

## Pink Pearls

How do your shrubs look today? They're probably not as pretty as they looked earlier this summer—and it's going to get worse. Once the leaves drop, you'll be left with a skeleton of barren branches until spring.

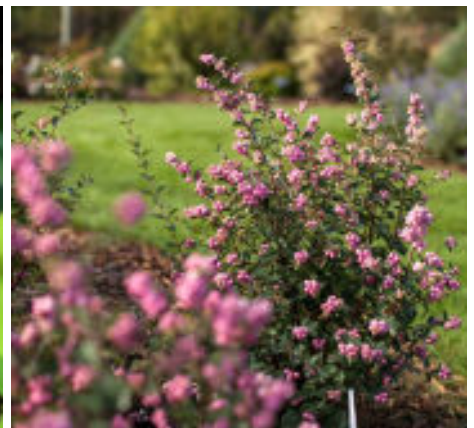
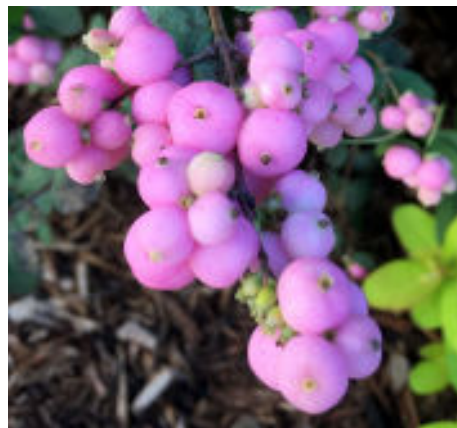
This is not the case with coralberry. When its leaves drop, a glowing display of pink pearls appears. These pearls are swelling and blushing now. Magnificent!

Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos* sp.) is a spreading groundcover native to North America. It is often seen growing on sloping sites with poor soils. The “almost weedy” plant is easy to grow and tolerates drought, alkaline soil and deer.

The introduction of cultivars with more upright and compact habits has made this adaptable plant a new and showy addition to home landscapes. These cultivars include Proven Winners Proud Berry®, and First Editions® Candy™ and Sweet™.

Place coralberry in a sunny spot to maximize fruit production and minimize leaf diseases. Trim the shrub back to 12 inches every spring. The new growth will develop tiny, bell-shaped flowers in summer and amazing pink pearls in fall. The pearl-laden branches make wonderful cut flower displays over the holidays!

The fruits are mildly toxic and should not be eaten. They contain saponin, the same toxin found in *Digitalis* (foxglove).



*Candy™ (top and bottom right) and Proud Berry® (bottom left) coralberries.*

Perhaps this toxin contributes to the persistence of the fruit. Birds stay away from the berries until late in winter, allowing us to enjoy the beauty of the fruits for months. The berries look lovely when speckled with snow.

If you are looking for a unique plant that stands out in winter landscapes and in holiday bouquets, consider growing one of the new and improved cultivars of coralberry.

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# Hardy, Drought-Tolerant Trees

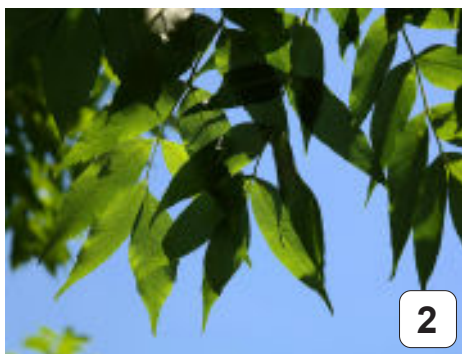
This year's drought taught us the importance of selecting the right tree for our harsh environment. The leafy trees highlighted here can withstand the cold, dry climate of North Dakota. Many are hardy to Zone 3 (-35°F). Can you match the trees with their names? Answers are on page 5.

*\*Hardy to Zone 4 only.*

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Elm | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Coffeetree*   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bur Oak      | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Catalpa*      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chokecherry  | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian Olive          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Ash    | <input type="checkbox"/> Thornless Honeylocust* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hackberry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ussurian Pear          |



1



2



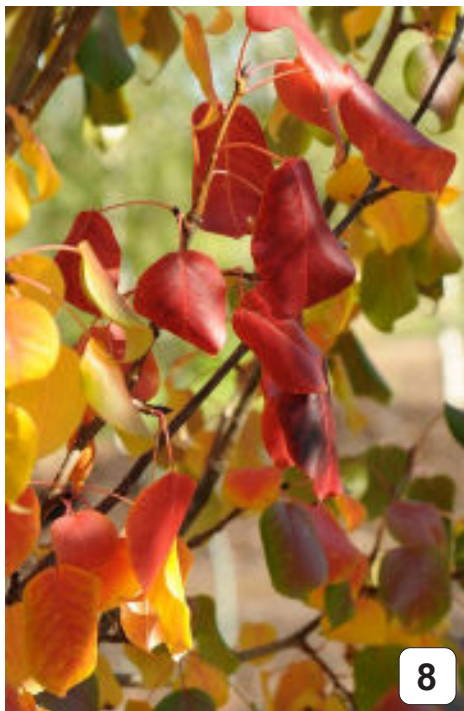
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6



7



9



10



# Storing Your Harvest

Frosty weather has arrived and many of us are busy harvesting our vegetables. You can extend the enjoyment of your harvest by storing your vegetables properly.

