**GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS - WEEK OF OCTOBER 21, 2013**

*Rhus typhina - Staghorn Sumac*

Hull Court is ablaze with color! It’s hard to miss this native shrub (and sometimes considered a small tree), while cloaked in a shroud of brilliant reds and rich maroons. Staghorn sumac derives its common name from the dense, velvety reddish brown pubescence on 2 and 3 year-old branches similar to the velvet covering the horns of a stag (male deer). Female flowers produce showy pyramidal fruiting clusters, with each cluster containing numerous hairy, berry-like drupes which ripen bright red this time of year.

*Ilex verticillata 'Nana' - Winterberry Holly*

Winterberry is a deciduous holly native to eastern North America and adaptable to wet conditions. ‘Nana’ grows 3’ to 5’ high, with a compact, rounded habit, and lustrous dark green leaves. Winterberries are dioecious (separate male and female plants) meaning only female flowers will produce the brilliant red berries. Typically one male plant is necessary for pollinating 9-10 female plants. The fruit will often persist into January depending on bird populations. Flowers and fruit set appear on new growth - so pruning should occur in early spring just before new growth appears. Take a stroll in the South Winter Garden between Ellis Ave and Woodlawn Ave just north of 60th Street to view this beauty.

*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides - Leadwort*

Leadwort - also commonly called Plumbago - is a perennial ground cover that spreads by rhizomes (underground stems) in sunny to partly shaded areas in the garden. Known for its clusters of sky blue flowers this little beauty keeps flowering from summer to autumn frost. Take note of the bronze-red tipped leaves beginning to show autumn color. View Leadwort in the South Winter Garden.

*Chrysanthemum - Garden Mum*

A dependable autumn garden favorite! Masses of flowers cover the plant for a dramatic fall display. This year Delphi Purple, Spicy Cheryl Orange, and Helen Red are the mum varieties tucked in autumn flower displays in planters and planting beds throughout campus.