having cherry, sumac, dogwood, mulberry, hackberry or elderberry trees or shrubs on your property. In addition to eating the berries from these trees, cardinals also call them home, building their nests and raising their young among the branches.

Providing their favorite foods helps, too! They love unhulled black oil sunflower seeds. In winter, when they're really hungry, cardinal will also eat safflower seed and bread crumbs. Cardinals appreciate a year-round source of water. They enjoy having a place to drink and bathe after snacking on seeds. A heated birdbath provides a winter watering spot. By doing these simple things, you'll be seeing cardinals in your garden regularly. These beautiful birds are a great addition to any outdoor setting.

Just Another Pretty Face



Fall is a great time to add pansies to the garden. Their charming faces bring to mind cheerfulness and images of spring. When arranged in a bouquet, they represent love and kind thoughts. Pansies (*Viola x wittrockiana*) are closely related to violas and Johnny-jump-ups, though pansy flowers are generally larger and display more detailed/contrasting faces .

Growing Pansies

The friendly faces of pansies come in numerous shades of purple, orange, pink, maroon, yellow, and blue and the flowers are two to three inches across. Pansies are short lived perennial plants and are usually treated as annuals. They are widely adapted and grow in most climate zones. In mild-winter areas they are best set out in fall to mature in the long, cool winter and spring. In the colder USDA Zones 1 through 6, pansies are transplanted into the garden in early spring and bloom until the weather gets very hot. While pansies can be started from seed, most gardeners purchase them in bud or bloom from nurseries and transplant them into moist, rich soil in full sun or partial shade. Pansies grow well in containers, among bulbs, and in most flower and vegetable beds. To keep them blooming well, remove the spent flowers and seed heads. Pansies' most notable insect pests are slugs, snails, earwigs, and sowbugs—all of which eat the emerging buds, creating ragged-looking open flowers. Rabbits and deer are four legged pests that can ravage the blooms as well. Last but not least, there are various fungus rots may attack in humid weather.

Pansy Basics

Life Cycle: Perennial, but grown as annual

Height & Spread: 6" to 12" tall—12" wide

Zones: 5 to 9

Site: Full sun or part shade

Soil: Fertile, free draining

Moisture: Keep soil damp

Propagation: Seed

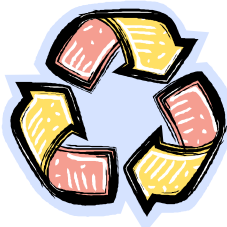


Online



Recycling Resource

Have you ever asked, "what can I do with this old computer"? Ever wonderd what to do with an old cell phone? Perhaps you have a hazardous waste question, it's the weekend, and your city municipality is closed. Do you have to wait till Monday for an answer.....NO! Simply go online to www.earth911.com for your answer. Type in your zip code and you'll get a group of categories to choose from. Next, you'll get a listing of where (locally and legally) you can dispose of old electronics, hazardous waste, broken down lawn equipment, Christmas trees and more. The site is a bit difficult to navigate, but with patience you will get the answer you're looking for. They even have a place for kids to play games, engage in activities while learning about how to protect the environment. Check it out!



Doing Any Fall Cleaning?



Hospices of Henry Ford

Needs Your Help

to continue the



2004 "Butterfly Bouquet" Bud Vase Drive

Hospices of Henry Ford has an ongoing program to collect new or used bud vases to create "Butterfly Bouquets" to cheer hospice patients. The staff does this in cooperation with the generosity of local florists who donate the flowers, & **people like you** who donate the vases. This program has been a blessing to many patients in their final days.

*Your Bud Vase Donations
Are Greatly Needed & Appreciated!*

All donations can be given to Sandra or dropped off at:
260 Union Street, Plymouth MI 48170



Home Spa Treatment

If you can't afford the time or money to get to a spa, try this lovely leg-and-foot treatment!

In blender, whirl until smooth
2 to 3 cups small, fresh pumpkin chunks
1/4 cup honey,
1 cup fresh pineapple pieces
two cloves and a pinch of nutmeg.

Apply thick coat to lower legs and feet; relax for 5 minutes, then rinse off with warm water. This all-natural combo covers all the bases: exfoliates, hydrates, invigo-

Herbed Pasta

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
1lb angel hair pasta
1 generous cup of mixed herbs
(at least 1/4 parsley, 1/4 thyme, 1/4 oregano, 1/4 basil. The quantity and variety is flexible, but mixing at least 4 herbs is important for a nice blended taste).



Salt & Pepper



While pasta is cooking, chop herbs. Sprinkle and blend herbs in the bottom of serving bowl. Heat olive oil. As soon as it starts to smoke, remove from heat and pour over herbs in bowl. Drain cooked pasta and add to serving bowl, tossing with the oil & herb mixture. Once well blended, add salt & pepper to taste.

Ready for Winter?

Here's 3 simple tips that will help get the garden ready for winter....

1. Apply extra mulch (around select plants or entire bed) for extra protection
2. Keep hoses ready until the ground freezes (not the first frost) so the evergreens can continued to be watered
3. Apply Wilt-Pruf to evergreens especially Rhododendrons, Azaleas & Boxwood to protect them from drying out in winter winds (dissociating)



The Origin of Pumpkin Pie

The tradition of this classic Thanksgiving desert originated with the colonists. After harvesting the pumpkins they cut the tops off, removed the pulp and seeds, then filled the inside with milk, spices and honey. The pumpkin was then baked in hot ashes.



Gardener Gatherings

Places to Go & Things to Learn

What & Where

FREE PLANTS! FREE PLANTS!

Detroit News

Fall Perennial Exchange

September 17th 9:00 to 11:00 AM

in the Detroit News Building Parking lot
(3rd & Lafayette) call **313-222-2492**
for directions & more information

Novi's Fall Perennial Exchange

September 17th 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

at the Novi Civic Center
call **248-347-0400** for directions & info

Tollgate Fall Fair

September 17th 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

at MSU Tollgate Gardens
call **248-347-3860** for directions & info

(SEE INCLUDED INSERT)!

Contact us at 734-416-0866 or earthenjoy@att.net