

In the Back Yard

CYNTHIA'S DIGGING DEEP GARDENING GUIDE FOR OCTOBER

"Gardens are playgrounds for adults." Cynthia Brian



Photo Cynthia Brian

Fall is leisurely and lovely. The early days of October are warm and sunny, while later in the month the colors of the fall foliage are bursting with extraordinary exuberance. This is another busy gardening month. Our pumpkins are harvested now to become Jack O'Lanterns for little witches and goblins. The heat of the summer is past, the soil is still warm and it is time for landscaping to the maximum! There is plenty of work to be done!

- CLEAN up the annual flower beds and send to the compost pile. Wash out pots and store in your shed.
- CUT off dead perennial blossoms and divide overgrown ones such as agapanthus and columbine.
- FEED and fertilize newly planted winter perennials monthly.
- WEED the remnants of crab grass and other nuisances. Many weeds are perennial plants which will spread their roots and their damage over the winter months.
- FERTILIZE houseplants and do not repot.
- ROSES need to be snipped continuously to keep them blooming until pruning time in January.
- CONDITION soil by mulching with 3 inches of matter to protect plants over the winter.
- CHOOSE fire safe plants when creating a new landscape. Fire safe plants tend to be low growing, have a high moisture content and have stems and leaves that are not resinous, oily, or waxy.
- RESEED lawns with cool season grasses while feeding existing lawns to strengthen grass for earlier, stronger growth next spring.
- AERATE soil when the ground is moist to loosen compacted dirt.
- SOW winter vegetables such as cabbage, chard, lettuce, turnips, radishes, and spinach.
- START onions from seed but buy six packs of broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels' sprouts for best results.
- GROUND COVERS, vines, shrubs and trees all are safely planted in October. Refrain from planting citrus or frost tender trees and bushes.
- SET out spring flowering bulbs such as crocus, scillas, snowdrops, daffodils, and hyacinths. Bulbs need a moderately sunny place to thrive.
- CHRISTMAS CACTUS needs to rest now. Eliminate watering completely and put in a dark, cold room or outside. If temperatures are above 70 degrees, it will not set bud.
- PROVIDE water sources for migrating birds.
- RAKE leaves from essential places such as lawns. A thin pile of leaves in a garden can serve as mulch and will fertilize the soil.
- WATER as October is usually a dry month. Deep water new lawns, seedlings, and new landscaped plants.
- DRAW migrating birds to your backyard by placing shallow birdbaths and gurgling fountains in protected areas of your landscape.
- PICK apples and the final flush of tomatoes.
- HARVEST squash, gourds and pumpkins for Halloween décor, and save whole ones for November celebration.
- FILL gourds and pumpkins with fresh flowers or small potted plants after hollowing them, then re-use on Halloween as Jack O'Lanterns.
- USE caution with the lit pumpkins. Embed the candle in sand and place your Jack O'Lanterns in noncombustible areas, such as on gravel, brick, or concrete.
- DRIVE along the roadways and enjoy the spectacular experience of fall foliage.
- PLAY in your backyard and have fun in the sun with the final blaze of warm fall sunshine.
- PLAN your Halloween wardrobe. You could be a firefighter or take a cue from your scarecrow. This year I'm trading in my turnouts to become a goddess. Actually, I'll be a goddess gardener. Now that's a costume!



Non-toxic creative protection

Photo Cynthia Brian

HAPPY GARDENING TO YOU!

©2008 Cynthia Brian

www.GoddessGardener.com, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

Garden Club Meetings

Moraga Garden Club Meeting: Thursday, Oct 16, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 700 School St., Moraga. Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Gary Bogue, Contra Costa Times Columnist, will speak about "Critters In The Garden." For membership call Pat at 925-376-4675.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting: Friday, Oct 17, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Meeting: 9:00 a.m. Speaker: 10:30 a.m. Andrew Baxter from the San Leandro Dahlia Society, will speak about Dahlias. Free; open to the public; guests welcome. www.montelindogarden.com



Décor Consultant & Faux/Interior Painter
Nancy Blue
 925.849.4799

• Color Consultation • Art & Furniture Placement
 • Fabric, Accessories, Lighting, etc.

THERE'S A NEW NEIGHBOR in your neighborhood. Call or visit me today.



Mike Rosa State Farm Agent,
 1042 Country Club Dr Suite 2D • Moraga
 license # 0F45583 • 925-376-2244 • Mike@MikeRosa.org

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.®

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

©2006 11/04 State Farm Insurance Companies • Home Offices: Bloomington, IL • statefarm.com

Quality Paving for Today's Economy!



