Fall flowering trio, three-lobed coneflower (**Rudbeckia triloba**), and **Symphyotrichum novae-angliae***(Photo: Sarah Bouboulis)*

Fall may be the time of year when your garden needs the least amount of maintenance. The insects we hope our gardens attract will use the dying plant material to insulate and sustain themselves through the winter months ahead. Birds and mammals also rely on the seeds the plants are still producing to bulk up for scarcer times ahead, or perhaps even miles long migrations. Time to Cool Down

**Asian bittersweet** (*Celastrus virginianus*)

Asian bittersweet is a fall “show winner!** (Photo: Sarah Bouboulis)**

**Physostegia virginiana**

Be aggressive, but if you have a trouble with an invading plant, there are always tricks. For example, you can use a vinegar solution, a sure fire method, or simply get a plant that can outcompete the invader. Mounding a new bed of earth around the base of the plant can also provide competition. You can also use this technique to make room for a new plant. Another great trick is to hand pull the invaders. But be sure to get the root ball all the way out with the plant. The roots of the plant are where the energy is stored in the cycle of life. Asian bittersweet is a fast growing vine that spreads. It is considered a noxious weed and can cause economic damage to ecosystems. It is possible to hybridize between the native version and the Asian bittersweet, which could lead to the loss of genetic diversity of the native variety. You can tell the difference between the Asian bittersweet and the native American bittersweet by the way the berries are at the ends of branches. Try to stay away from the Asian bittersweet, which can shade-out and out-compete for farmers. It is a fast growing vine weed and can cause economic damage to farmers. It is a fall “show winner!** (Photo: Sarah Bouboulis)**

**Fall into the Fall**

Fall is definitely has us all looking to the future. It is a time to plan for the future and look ahead. And 2020 is also a great time to think about planting for next year. Sometimes the change is slow, sometimes it is sudden and can catch us off guard. Your garden might still need a little support before heading into winter. Fall is also a time to adjust and plant as necessary. You can use the dying plant to make a plan for what you’d like to adjust and plant. Reflect on what worked and didn’t work over the previous garden season, make a plan for what you’d like to adjust and plant.

**Dutchman’s breeches** (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

**www.perennialpages.org**