

Stars of October

Orion and Meteors

The constellation Orion gives its name to the longer of October's two major meteor showers. The Orionids, remnants of Halley's Comet left in Earth's orbit, begin near the start of the month but peak around the 20th, overlapping the Draconids, which keep to the beginning of the month.

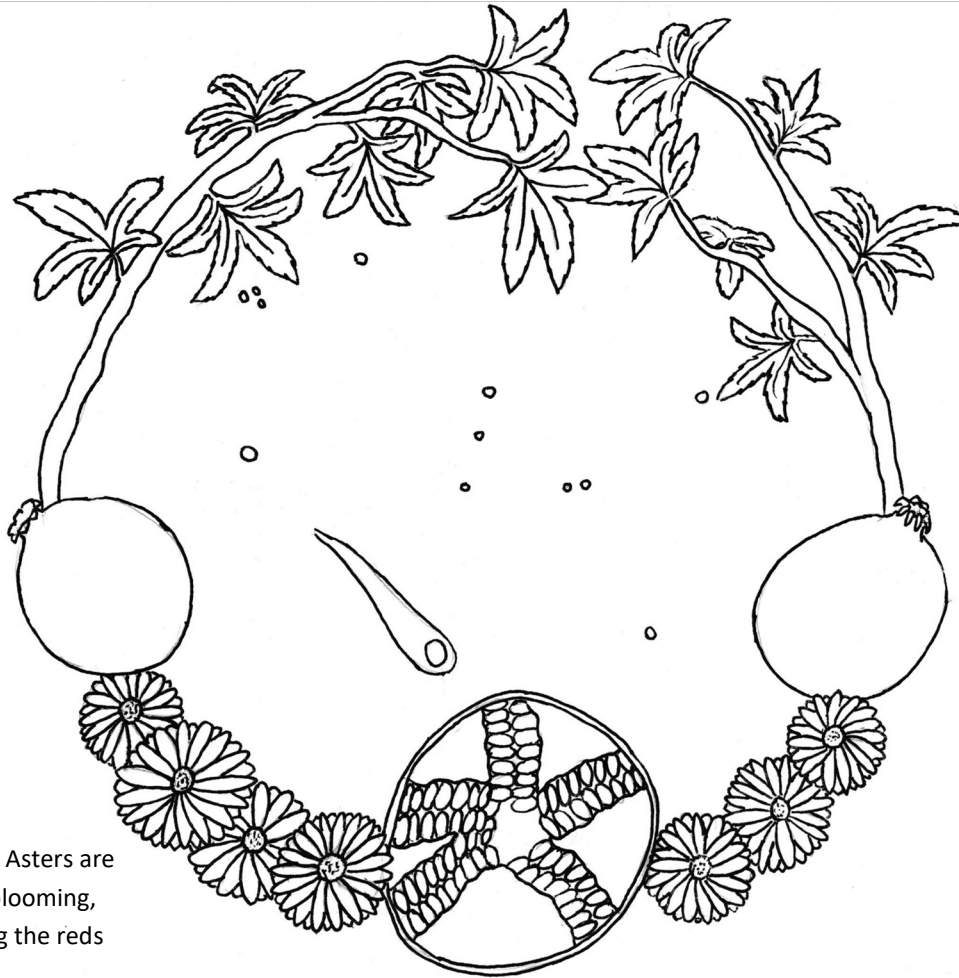
Asters

Who says flowers only bloom in spring? Asters are famous among gardeners for their fall blooming, creating spots of light cool colors among the reds and greens of leaves and fruits.

Although it may not have five points or decorate the night sky, the aster's name is derived from the ancient Greek for "star." You can also see this root in words such as "asteroid" (star-like) and "disaster" (ill-starred).

Japanese Maple

This tree's leaves aren't the only ones that change color in the fall, but they are some of the most spectacular, with brilliant reds and oranges.



Pomegranate

Cut into a pomegranate at the right height and you might see five veins of red branching out from its center. The inside of a pomegranate looks like a geode with translucent red arils (seeds plus pulp) growing out of white, inedible membranes. Opening a pomegranate is messy. Don't try it without a paper towel!