Good afternoon and thanks for joining us I'm Judy Simpson. Just because it's fall it does not mean your landscape has needs to be drab and colorless. So we've called on two experts who can give us some tips on how to add color and interest to fall landscapes as well as how to choose in combined perennial flowers for other seasons. Let me introduce UVM extension horticulturist who is a frequent contributor to our program Leonard Perry and Leonard you brought along a special guest.

Leonard.: I have Judy and it's so exciting that good friend of mine Stephanie Cohen was in the area up from Philadelphia. I've known Stephanie for some years. She taught at temple years ago and since has written several books speaks all over the country and has a wealth of knowledge to share. We have a couple of books will be talking about today. She's often known as the perennial diva so it gives you a clue of her passion she will be talking about

Judy.: Stephanie thanks so much for being with us again. Your expertise there's a lot to talk about let's focus on your book fallscape because this is perfect timing. Tell me a little bit about it what can people find it?

Stephanie.: OK what happened was there was one book written on this about 10 years ago and publishing has changed since then. It was a very well written book but it was all in black and white and there's no color.

Judy.: This is full of color.

Stephanie.: This and the original book was about somebody's own garden. Some of the pictures in there by the way are my garden because if you walk the walk you going to talk the talk. What I had thought about was in our area people go into the garden center in the spring and they're all excited and there ready to plant or ready to do this and then come summer that heat they start of slowdown by fall a lot of times your garden is looking beat up.

Judy.: And you say oh let's wait till spring.

Stephanie.: And you say I don't want to do a thing

Judy.: Now there is only so far you can go as far as decorating by taking a pumpkin in the middle of the garden which is what I do to add color.
Stephanie.: Where I live out and know whether that's better or worse. They're having company and they've run out to the garden center and they buy a mum of every color and they throw them all over the place. I have claimed a word which I have found surely enough all over the place and I say on the East Coast we get are really bad case of mum-itus.

Judy.: That's so true.

Stephanie.: Because there just throwing them all over and what this book tries to point out to you. Fall is glorious. Up here I don't have to tell you that it is glorious but in other parts of the country they will come running up here which I think is wonderful that they can have part of that in their own backyard if they think about what they're planning.

Judy.: Let's talk about some specific ideas that people can add or incorporate to their fall landscapes.

Stephanie.: What I like people to think about is not a one season plant I think we have to get past that. In other words a plant that flowers in the spring for two weeks especially if you have a small yard doesn't do anything. So what I'm trying to get people to say is hay if I pick a better selection it will flower in the spring it will look great and be all nice and green all summer then in the fall it's going to give me some fall color so that gives you three out of the four seasons and some of these particularly if there shrubs have nice structure so you're getting even four seasons because on the snow was on them they don't look too bad.

Judy.: Yeah. Leonard I know that you remain busy in your gardens during the fall of what recommendations do you have for fall gardeners?

Leonard.: There's a lot that I'm doing this time a year. I'm getting ready for spring. Getting those weeds cleaned up putting in bulbs and I'm thinking ahead to spring. I'm doing a lot of thinking ahead to spring at this time of year. Estefan meant as a lot of plants that you can put in and now is a good time in the fall to get those plans put in and I have some ideas from a recent trip to Montreal botanic gardens. They had some beautiful things up there. How about a couple pictures of those. Here's one of some of those mums but mixed in with some Kale and ornamental grass.

Stephanie.: Grass is what makes it. I think the garden without grass for fall is lacking.

Judy.: OK.

Leonard.: I have another one that shows the grass here You have some fall astors again their beautiful and great for pollinaters late in the season of course seedam and a lot of different perennials then here's foliage. Three different shrubs variegated a red leaf with an affect from the hydrangea one of those that you are talking about.

Stephanie.: Yes the oak leaf hydrangeas are really bright red and if you let the flour dry on it you can use it for dry flowers in the house or spray paint it and use it for Christmas decoration but meanwhile is giving you another season.

Judy.: Stephanie let's talk about my first book it's called a perennial gardeners designed primary. Tell viewers what they're going to find in that.

Stephanie.: I taught herbaceous plants for 20 years and that means perennials and designing with perennials. People were afraid to start. They would buy plants and then they would look at them and decide they didn't know where to put them. A lot of people do that. They walk in the garden center and say this is pretty I'll buy it but then they get it home and hold it in their hand and say I don't know what to do with it now. It's a challenge to them and so what I did with this book I thought this is a start from scratch book and by the time they're finished reading it they should be
able to design their own perennial garden. There are 20 different designs in this book and I did most of them myself because I want to make sure people were able to. They're fairly simple but I wanted to make sure people could get the plans easy enough to do. I'm very proud. Leonard and I were just talking about this that this is now being used in for colleges as a textbook but it doesn't need to be a textbook it can be read by anybody. A newish gardener I call a newbie two people who want a nice looking garden and don't have the time like the young married couple have a couple kids and a dog and they don't have a lot of time so if they choose their plants wisely they should be able to figure it out and have really nice gardens from spring to fall without killing themselves.

Judy.: or killing the plants.

Stephanie.: We're killing the plants. My theory has always been work smarter not harder.

Judy.: So what advice do you have about putting things together because that can be a real stumbling block for some people as far as colors size of plants?

Stephanie.: That's all in here in the book.

Judy.: Leonard how do I go about choosing and putting perennials together?

Leonard.: As Stephanie mentioned I'm one of those a lot of times that do is I say not as I do. I go to the garden center oh I have to have that it's new and I get home OK a shovel in one hand plants and the other where am I going to put it.

Stephanie.: I call that the gardeners walk because they walk around like this trying to figure out where to put it.

