

Cynthia Brian's October Gardening Guide

- **CLEAR** brush, debris, wood and other flammables from around the perimeter of your house. Fire season is most dangerous in October as everything is so dry. For more information or assistance visit <http://www.fire.ca.gov/>.
- **PREPARE** soil for reseeded or sowing lawn or adding sod. Next issue I'll be discussing planting lawns in more detail.
- **DEADHEAD** annuals and perennials for continuous blooming until frost.
- **CUT** off spent rose blossoms to get another flush of blooms through Christmas.
- **TAKE** photos of your trees as they begin their autumn wardrobe change.
- **PLANT** garlic bulbs and cool season vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and Swiss chard.
- **REFRIGERATE** spring blooming bulbs including crocus, hyacinth and tulip. Mark paper bags and keep cold until planting time in mid-November through January.
- **VISIT** your favorite nursery to find trees for fall planting. This next month is a prime time for planting trees and shrubs.
- **BEWARE** of the danger of creosote poisoning if railroad ties were used in your landscape. The EPA has stated that humans should not use creosote treated railroad ties where frequent or prolonged bare skin contact can occur.
- **EXPERIMENT** with designing hanging baskets for your landscape.
- **BE** vigilant deterring skunks, rats and other rodents from your property. As the weather turns inclement, they will be looking for shelter.
- **VISIT** a petting zoo of rescued and adopted animals. Zeus, the camel, became my buddy.
- **PLUNGE** into a swimming pool, then share a glass of local vino with a friend.
- **ENJOY** an Indian summer of warm days and cool nights. Get outside for a bit of forest bathing to savor the deliciousness of fall.



A gorgeous combination of multi-colored fuschias and white impatiens.

Photos Cynthia Breian

Just hang around! We are so blessed to live with four glorious seasons.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Cynthia's Ribier grapes hanging from her crabapple "grape tree."



A stunning basket of purple and red petunias.