

## Ten Tips for Welcoming Wildlife into Your Landscape

### Be a Happy Homemaker

— Provide nesting boxes for cavity-nesting birds and roosting boxes for bats.

### Cook Up Something Special

— Add plants to your landscape that provide food (fruits, nuts, berries) and cover (shrubs, evergreens, etc.) for wildlife.



A gold finch eats sunflower seeds in a backyard.

Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

**Be Small Minded** — Do not forget the butterflies, bees and other important pollinators. Add flowering plants that will attract and feed the little ones.

**Get It Wet** — Adding a small backyard pond will provide water for birds and other wildlife.

**Stop the Invasion** — Remove invasive plant species. They threaten food and habitat producing native plants.

**Let Them Eat Bugs** — Birds, bats and beneficial insects eat insect pests and enhance ecological balance. Do not kill them.

**Bridge the Gaps** — Connect “wild” areas together to create habitat corridors for wildlife cover and travel.

**Chaperone the Party** — If guests such as deer, skunks, rats, etc., become a problem, get help from local wildlife agencies.

**Go Native** — Preserve native vegetation through sensitive site planning. Native plants are adapted to local conditions and supply food to wildlife.

**Enjoy Your Work** — Place bird feeders, birdbaths and other wildlife features where you can easily observe the wild visitors to your yard.

*This information was adapted from the Environmental Guidelines for Responsible Lawn Care and Landscaping as developed by the members of the Lawns and Environment Initiative (L&E). To learn more about the development of the Environmental Guidelines for Responsible Lawn Care and Landscaping and the L&E Initiative go to [www.lawnsandenvironment.org](http://www.lawnsandenvironment.org)*

## Weedy Vines: Identification and Control



Vicki Jedlicka, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

Burcucumber

This time of year it is common to see mature evergreens or windbreak trees covered with weedy vines. A common question is what are they and more importantly, how do you get rid of it.

Weedy vines, like **burcucumber** and **honeyvine milkweed**, are more prevalent in wet years. Burcucumber is



Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension in Lancaster County

Honeyvine milkweed

an annual vine with 5-lobed leaves, whitish flowers and small prickly seed pods that grow in clusters. It is common in shelterbelts. In trees, control with hoeing or the pre-emergence herbicide Princep (active ingredient = simazine) applied in May.

Honeyvine milkweed is a perennial broadleaf vine with

heart-shaped leaves and no milky sap. Fruit pods resemble common milkweed, but are light green, shiny and smooth on the outside. Control with post-emergence applications of glyphosate or 2,4-D applied before the vines begin to climb.

—Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

## Winter Annual Weeds in Lawn

Annual broadleaf weeds such as chickweed, henbit and shepherd's-purse are winter annuals that germinate in the fall. If you had these weeds in

your yard or garden this spring, the seeds will germinate soon. The appropriate pre-emergence herbicide should be applied early to mid-September for

control of these weeds.

—Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate



Larry Altain @ USDANRCS PLANTS Database

Chickweed



Lee Davis @ USDANRCS PLANTS Database

Henbit



Robert H. Moehlenbrock @ USDANRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1991. Southern wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species. South National Technical Center, Fort Worth

Shepherd's purse

## Garden Guide

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH  
By Mary Jane Frogge, UNL Extension Associate

- Fall is a good time for improving your garden soil. Add manure, compost and leaves to increase the organic matter content.
- Plant peonies now, but make sure the crowns are buried only 1 1/2 to 2 inches below ground level. Planting them deeper than two inches may keep them from blooming.
- Root cuttings from annual bedding plants such as begonias, coleus, geraniums and impatiens. These plants can be overwintered in a sunny window and provide plants for next year's garden.
- Pears should be picked at the hard ripe stage and allowed to finish ripening off the tree. The base color of yellow pears should change from green to yellow as the fruit approaches maturity.
- Be sure to keep strawberry beds weed free. Every weed you pull now will help make weeding much easier next spring.
- Do not wait for frost warnings to move your plants indoors. Temperatures of 45 degrees Fahrenheit or lower can damage many tropical house plants.
- Collect okra seed pods, gourds, sumac seed heads, rose hips and other suitable materials for dried arrangements. Air dry these materials in a dark, cool location.
- Before the first frost dig up caladiums. Allow them to dry and store them in a dry place for the winter.
- Perennial phlox can be divided about every third or fourth year. Divide big clumps of perennial phlox into thirds. Early fall or early spring are the best times to plant or transplant them.
- Divide lily-of-the-valley.
- Pot up chives, parsley and other herbs to extend the growing season in the house.

Select accent plants for your landscape that will provide autumn colors. Trees that have red fall color are flowering dogwood, red maple, sugar maple, Norway maple, red oak and scarlet oak. Shrubs with red fall foliage include sumac, viburnum, winged euonymus and barberry.

Allow plants to finish the summer growth cycle in a normal manner. Never encourage growth with heavy applications of fertilizer or excessive pruning at this time. Plants will delay their dormancy process that has already begun in anticipation of winter in the months ahead. New growth can be injured by an early freeze.

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