Most vegetables will store best at around 32°F, but you can store most vegetables for 2–3 months at temps around 50°F and in high humidity. Most of us do not have a root cellar, but we likely have some space where we can keep our produce cool: an unheated garage, mud room or a cool area in the basement.



## Cabbage

Cold and Moist

Keep a few of the outer wrapper leaves attached. Store at 32°F and 90–100% RH.



## Beets and Carrots

Cold and Moist

Harvest before a killing frost (28°F) and when the soil is fairly dry. Gently remove the soil. Do not scar roots. Slice off the tap root from beets.

Do not wash roots before storing. This promotes rotting and removes beneficial bacteria in the soil near the skin that fight decay. Wash roots only before you eat them.

Trim each top to ¼ inch. Longer tops will lead to more decay. Shorter tops will cause roots to dry.

Store in perforated plastic bags or in sealed containers filled with damp sand. Perforated bags will increase humidity and allow for air circulation. Store at 32°F and 90–100% RH.



## Potatoes

Cold and Moist

Harvest two weeks after the foliage dies back. This allows the skin to set. Do not let tubers freeze in the ground. Use a spading fork to dig tubers. Remove loose dirt and avoid bruising. Allow tubers to sit for a day to dry before storing.

Place in mesh bags, crates or vented boxes. Store in a cold, moist and dark location. Temps in the high 30s and a humidity of 95% are ideal.

## Onions

Cold and Dry

Harvest when tops have fallen over. Keep in the garden for a couple days to dry. Shake off loose dirt and cure bulbs in a warm (80°F), airy spot until necks wither (2–4 weeks). Trim tops to 1 inch; remove roots. Store in a dark place, near 32°F with 65% RH.

## Pumpkins and Squash

Cool and Dry

Harvest before a killing frost (28°F). Cure in a warm (80°F) spot for 10 days for long-term storage. Wipe but don't wash fruit. Store at 50–60°F, 50–70% RH and good ventilation.

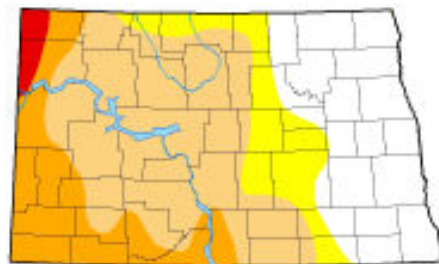
For pumpkins, leave a few inches of handle. Avoid picking up pumpkins by handles and do not bruise.

For squash, leave at least one inch of stem. Acorn squash will not store long and do not need to be cured.

# Drought Watch

The drought is coming to an end in the east while conditions are slightly improving for much of the rest of the state.

This garden season is nearly over. We will need to monitor soil moisture levels to make sure our perennial flowers, trees and shrubs have adequate moisture heading into winter. The 8–14 day forecast calls for near normal rainfall amounts. Details of our recent weather and the growing season are presented on page 6.



October 3, 2017

- Moderately dry: 72% of state.
- Moderate drought: 60% of state.
- Severe drought: 19% of state.
- Extreme drought: 2% of state.
- Exceptional drought 0% of state.

# Chores & Challenges

## Vegetables and Herbs



### Frost-Sensitive Vegetables

Cover tender veggies (tomato, pepper, cucumber, melon, pumpkin and squash) with blankets during light frosts. Carrot, beet and potato tolerate light frost. Kale, cabbage, broccoli and radish will tolerate a hard (28°F) frost.

### Growing Herbs Indoors

Now is a great time to start growing herbs indoors. You can enjoy fresh herbs in your holiday meals or grow pots of herbs to share as gifts with fellow gardeners.

Dig small clumps or take cuttings of rosemary, chives, thyme and sage from your garden. Sow seeds of basil, parsley, dill and cilantro.

Use potting soil mix. Small (3–4 inch) pots work well on a windowsill.

Larger pots can be used with plant stands. Fertilize monthly.

