

**BRIGHT COLORS, EASY-CARE, LONG-BLOOMING**  
— Your Garden Needs This Perennial! page 14

# Garden Gate

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## Colorful Autumn

**\* SAVE  
TIME**  
With Our  
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# ask garden gate

## garden jargon

Ever seen a horticultural term and wondered what it meant? We can help!

**DECIDUOUS** Any plant that drops all of its leaves seasonally is deciduous. Unlike a herbaceous plant that dies down to the ground, a deciduous plant leaves behind a structure, such as woody branches or a trunk. After a dormant period, new leaves will sprout on this framework of branches.

## Cankerworm control

Jon Sass, South Dakota

**Q** What's the best technique to keep cankerworms from crawling into my trees?

**A** Cankerworms "hibernate" in the soil until it's time to breed. Males have wings, but females have to crawl up into trees to lay their eggs. The caterpillars that hatch will feast on foliage.

Banding is a technique that uses a sticky material as a trap. To keep children and pets from getting to the sticky surface, construct

the band about 5 feet off the ground. Start with a layer of batting. The one in the first photo below is about 15 inches wide. Next add a layer of tar paper. It'll hold up in wind and rain and offer a surface to hold the sticky trap

You'll find the best control, Tanglefoot, at most garden centers. It won't wash off and remains sticky. Wearing disposable gloves, smear a 1/16-inch-thick layer of Tanglefoot on the tar paper. To keep crawlers from finding alternate routes you'll also need to band trees, and even light poles, that touch the branches of a susceptible tree.

Scrape away the dead crawlers frequently. They can become a bridge for the crawling insects. Apply more Tanglefoot if the surface is no longer sticky.

Have the bands in place before the adults emerge from the soil (mid- to late March in most areas). But check

with your local extension service to be sure of the timing. And remove the bands in mid-May to let the bark under the tar paper dry out. Then about the middle of September, you'll want to put them up again to catch fall cankerworms. Keep them in place until mid- to late October.

Here's a list of seven cankerworm favorites:

- Apple (*Malus* spp.)
- Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.)
- Basswood/linden (*Tilia* spp.)
- Elm (*Ulmus* spp.)
- Hackberry (*Celtis* spp.)
- Maple (*Acer* spp.)
- Oak (*Quercus* spp.)

## Rain garden cleanup

Diane Rhodes, Iowa

**Q** I put in a rain garden this spring. What do I need to do to get it ready for winter?

**A** A rain garden is about the same as any other flower border. However, since it's a new

garden or if it's been a dry fall, make sure to give it a good soaking before the ground freezes. Wait until spring to cut back your perennials and grasses. Many rain garden plants have interesting seedheads to look at or to feed birds. Next spring, when you're cleaning the rest of your garden, cut back the dead stalks to make room for new growth.

## A "bear" to remove

Wendy Levine, California

**Q** I've tried digging, but I can't get rid of a clump of bear's breeches. Any tips?

**A** Bear's breeches (*Acanthus* spp.), just like Oriental poppies, quack grass and dandelions, can regrow from a piece of root left in the soil. After you've dug out the clump, dig out the surrounding area. Sift out small root pieces using a screen made from 1/2-inch hardware cloth.

If you prefer herbicide, a systemic, such as Roundup® Poison Ivy and Tough Brush Killer, is your best option. These herbicides work best when the plant is actively growing and temps are between 65 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit. To get the herbicide into the leaves quickly, use a rake to tear up the foliage until you see sap oozing from the leaf veins. Before

PHOTOS: Doug Appleby (cankerworm control); courtesy of Kate Copsey (canna leaf)  
ILLUSTRATION: Mavis Augustine Forke (garden guy)