Leonard.: What I'm looking at is combinations what's it going to look next to. So I combine on a small scale also I repeat if I'm going to have a flocks and I will have flocks another beds to add some of that.

Stephanie.: One thing I will tell people for either book if you've never grown a plant usually in a book like this you talk about large numbers 3-5-7 they usually working on numbers but the first to you by a plant in a familiar with it by one. If it grows and you don't kill it make sure you keep a little notebook write down the name of the plant or where you put it. Get a little five and dime book or whatever then the following year you buy what you really need because a lot of times if they see something new it doesn't work.

Judy.: Right and that's important to make sure that it works.

Stephanie.: I always tell people that new is not necessarily better it's just new. Once it's tried and true and people are saying you've got to have this then you want three you want five you want seven and that's fine.

Leonard.: I think a good point to pick up on is what I call the three strike rule. Three strikes before they are out. Try it if it doesn't live it's not me and maybe where I put it so I get another one next year try it at a different site. Once it done that three times and it's still dies I figure if maybe have it is not meant to be.

Judy.: Let's take a look at some of the things that are available. Leonard you brought some photos home to highlight some choices.

Leonard.: I'm actually trialing a lot of new perennials and I brought a few pictures of these trials. Here's an example of the different ones about 80 are nine the different ones. Just different
perennials this year I've a whole set in addition to that.

Stephanie.: Only 80 year 90 huh?

Leonard.: Then the coral bells there are 90 of those that I have in now. The new coral bells heucheras you can see all the different foliage is to see how they perform in our climate which are hearty. Couple ones have this is a popular one.

Stephanie.: This is a really good one. This is caramel.

Leonard.: Then another one that I like this year that really survive well as last year one of my favorites is called dark secret. Just really ruffled foliage you can see is dark with a nice flowering. This is the ways looking now and it's just gorgeous. That's just a couple examples. Then there's the heucheralla the coral bells and foam flowers. Here's an example of one there are several of those.

Stephanie.: This is nice because you can combine it with either things that are purple foliage or things with red flowers and them. Is all kinds of combinations in fact with a little bit of red in it you could even use roses.

Leonard.: That's very nice to combine with things. I mention the foam flowers there's many of those on the market this is one that has a lot of flowers. There is quite a few some run and clump so that's a thing to be aware of with those.

Stephanie.: That's not my favorite it's a nice one but you know what I'm going to say there's one call Stephanie Cohen that's my favorite.

Judy.: The most beautiful flower there is.

Leonard.: Another good one that I'm looking at now and just put in about 60 of these. This is not my garden this is Montreal. Hopefully not a look this way next year because I've all these in and a big block of the cone flowers Echinacea. There's just three examples to show some of the variety not necessarily the best green and the has some green on the tip and is pinkish as an interesting one is ones that are double are several of those this one happens to be coconut line but there's double Decker and double scoop bubble gum. This is one of my favorites.

Stephanie.: This is a nice color.

Judy.: It's beautiful.

Leonard.: I love the color on that one tiki torch so that's just an example of just a few of the varieties we don't know.

Stephanie.: Some of these snow cone flowers that are being introduced I have to tell this to your public is there's for mixes in them there's four different plants and appending what's in them they can wind up being very short lived.

Judy.: Interesting.

Stephanie.: That's what he's hopefully going to be able to tell you because people have been complaining. We used to plant the old fashion ones they live blah blah blah and now they're not so I think you have to research around look around see what people are suggesting.

Judy.: Good idea. I know you have pictures of combinations of plants?
Leonard.: I do and these came from the Cornell plantation a couple years ago there's beautiful gardens there on the Cornell campus in Ithaca New York. Just a show some examples of designing here's some for any lists billing over the corner of a walk say don't have the straight edge you face it down a bit with some perennials. Showing bright colors how they advanced for June so you look down the walk.

Stephanie.: I like this because it's not a straight line too.

Judy.: Yes.

Leonard.: Then of course the tropicals tender things of course the frost hopefully if you had any you brought them in. Those are great ecina still and gardens around. Just bright colors a mix of fully ages and textures.

Stephanie.: Yes I think these are really nice.

Leonard.: They've really done a good job there. Warm colors and the Reds but again some purples and cooler tents of those then you have really cool blues and greens but a nice mix. And again the red contrast.

Stephanie.: Cooler colors calm you down and if you're having a party you won't want all cool colors because you want everyone to be dancing in the streets.

Leonard.: If you have shade here's a good example of bright color to brighten up shade with a hosta just a few example of designs and ideas that of course you will find in this book which of course I use in my course well for teaching on campus.

Judy.: I think it's too bad because people don't think about fall gardening and a lot of color.

Stephanie.: And there is. If you saw my garden now I have tons of things because I think about it in terms of not only perennials a few trees actually flower late and some of the shrubs of course they're not going to re-flower that they have great fall color.

Leonard.: Even the edibles like blueberries turn reddish.

Stephanie.: Blueberries have one of the best fall colors there is so you can eat them and they have nice flowers blueberries any eat them then you get fall color. That's giving you everything.

Judy.: That's perfect. Stephanie how can people find out more about your books? I know you have a website.

Stephanie.: Yes is called the perennial diva.com. The fallscaping is not only in paperback it's also electronic.

Judy.: Excellent. How about for you Leonard?

Leonard.: I have my website of course I mention these and other books at Perry's perennials.com. Of course a lot more on the trials I will mention as I get information I'll be playing that up there as well.

Judy.: Thanks for joining us. Stephanie great to see you.

Stephanie.: Great to see you.
Judy.: That's our program for today I'm Judy Simpson we will see you again next time on across the fence.

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