

# Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide for October



*Guavas are self-harvesting, meaning they fall to the ground when ready to eat.*



*Photos Cynthia Brian A mole hole and trail along the alyssum and lawn.*

**VISIT** the library to find books relating to the myths, tales and legends of autumn.

**BUY** spring blooming bulbs including anemone, elephant ears, ranunculus, caladium, dahlia, freesia, shamrock and calla lilies.

**DECORATE** for All-Hallows Eve with corn stalks, gourds, pumpkins, apples and grasses.

**BRING** the outside in with green, air purifying houseplants such as dieffenbachia, fan palms, sail plant, fern and philodendron.

**PLANT** shrubs and ornamental trees for year around interest now to allow them to develop strong roots before winter dormancy. Consider hydrangea, lilac, forsythia and viburnum.

**ELEVATE** your garden with climbers of wisteria, clematis, sweet pea and climbing hydrangea.

**COMPOST** leaves, grass cuttings, and fall debris to reinvigorate your spring soil.

**DIVIDE** ornamental grasses that have a dead center with a ring of living green. They need to be reinvigorated.

**HARVEST** apples, tomatillos, tomatoes, eggplant, squash and grapes.

**COLLECT** baskets of self-harvested guavas that have fallen to make autumn desserts.

**CUT** kale leaves as needed. Collect seed pods to plant.

**PRUNE** dead branches from trees, especially deciduous trees such as Japanese maple and evergreens such as redwoods to encourage new growth.

**STOMP** on the mounds of moles that may be invading your lawn or building tunnels along your sidewalks. Although moles don't eat plants, they do destroy the beauty of the soil with their burrowing for grubs, beetles, worms, and insects. If you are wondering if you have moles or gophers, here's a tip: Gopher mounds are crescent shaped with an opening in the middle whereas moles leave a rounded, volcano-like pile of fluffy dirt without an exit aperture. Both are territorial and destructive, however, gophers are worse because they eat your plants and the roots. Eradicate moles by collapsing their channels. Stomp away!

**SEED** your lawn with Pearls Premium that grows deep roots and is a water saver. Use code STAR20 at checkout for a 20 percent discount at [www.PearlsPremium.com](http://www.PearlsPremium.com). Discount extended to Oct. 31.

**MAKE** an emergency "go bag" as fires or other disasters can strike at any time.

**CREATE** an arrangement or floral bouquet in pink honoring Breast Cancer Month.

**SCHEDULE** a garden consult with me, your guide on the side, before you put your yard to bed for the winter. Email [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com).

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

Cynthia Brian



*Elevate your garden by scattering seeds of perennial sweet peas.*