Viking Paving Systems

Lic. #783563 LAFAYETTE, CA

Driveways - Walkways
 Retaining Walls
 Pool Decks
 Drainage & Patios

Call now for a Free Estimate!
925-550-0525

McDonnell Nursery

October Sale

- 25% off of 1-gallon to 15-gallon perennials, trees and shrubs (in-stock items only, no special orders)
- Fruit Trees 1/2 off.
- Tree roses and shrub roses 1/2 off!! (except carpet roses)

196 Moraga Way
 Orinda
254-3713
 - Open Daily -

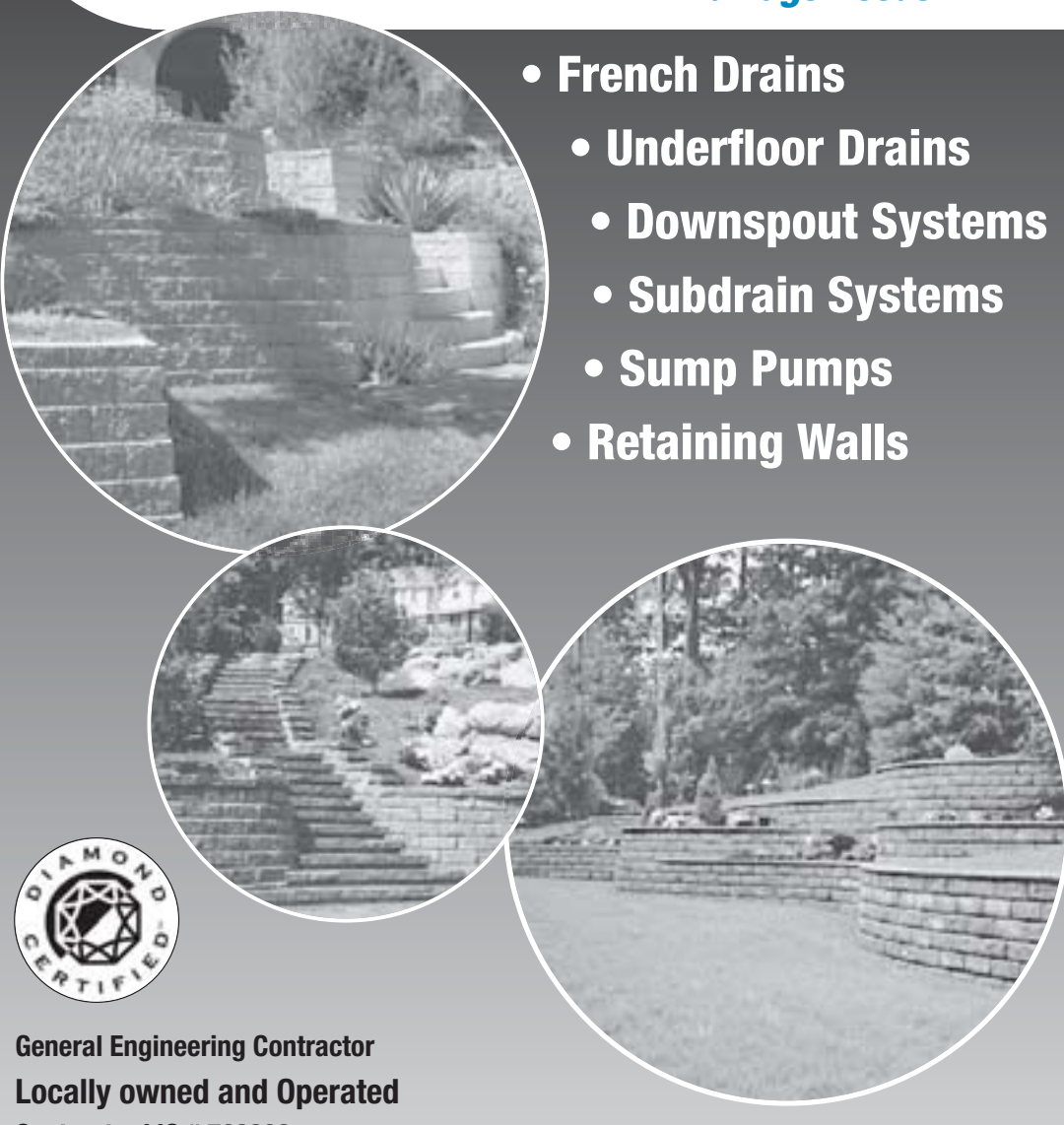
www.mcdonnellnursery.com



BAD INC.

Bay Area Drainage, Inc. "For All Your Drainage Needs"

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps
- Retaining Walls



DIAMOND CERTIFIED

General Engineering Contractor
 Locally owned and Operated
 Contractor LIC # 762208

925.377.9209
 visit our website
www.bayareadrainage.com