

Gardening column

Fall planting can satisfy the gardening itch

BY LIZ DOUVILLE
For The Bulletin

According to the calendar, we should be winding down, cleaning up and putting away. Not so if you have some planting ideas in mind.

I lost a large bed of flowering annuals to, I suspect, “Bambi,” who visits most every day. I decided it is time for a switch to adding more perennials and to fall planting. The fall planting came from the realization that in the spring I am behind before I even get started. My delight is in the seed germination process and that is where my energy goes from March through May.

I have read that over 70% of plant root growth occurs in late summer and early fall. Stem and leaf growth is limited to allow root growth to increase and store the nutrients for the winter.

After justifying my reasons for fall planting I did a little shopping.

The first two were plants that have been on my list for years.

Oregon sunshine, *Eriophyllum lanatum*, is a compact perennial that attracts pollinators. It is low growing with bright yellow blooms that resemble daisy-like flowers. Bloom time is from spring



« OREGON SUNSHINE (*Eriophyllum lanatum*) is a compact perennial that attracts pollinators.

» HAIRY GOLDEN ASTER (*Heterotheca villosa*) is a perennial that is drought tolerant, and pollinator friendly and a grasslands native hardy.



File photos

through summer, the foliage is grey-green. The size at maturity is 1-3 inches high, 1-2 inches wide. The water requirement is low.

Hairy golden aster, *heterotheca villosa* is a perennial that is drought tolerant, pollinator friendly and a grasslands native hardy in Zone 3. Daisy-like blooms are lemon to golden yellow. They like sun to light shade and bloom from midsummer through fall. Cut down after a hard frost, but allow a few stems to self-seed and feed birds. Both Oregon sunshine and hairy golden aster can be invasive. The

two selections will solve a problem area I have been wanting to plant.

Now to rethinking Bambi's smorgasbord, or lack of one, in 2022.

The criteria for new perennial selections will be deer-resistant, pollinator friendly and low water usage.

Salvia's are on the list. In

1998 the original salvia trials contained 15 varieties. In 2016 40 additional varieties were entered in the trial process at the Chicago Botanic Garden, which is a minimum process of four years. You can see they are becoming more popular. Some of the new varieties

that are rated for Zone 4 include “Ave Marie,” a bright fuchsia, “blueberry beret,” a dwarf with violet-blue flowers, “sensation sky blue” — the name is a bit of a misnomer as the flowers are a medium purple-blue.

I did do something daring. I bought a “windwalker” royal red, bred in Colorado, 48 inches tall, crowned with rosy red flowers and a long bloom period. Rated for Zone 5, which is the daring element for me. I usually don't grow perennials that are rated above a Zone 4. The trial comment included the key to success is providing good drainage, both in summer and winter. With our soil, I don't think that will be a problem.

“Windwalker” is currently in its nursery container on a walkway between the house and greenhouse. One day I saw a hummingbird happily having breakfast at one of the blooms. That is exactly what brings me joy.

Alliums have the reputation of bridging the gap between spring and early summer perennials. I decided this would be a good fall to increase the allium plantings. I was lucky enough to find three varieties locally: “purple sensation,” also called Persian onion; “star of Persia,” also marketed as “Christophii;” and “globemas-

ter.” Alliums have many attributes. They have showy complex flower heads that attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. They are great for cutting and as a dried eye-catching flower head tucked in a basket of mixed evergreens as an outdoor winter container arrangement.

“Purple sensation” is one of the earliest alliums to bloom. The flower heads are 4-inch balls on 2- to 3-foot stalks.

“Christophii” displays 8- to 10-inch flower balls on 14- to 18-inch stalks.

“Globemaster” a 1971 cross, has been a long-lasting favorite in the bulb catalogs.

The 10-inch flower heads are dense atop thick 24- to 36-inch stems.

Use bulb food at the bottom of the planting hole and water well after planting. Mulch after the ground has frozen solid. Mulching too early will trap heat and possibly cause premature root growth, which you don't want for bulbs.

Free webinar class: Wednesday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m. offered by OSU Master Gardeners. Tips on end-of-season preparations for vegetable garden and landscape. Plus tips on how to prevent winter damage. Q&A session to follow. Register for the class at tinyurl.com/3w2x9p8f. Registration is required for this free class.

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BRIEFING

Assistance League of Bend provides new clothing to 2,000 students

Through its Operation School Bell program, Assistance League of Bend is providing new clothing to more than 2,000 students in kindergarten through grade 12 during the month of October. This back-to-school clothing campaign will take place at the Redmond and Bend Walmart stores on 12 shopping days throughout

the month.

The high school and middle school students will shop for new school clothes using \$100 vouchers and the elementary students will shop for new clothes using \$80 vouchers provided by Assistance League of Bend.

The vouchers are distributed to students in need by the Family Access Network advocates at each school. Assistance League of Bend has modified the shopping events to help keep the students and volunteers safe and they are excited to be able to support students in person again this fall.

Redmond approves using federal coronavirus aid money for police station

The Redmond City Council allocated its remaining \$2.93 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds toward its public safety facility project.

The council voted 4-3 Tuesday to spend \$631,535 on the relocation and expansion of the city's police station, adding to the \$2 million already allocated to the project last month. The vote followed a separate approval to move funding for homeless shelters off the table.

Councilor Jon Bullock, who voted against using funds for the police station last week, told the council he has been disappointed and disillusioned by the entire process for the use of the federal relief funds. He asked the council to reset the process before allocating the remaining funds.

Since August, the City Council has argued over whether to allocate a portion of the federal relief funds to help nonprofits open needed homeless shelters. While the council narrowly supported using nearly \$1 million for three shelters in early August, the plan was not formally approved.

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