



## Top Reasons to Skip Yardwork this Fall

- 1. Help the Bees!** There are over 500 species of native bees in North Carolina. Many will overwinter in hollow stems, decomposing logs, clumps of peeling bark or underground burrows.
- 2. Help the Butterflies and Moths!** There are 175 species of butterflies and 2,200 species of moths in North Carolina. The beautiful Monarch migrates south for the winter, but most other butterflies and moths overwinter in NC. They find shelter in piles of leaf litter or under tree bark. Some butterflies overwinter as caterpillars or a chrysalis hanging from dead plant stems.
- 3. Help the Birds!** A wide array of birds enjoy seedheads left on dried plants that have flowered. In your eyes, that plant might look dead, but to a hungry finch or nuthatch, that seedhead is breakfast, lunch and dinner! Those piles of leaf litter also attract a host of insects that sustain our birds through the winter when food sources aren't reliable.

### Tips to Provide Wildlife-friendly Winter Habitat:

- ❖ Leave the leaves.
- ❖ Create brush piles with fallen branches and sticks.
- ❖ Leave dead flower heads and stems standing.
- ❖ Avoid cleaning your garden until spring. Allow overwintering pollinators to emerge by waiting for several concurrent days of 50-degree weather.

