

Autumn in the Garden

I really love the rich autumn colours in the garden, everything having a last hurrah before the dull days of winter. To help the wildlife in your garden, berries and seed heads are invaluable. The pictures below show the glorious berries on a Rowan and a honeysuckle. If you do not have the space for a tree as big as a Rowan you could have small



trees, shrubs or climbers which will provide berries. There are lots to choose from.



Seed heads also provide food for birds.



On the left is an Achillea which has glorious bright yellow flowers which become very attractive seed heads. On the right is a thistle, a favourite of the pollinators in summer and food for the birds



later. Any plants which have good seed heads are useful at this time of year and are attractive covered in frost or snow later on.

It is always tempting to have a good tidy up of the dead plants in the autumn but this is not good for the wildlife. Dead vegetation provides cover for animals in the winter so leaving the tidying until early spring is a great help. The picture opposite shows dead hollow stems which may be a home for overwintering insects. Leave them if you can.

