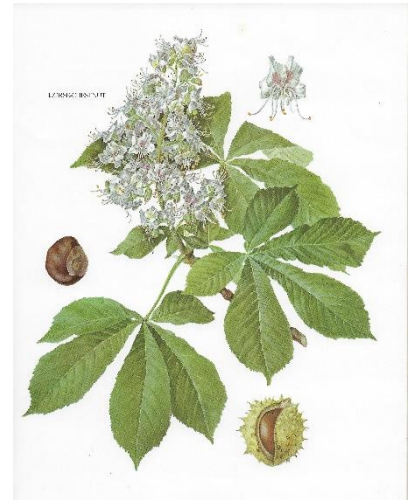


Fruit to Flower- October in the Garden

Each year we try to follow some of the plants in our gardens or on our walks from flower to fruit. October is a good time to check on the branches you drew in January or the flowers you drew in the spring and summer. If you missed your moment this is the time of year to look around outside to see what is fruiting and also for thinking ahead.



Botanists call the ripened ovaries of flowers, fruits, with some “fancier” names like *legumes* (peas e.g), or *fleshy fruits* like a plum or an apple, *follicles* like milkweed, *capsules* like a poppy or iris, *nuts* like an acorn or a walnut. The *samara* “helicopters” from the maple tree are the fruits. A fig is a large *receptacle*- a pouch enclosing hundreds of very small florets. Strawberries and blackberries are *aggregate fruit*

Looking for the “fruits” in your garden- nuts, capsules, pods, berries, vegetables this week:

- ❖ Refer to previous drawings and see if there is a place that you can add that fruit or pod.
- ❖ Start a new study page of the new fruit. Think about composition.
- ❖ If you can and have two, cut one open. See what is inside.
- ❖ Add the leaves and or branch if possible. This is also helpful for identification.
- ❖ Research the flower.
 - When does it bloom?
 - How big is it?
 - Color?
 - Where will it fit on my page?
 - Make notes.
- ❖ Start drawing!

I cannot recommend enough Anne Ophelia Dowden’s book From Flower to Fruit which is full of wonderful botanical drawings of all these fruits and their flowers along with good easy to read scientific explanation. The Horse Chestnut above is from her Book of Trees, the Blossom on the Bough.



“Botany is...the science of beauty.”.... Sir Joseph Paxton