

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November



Harvest cauliflower and beets.

Want to protect your valuable plants from any negative effects from the smoke? Here are a few simple tasks to undertake.

1. Any vegetable or fruit still in the orchard or garden needs to be washed thoroughly before consuming. A solution of vinegar and water is a time-tested cleanser.
2. Compost any damaged bush, flower, fruit or vegetable.
3. Spray your plants with a hose to remove any clogged particles. Continue to do this until you see a difference.
4. Fertilize the landscape now, including your grass and lawn.
5. Add three inches of mulch to your garden, if you didn't already do it last month.
6. Any bare earth needs a cover crop. Clover, alfalfa, wildflowers, fava beans, vetch and mustard will add nitrogen to the soil.
7. Remove any dead or dying trees or shrubs. When planting new trees, space them at least 10 feet apart.
8. Be fire-wise by clearing your roof, gutters, eaves, decks and patios of debris.
9. Mow your lawns and keep them green. Lawns clean the air we breathe, absorb smoke and pollutants, and change sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide into oxygen. A swath of green offers a healthy filtration system while being a flame-retardant safety zone.

Make fire prevention a top priority by creating a defensible space around your home and garden. Fires burn only when fuel is present and a dry landscape is fuel for the fire.

Other Tips for your November To-Do List:

- **WINTERIZE** your garden. Cover frost prone plants and shrubs with blankets or burlap. Wash patio furniture before storing or covering. Move fragile container plants under an eave or away from harsh winds.
- **PRUNE** your fruit trees and crape myrtles once all the leaves have fallen. Keep branches a minimum of six feet from the ground.
- **RAKE** leaves to add to the compost pile. It is especially important to rake redwood and pine needles as they tend to blanket an area suffocating any other living things.
- **PLANT** bulbs for spring blooms. (You have been refrigerating your tulips and crocuses, right?)
- **CLEAN** gutters of all debris to prevent clogging when the rains come.
- **SOW** lawn seed and keep the seed watered until it sprouts.
- **PICK** guavas and bananas as they ripen.
- **WAIT** another month before harvesting persimmons. If you are having problems with the birds and squirrels eating your unripe fruit, pick early and refrigerate.

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