Set near a sunny (south) window with at least 6 hours of sun per day. “Grow light” tubes are another option. Keep them on for at least 12 hours daily and set lights close (6–15 inches) to plants. Room temps will work well.

Winter homes are dry. Set pots on a tray filled with gravel and then add water to the tray. A humidifier and misting can help.



### Ripening Tomatoes Indoors

Set blushing, crack-free tomatoes on a newspaper and then place another newspaper sheet over the fruits. This traps ethylene, which fruits emit when ripening. Keep out of direct sun. Room temperatures develop fullest flavors.

## Ornamentals



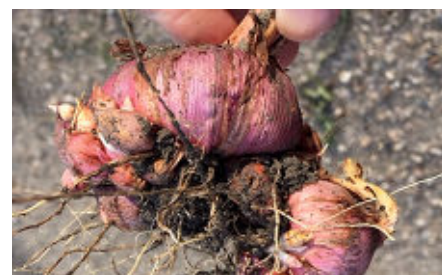
### Frost-Sensitive Annuals

Very sensitive annuals include marigold, impatiens, zinnia, begonia, celosia, salvia verben and coleus. Hardier flowers include petunia, aster, cosmos, dianthus, moss rose and snapdragon.



### Jumbo Amaryllis

Plan ahead for holiday magic! Most cultivars bloom in 8 weeks. Get a giant bulb from a garden center or online store. Big bulbs produce more flowers and are more likely to bloom in the future.



### Dig and Store Gladiolus

Shake off dirt; cut stems. Store in a warm, airy spot (garage) for 2–3 weeks. Discard the old, shriveled corm and keep new ones (at least 1/2 inch diameter). Keep cool (40°F) in labeled paper bags.



# Chores & Challenges

## Lawns



### Last Mowing

A tall turf is bad over winter. It attracts rodents and is subject to mold. Cut your turf at normal height or slightly lower (1.5–2.0 inches).



### Seeding and Sodding

Do not sow grass seed now. The seedlings will not have enough time to get established. Sod can be laid until the ground freezes.



### Spraying Weeds

Thistle and other perennial weeds can be treated after a heavy frost if the leaves appear to be not damaged. The weeds must be alive and active for the herbicide to move into the roots.

## Fruits



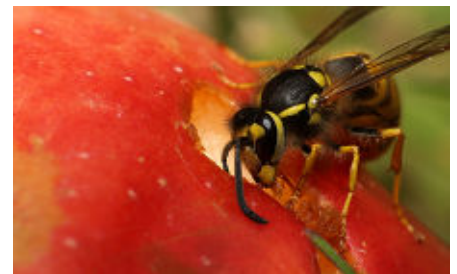
### Frosted Apples

Apples on trees can tolerate temps approaching 25°F before damage occurs. If they freeze, wait until they thaw before picking. Use promptly.



### Storing Apples

Store in a cool (near 32°F), humid (90% RH), dark place. A refrigerator is best, but a cool root cellar or garage is okay. If refrigerated, store in perforated plastic bags to increase humidity.



### Clean Under Fruit Trees

Rake and remove fallen leaves and fruits in the orchard. This litter can be a source of diseases and insect pests next year. Look out for wasps when picking up fallen fruits in autumn.

## Trees



### Wrap Young Trees

Place white tree guards (left) or wrap Kraft paper around young trees. This prevents cracking (right) and protects against wildlife. Linden, mountainash, maple and fruit trees are very sensitive.



### Fall Needle Drop

Old needles (located near the trunk) are *supposed* to drop. If young needles (located near the tips of branches) are healthy, the evergreen is full of life.

- Hardy, Drought-Tolerant Trees**
1. American Elm
  2. Green Ash
  3. Northern Catalpa
  4. Chokecherry
  5. Thornless Honeylocust
  6. Russian Olive
  7. Hackberry
  8. Ussurian Pear
  9. Bur Oak
  10. Kentucky Coffeetree

