

AUTUMN BLUSH

KEEP THE SUNSHINE in your garden even when cool weather arrives with the tickseed *Coreopsis* 'Autumn Blush'. Cheery peachy-yellow petals surround a rich, reddish-burgundy eye.

Trim faded foliage for nonstop blooms and watch petals take on a wine-coloured blush in the fall. This easy-grower, hardy to zone 3, doesn't need to be watered everyday and won't require much attention: it'll get enough from butterflies. The long, wiry stems of this daisy-like native wildflower make it perfect as a cut flower, too.

— *Charlotte Ellan*

PHOTO courtesy Terra Nova Nurseries



steppingstones

LET IT BEE

Brian Campbell, certified bee master, wants us to know that many bees and other beneficial insects overwinter in dead twigs, herbaceous perennials, pre-existing cavities and under leaf litter. Leafcutter bees make use of the hollow sections found in bamboo, raspberry and blackberry canes. Any plant that has a hollow stem is a potential nesting site – the list goes on. There are lots of good reasons to “let it bee” this fall and leave some stems for these tiny creatures to find sanctuary. — *Sharon Hanna*

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READ BRIAN'S GUEST BLOG post at www.gardenwiseonline.ca/briancampbell



THE BEAUTY OF BEETS

YOU CAN ALLOW BEETS (and other root vegetables, too) to stay in the ground in coastal gardens. It helps to mulch with hay, or use fall leaves. Unlike beets stored in a refrigerator, they'll last right through to spring and will stay fresh. The tops will die back and go dormant for awhile but come mid-February, they'll start growing again. It's best to dig and enjoy your beets by the end of April. Greens can be enjoyed without the beets too – until they start to set seed in late spring. — *Sharon Hanna*

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FOR MORE ON BEETS, go to Sharon's blog at www.gardenwiseonline.ca/shanna

stretch material, you can move branches by redirecting and securing them to other branches within the tree. This product is strong enough to hold the branches yet is pliable so as not to girdle or strangle them as they grow. I have in the past quite aggressively pulled and secured branches with an end result of a complete repair and filling in of the bare spots.

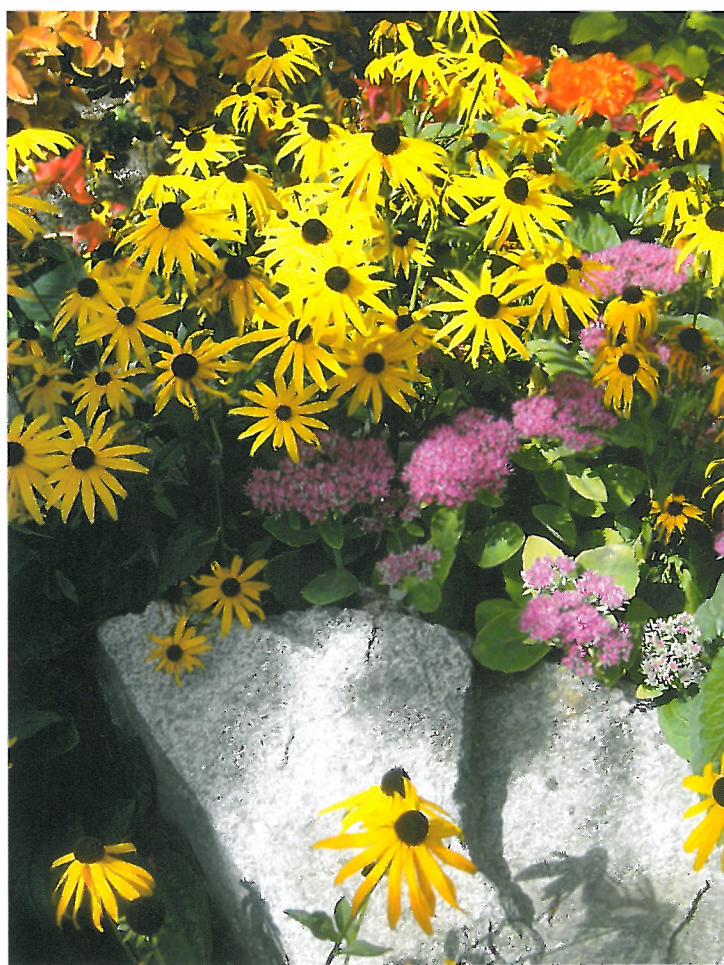
Q COLD-HARDY SHADE PERENNIALS

I am an amateur when it comes to gardening, and it's proven to be hard to grow anything at all in my flowerbed. I've been told to find shade-loving zone-4 perennials, but really don't know what to look for!



Barbara Rayment

Northern-gardening expert and author of *From the Ground Up: A Horticultural Guide for Northern Gardeners*



Conway Lum

Certified Horticultural Technician and GardenWise Plant Troubleshooter

Q MOVING PLAN

When is the best time to move bulbs and perennials?

I would recommend allowing all bulbs to go through their normal growth pattern before transplanting: allow the bulb to grow, flower and

die back to some degree. Moving during the early growth cycle would hinder bulb development.

For perennials, it's best to divide them when they are dormant, either as they are dying back in fall or before they fully emerge in spring. Improve the new planting hole with a good soil amendment, such as compost, and use a transplant solution as directed on the package. Keep newly divided perennials well watered for the first two growing seasons. If watering is a difficult, chose drought-tolerant perennials.

PHOTO Elizabeth Rowlands

You can have a lot of fun with the following plants!

Fernleaf bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*): Flowers early and has a long period of pink bloom.

Hostas: There are hundreds of cultivars to choose from, from minis to giants, lush green or wildly variegated. Start with some of the tried-and-true cultivars, which are known to be sturdy and are often less expensive than the newer cultivars.

Coral bells (*Heuchera*): Most of the green-leaf forms ('Leuchtkafer' Firefly, 'Vivid' or the seedling-grown Bressingham Hybrids Group) are hardy, as are the cultivars with green-and-white variegated foliage, 'Snow Storm' and 'Snow Angel', both of which have bright-pink flowers. Of the dark-leaved cultivars, 'Stormy Seas' and 'Pewter Veil' have done very well for me.

Meadowsweet (*Filipendula*): All the ones I've tried have been hardy; some have a tendency to spread, but this can be a good thing

if you're filling in space. Flowers are usually either white or pink.

Ferns: There are many good hardy



PHOTO courtesy Terra Nova Nurseries

ones, including a number of *Dryopteris filix-mas* (male fern) and *Athyrium filix-femina* (lady fern) species and cultivars, as well as *Gymnocarpium dryopteris* (oak fern), *Osmunda regalis* (royal fern) and *O. cinnamomea* (cinnamon fern). ❁

Send your questions on any gardening topic to cpope@canadawide.com or fax 604-299-9188 or mail to Ask the Professionals, GardenWise, 4th floor, 4180 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6A7

For more expert advice, visit www.gardenwiseonline.ca/ask-the-pros