

# Fall's Bounty

## Colour, Fruit and Bird Song

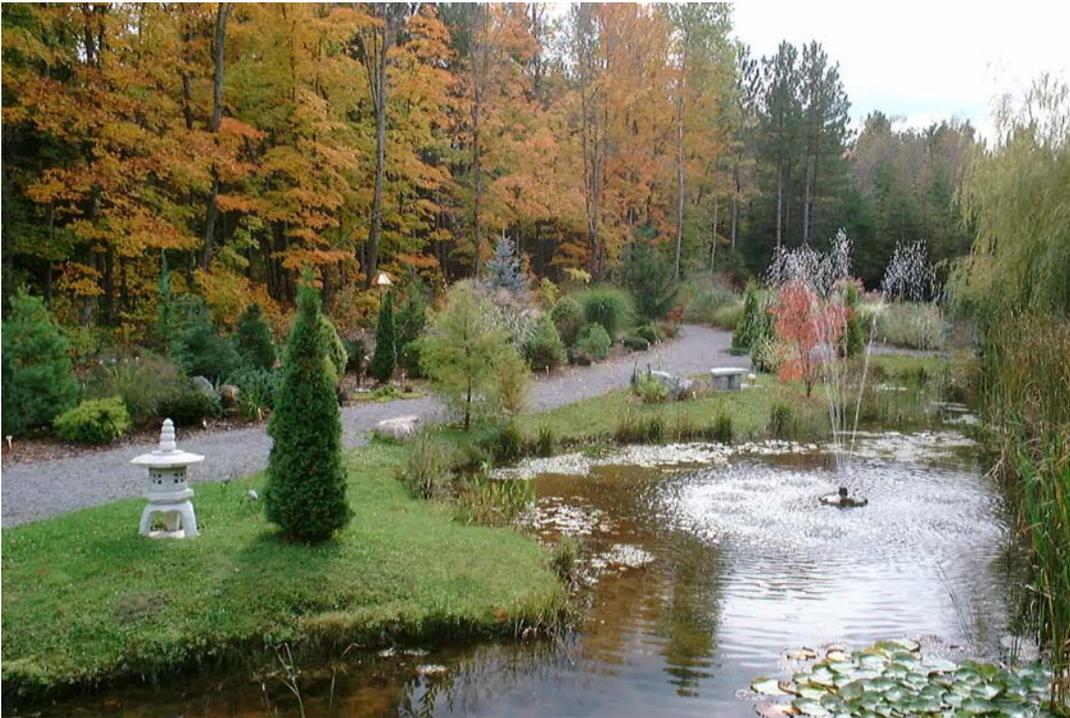
By Dave Dunn

Rideau Woodland Ramble

**J**ust as we start to feel the chill in the air and the pull of longer nights, we begin to reap the benefit of nature's visual fall bounty. When we think the garden is shutting down and all those annuals begin to look stretched and bedraggled, Mother Nature works her magic and the fall colour begins to appear. One of the best ways to lengthen the season of your garden and add whole new dimension to its experience is the addition of trees, shrubs and perennials specifically for their fall color, texture, bloom or fruit. All of the fruiting plants are a bonus for the birds, and they bring in that added interest, colour and song of the birds stocking up for winter or that long migration south!

### *Trees for the Backdrop and Stage Setting*

There are a great many trees that can be planted to add intense fall colour. Think of an artist's brush painting the sky with red and gold as a backdrop for your fall garden. The red maples, sugar maples, are famous for their fall color, but so are Service Berries, Ginkgo, and some of the Oaks. Consider the impact of a "Crimson Spire" Oak that is a strong vertical statement in the garden, one that goes a crimson red every fall. You cannot lose by adding fall coloring trees to your garden composition. You might also consider some of the fruiting trees such as Mountain Ash. Not only are the berries beautiful, but the birds they attract look and sound beautiful...and they are grateful!



The Pond Garden at the Ramble in Fall

### ***Shrubs for the Fillers and Fruit***

Carry on the thinking with a range of shrubs for fall impact. All of the Viburnum put on fall colour as well as fruit. Viburnum Sargentii “Onondaga” is a very special vertical specimen. Add to this Burning Bush for the reddest reds and high impact, and Deciduous Holly for great clusters of berries that hang on long after the leaves drop off. Just to spice up the mix, weave in a magnolia such as Magnolia “Susan”, providing a fall re-bloom of a startling wine coloured lily shaped flower.



Viburnum Onondaga

### ***Perennials for the Colour and Texture***

Many perennials come into their own late in the season, for a blast of colour. The Sedums, Asters, Mums, and Windflowers all shine late in the season, as do many of the Phlox, Rudbeckia, Coneflowers, Heathers and Sunflowers. Your artist’s pallet for fall colour has many choices...use them all!



Rudbeckia “Goldstrum”

### **Grasses for the Drama!**

I would be wrong not to make a special mention of grasses for fall impact. The huge variety of grasses (ranging in height, colour, and texture and growth habit) provides you to opportunity to create real dramas and contrast in the perennial border. They also have the added bonus of blooming late into the fall and providing colour and interest through the winter (don't cut your grasses until spring)



Grasses at the Ramble

As you can see, you have a very larger set of choices to make to help ensure your garden sings though the fall with colour, texture and birds. A few additions for fall impact will reward you for years to come, and who knows, might just hold back those winter blues!



*Viburnum Lantana Variegata*

The gardens at the Ramble have been planted with fall impact in mind. They are open every day from 9am-5pm April to November, free of charge. Please- Come Ramble and let us capture your imagination!

[www.rideauwoodlandramble.com](http://www.rideauwoodlandramble.com)

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