

# In the Back Yard

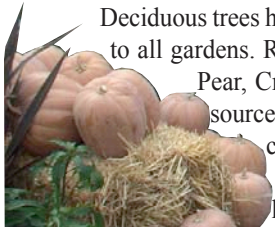
## Fall in the Garden

By Garth Jacober, Mt Diablo Nursery



Fall in the garden is a rebirth from spring and summer. Temperatures have cooled considerably—days are shorter and daylight is slowly escaping us in the evenings. This time of year is ideal for planting shrubs and trees. Winter rain will hopefully arrive soon which provide plants an opportunity to “heal in” to get a jump start before spring.

Adding annual flowers in the fall offer color for borders and beds. Pansies, violas, cyclamens, primrose and garden mums are good choices. Ornamental cabbages and kales offer spectacular color in pots and planters. Be sure to add new soil to pots and add soil amendments to planting beds.



Deciduous trees have great fall color and are a great addition to all gardens. Raywood Ash, Chinese Pistache, Bradford Pear, Crape Myrtle and White Birch are all good sources for fall color. Acer Rubra is also a good choice.

What about those deciduous trees that have great fall color now and will eventu-

ally drop their leaves? Why not start a compost pile? All that is needed is a mixture of green (lawn clippings) and brown (leaves) to create a good mulch for the spring. One can also use these leaves as weed barriers and mulch to top dress garden beds and vegetable boxes.

When mowing your lawn this time of year, be sure to adjust the height of your mower so that the grass is not cut too short. It is also time to apply fall and winter lawn food.

Irrigation clocks should be reset when daylight savings time ends and changed to shorter run times. Plants are slowing down and winter dormancy is close by. There is no need for maximum watering times as in the summer months. Save and conserve water when you can. There is nothing worse than seeing a lawn with its sprinklers on during a winter downpour.

This time of year is a good time to reflect upon a great spring and summer in the garden. Take the time to look at the trees change color, watch the hummingbirds feed on the salvias, observe the blue jays and squirrels are pack food away for the winter.

Slow down, reflect and take a moment to be in the moment.

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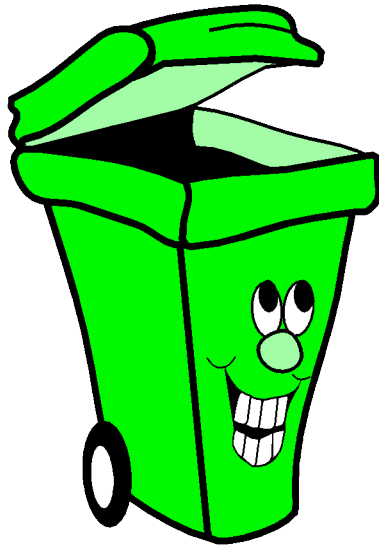
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