BIRD'S EYE VIEW

We can't forget about our poor feathered friends in October - while we're waiting for the first frost, they're busy trying to ensure survival for one of the toughest times of the year. Make their lives a little easier by making sure you have a birdfeeder in the garden. Not only will this lend a helping hand for all birds big

hand for all birds big and small, but it will bring a little more life into your garden and draw the eye outside (as tempting as it may be to hover over a hot chocolate). Bird boxes are also a good idea – while they won't be used for nesting of little ones until springtime, they offer shelter and will help encourage flying friends to stick around. For true bird fans, you may even want to invest in a bird box camera to find out exactly who's making use of your generous hospitality.



1's warm outside

blend in with the surroundings with this tree face bird feeder, £14.95 from House of Bath only the best for your winter garden with a

fork and trowel from Highgrove, £44.95 www.highgroveshop.com



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WINTER PLANTING

Just because the leaves have fallen off the trees, it doesn't mean that the garden need become a colourless, bleak affair. Now is the time for pansies and cyclamens, or any other beautiful blooms that are hardy enough to withstand the cold and wet, and flower in those short winter days. Large and sturdy plants such as fir trees are good for giving structure to a garden and have the added benefit of looking



beautiful when touched with frost. Grasses and twiggy shrubs can also be utilised. Dogwood turns a spectacular red in winter for that muchneeded injection of colour. Make sure you move your plant pots closer to the windows so you can really benefit from your efforts (and don't forget to plan ahead by planting your spring bulbs underneath your winter bedding!)

38 FOUR SHIRES * OCTOBER 2014