

Seeing Seeds by Josephine Borut

If you haven't already picked up seeds from your garden for the seed swap in April, you can still find many seeds in your garden. On a sunny day after a few days of no rain or snow, wander around your yards and see, really see the plants that carry noticeable seed heads. Gather and dry...you know what to do.

Lunaria: the money plant pods hold the brown kidney shaped seeds of the Lunaria plant. Once they are dry, the white seed pod covers fall away and the seeds drop off leaving the transparent, round, pearly, papery pod. These stems with the translucent holders attached are stunning in dried arrangements.

Clematis: the whirligig seed heads of the clematis enclose tiny seeds which have feathery silky tails. When these seed heads are ripe and dry, the seedlings float in the wind until stopped.

Callicarpa: the beautyberry shrub offers wildlife stems with clusters of small purple pink berries in the fall. Whatever is not eaten by the birds and wildlife, eventually completely dry and fall to earth for rodents to feast on.

Allium: the papery little pods are filled with tiny black seeds of the chive plant. When the paper dries and the seeds ripen, the paper shatters and the tiny seeds escape to the ground.

Rosea: the round, red rose hips are topped with the dried flower calyx. These carry the nutlet seeds within their white, pulpy interiors. Once the hips, complete dry out and fall to the ground, the dark nutlet seeds are freed from the pulp and can germinate.



Lunaria



Callicarpa



Clematis



Allium



Rosea