



# Johnson's Garden Talk

Lawn and garden information for the friends and customers of Johnson's Garden Centers

## Johnson's Garden Talk

Nov/Dec 2004



### WEST 13th STORE

2707 West 13th St. N.  
Wichita, KS 67203  
316-942-1443

### EAST STORE

6225 E. Shadybrook  
(21st @ Woodlawn)  
Wichita, KS 67203  
316-687-5451

### RIDGE ROAD STORE

802 N. Ridge Rd.  
Wichita, KS 67212  
316-943-0494

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION NIGHTSCAPING

316-943-6886

### CORPORATE OFFICE

316-942-3751

### TOLL-FREE NUMBER

888-542-8463

### EMAIL

[askus@johnsonsgarden.com](mailto:askus@johnsonsgarden.com)

### WEB PAGE

[www.johnsonsgarden.com](http://www.johnsonsgarden.com)

## Color in the Garden

Mike Hargrove, Johnson's Ridge Rd. Greenhouse Manager

Activity in the garden doesn't have to stop once the temperature has fallen below freezing. Winter can still be colorful with cardinals, goldfinches, juncos and chickadees flitting across the yard. Feeding winter birds has long been a tradition of gardeners and Johnson's Garden Centers can help you enjoy the hobby more by suggesting the right seed and feeder to attract the birds you want and to avoid some of the messier aspects of feeding the birds.

This season, we are offering a new line of tube birdfeeders from Woodlink. These feeders have all-metal seed ports, caps and bases (*powder coated*) to prevent squirrel damage and ensure years of service. The perches on the feeder are looped to make it easier for the birds to feed and watch for predators. Both the seed tube and the thistle tube are priced at \$21.98, a great value for a well-made feeder. Seed trays are available to make feeding a little neater and allow more birds to eat at the feeder. A caged tube feeder is also available to keep squirrels and larger birds off the feeder, allowing only the smaller songbirds to dine.

Johnson's also offers a complete line of quality Audubon Park birdseed formulated with the birds in mind. None of our mixes contain filler seeds like wheat, oats, milo or grain by-products. We use only seeds that are attractive to the birds you want to attract to your yard. My favorite birdseed blend is "Tidy Gardener." It is a mixture of sunflower chips, hulled proso millet, peanut pieces and nyjer (*thistle*). Since the shells have been taken off the sunflower, millet and peanuts and the nyjer is sterilized, this mixture leaves no mess behind and no surprise plants in the garden next spring. It is a great blend to use in hopper-style feeders or platform feeders.

Anyone who feeds the birds also feeds the squirrels, whether we want to or not. For those of you who enjoy them, try feeding "Critter Crunch" a blend of whole corn, peanuts in and out of shell, striped sunflower and mixed nuts. This blend works great in the squirrel "lunch box" feeder. For those of you who cannot abide those furry creatures, there is safflower that the squirrels don't care for. An added bonus is that the blackbirds don't like it either. While it is not a favorite of the birds, cardinals, chickadees, house finches and doves quickly become accustomed to the taste and will usually go to a safflower feeder first because there is less competition there.

In mid October, the juncos (*snowbirds*) arrived from the North, a sure sign winter is almost here. Of course my ground feeder was empty so I had to get some "Pretty Boy Mix" to put out for them. This is a blend of red and white proso millet and sunflower that is great for doves, juncos and native sparrows. It should be only a few more days and we will be seeing Harris sparrows in the yard. ■