

Most of us are wowed by the raucous colors of fall – maples, oaks, hickories, mums and the like. But, perhaps our enjoyment would be enhanced and prolonged if we would let ourselves be drawn to all the little gems in the landscape that could easily be overlooked. They flash their unique hues as if to say “Look at us – we’re worthy of attention too!” There are many to pick from. Here is a list from just my yard alone. There are many more ideas out there, so stroll your own part of the world (maybe your dog will help) and pay attention to what hidden treasures are out there.

GOLD: solomon’s seal foliage (polygonatum), amsonia (beautiful feather foliage), hosta (some leaves turn brilliant gold before freezing temps collapse them), **BLACK:** dangling seeds on solomon’s seal, fat seedpods of baptisia, **WHITE:** eupatorium (var. “Chocolate” has frothy white flower clusters), seven son’s tree (heptacodium) has white flowers surrounded by burgundy calyxes, **CARMINE RED:** flower wands of persicaria (var. “Firetail”), **RUSTY RED-GOLD:** bowman’s root foliage (a shrubby perennial gillenia trifoliata) **YELLOW:** corydalis lutea flowers (start blooming in May and goes thru Oct with tiny blue-green foliage), **DARK BLUE:** flowers of plumbago (a groundcover, calyxes are red, giving a two-tone effect), flowers of monkshood (aconitum **CAUTION** plant can be toxic – use gloves and keep away from pets and kids) **RED:** berries of highbush cranberry viburnum, rose hips, leaves of Virginia creeper vine, **LAVENDER** **PINK:** Sheffield Pink mum (daisy-like blooms on 2-1/2” plants with gold centers, one of last to bloom), **HOT PINK** pigsqueak (bergenia) leaves are thick and leather-like. And don’t forget the beautiful blooms of the dahlia tuber, which continue to bloom until hard frost. So discover surprising delights of your own this fall.

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