

I plan to savor these fall days



Jennifer Thompson

Summer seemed to fly by faster than ever this year due to our cool spring!

Although we'd still like to enjoy some bonus warm days, fall has its beauties as well. I plan to fully appreciate the fresh, fall air and quickly changing and falling leaves as I try to cram even more flowering bulbs into my landscapes (see "[Bulbs well-adapted to our inhospitable climate](#)" to read more about this fun activity). We'll also be getting out the caulk gun

to plug some leaky areas in our house before the REALLY cold weather arrives and thinking about which of the energy-saving measures listed in this issue's article "[A simple guide to energy efficiency: Put your home's energy gluttons on a permanent diet](#)" we'd like to employ.

For many in our state, growing trees on our properties for beauty and shade or to protect our structures, roads, livestock, and ourselves from our drying winds is a major challenge. I was happy to see our Ask Sam question in this issue is on the subject of using antitranspirants on smaller trees. The thorough answer provided by Sam can help you decide if antitranspirants are a good fit for your place.

Although a bit early, I've already begun to review the growing season that has passed and plan for the one ahead. If you're doing the same, this issue has some great articles on a variety of subjects, including management-intensive grazing systems, how to get those ladybugs you bought to stay around and eat your aphids, storing root vegetables, and how to effectively kill Russian olives. You can also challenge yourself and see if you can identify some of the pioneer plants, which are the first to make an appearance in disturbed areas of our state.

For those with speedy Internet connections, you might also like to check our ever-growing collection of useful video clips on YouTube (you can get there by visiting YouTube and searching for the Barnyards & Backyards channel or by visiting the Barnyardsandbackyards.com website where you'll find them under the Resources page in which you are interested).

As we journey through this season, I hope this issue finds you savoring fall and preparing for the winter ahead.



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