# Weather Almanac for September 22–October 6, 2017

Site	HARD FROST <sup>1,2</sup>		TEMPERATURE <sup>2</sup>				RAINFALL <sup>2,4</sup>				GROWING DEGREE DAYS <sup>2,5</sup>			
	(28°F)		Sep 22–Oct 6				Sep 22–Oct 6		2017		Sep 22–Oct 6		2017	
	2017	Norm	Avg	Norm	Max	Min	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm
Bottineau	10/03	09/27	49	50	71	26	0.55	0.64	9.36	13.48	75	92	1998	2107
Bowman	10/04	09/30	48	51	78	22	0.70	0.75	6.76	11.61	77	105	2276	2199
Carrington	None	10/05	52	52	73	31	0.92	0.89	13.26	15.69	87	106	2171	2275
Crosby	10/05	09/29	49	48	73	27	0.83	0.61	6.17	11.79	66	87	2179	1959
Dickinson	10/04	10/03	49	50	77	27	0.74	0.74	8.49	13.18	69	110	2347	2184
Fargo	None	10/05	55	53	87	34	2.39	1.17	10.73	16.49	91	104	2436	2425
Grafton	None	10/04	52	51	72	30	1.97	1.08	11.91	16.09	79	98	2110	2125
Grand Forks	None	10/05	54	51	76	33	1.60	1.02	14.43	15.69	85	94	2312	2171
Hazen	10/06	09/27 <sup>6</sup>	50	53	76	26	0.38	0.73	9.83	13.32	80	129	2255	2407
Hillsboro	None	10/06	53	52	82	29	1.47	1.14	13.19	16.18	91	95	2229	2288
Jamestown	None	10/04	51	52	71	33	1.37	0.98	11.71	15.35	75	95	2120	2247
Langdon	None	09/28	49	48	68	30	1.36	0.90	10.22	15.55	56	74	1800	1808
Mandan	None	10/01	51	52	74	32	0.61	0.75	11.24	14.37	83	104	2338	2266
Minot	None	10/07	50	50	71	31	0.51	0.72	8.10	13.61	67	85	2198	2059
Mott	10/04	09/28	49	51	78	25	0.48	0.75	7.31	12.45	79	116	2292	2282
Rugby	10/05	10/04	50	50	72	27	0.28	0.82	9.37	15.21	75	95	2127	2104
Wahpeton	None	10/06 <sup>7</sup>	54	55	89	34	2.76	1.38	19.78	17.34	88	112	2296	2536
Watford City	None	09/25	49	51	75	32	0.71	0.52	8.57	11.27	65	108	2330	2192
Williston	None	09/29	49	54	74	31	0.88	0.58	9.04	11.26	70	125	2397	2476
Wishek	None	09/27	51	51	72	33	1.47	1.00	9.35	15.64	70	94	2156	2068

## DAYLENGTH (Oct 6, McClusky, center of ND)<sup>3</sup> LONG-TERM OUTLOOKS<sup>1</sup>

Sunrise: 7:47 AM      Daylength: 11h 25m      Oct 12–Oct 16: Temp.: Above Normal; Precip.: Above Normal  
 Sunset: 7:13 PM      Change since Sep 22: –48m      Oct 14–Oct 20: Temp.: Above Normal; Precip.: Normal

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, www.sunrisesunset.com

<sup>4</sup> Measurements begin April 1.

<sup>5</sup> GDDs for garden vegetables are not available. GDD data in this table are for corn, which responds to temperature as most vegetables grown in gardens. Data begin May 1 with base minimum and maximum temperatures of 50 and 86°F, respectively.

<sup>6,7</sup> Frost data for Beulah and Campbell, respectively.

## Credits

### Sources:

Grant, A. 2017. Coralberry shrub information. Accessed online. <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/shrubs/coralberry/coralberry-shrub-information.htm>.  
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 University of Nebraska. 2017. Drought Monitor, [droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Home.aspx).

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otherwise: **PAGE 1:** Bailey Nurseries, Inc., Proven Winners, Bailey Nurseries, Inc. **PAGE 2:** Mary Keim, .../38514062@N03/7128447377; Hans via Pixabay; Dendroica cerulea, .../dendroica/14287966160; Kent McFarland, .../vtebird/8422031287; Chris Sloan, .../sloanpix/2962833007; Lazaregagnidze via Wikipedia; Chee via Wikipedia; NDSU Agriculture and Extension; MONGO via Wikipedia; Dendroica cerulea, .../dendroica/17998003833/. **PAGE 3:** arbyreed, .../19779889@N00/24867297771; bluekdesign, .../bluekdesign/5897417097; Ishikawa Ken, .../chidorian/2630925542; Drought Monitor, droughtmonitor.unl.edu/. **PAGE 4: Vegetables and Herbs:** YoungDoo M. Carey, .../youngdoo/173896654/; pxhcre.com/en/ photo 287824; Andrea R, .../andrea\_r/41992649/. **Ornamentals:** Gabrielle Ludlow, .../gabrudlow/5221014869; Mark Hsu, .../energystar/8501293004; Anton Braun. **PAGE 5: Lawns:** Michael McGimpsey, .../michaelmcgimpsey/9962709565; Jason Alley, .../jasonalley/8274252431; Thistle Garden, .../63026284@N05/8687240201/. **Fruits:** Fredrik Alpstedt, .../alpstedt/11025803586; wongaboo, .../27146806@N00/15228654692; Nathan Feir, .../vanmorbo/1580524725; **Trees:** Tom Kalb, NDSU (3).

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