

## *Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

# Grace and gratitude in the dirt



**The patterns and colors of coleus change with the seasons.**

Photos Cynthia Brian



**Like ornaments on a tree, Hachiya persimmons glisten.**

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Persimmons appear like shiny orange ornaments hanging from tree limbs and will add a festive feeling to your holiday décor. Pick them now before the squirrels and birds add them to their autumn menu. Persimmons will ripen on the counter. Keep in mind that astringent Hachiya persimmons must be soft before eating, while the Fuyus are most delicious and perfect for lunch snacks or sliced into salads when hard and crunchy like apples.

November is usually the optimum month to plant trees, bulbs, transplants and seedlings, however, without any rain this autumn thus far, I am recommending waiting until we have at least a day of consistent moisture. Even though I watered boxwoods and annuals purchased earlier in the month, these plants are struggling and will probably have to be replaced.

As we celebrate November, we prepare for the dormant season ahead. Hopefully, we'll experience much-needed rainfall soon.



**A neighborhood view of the hills and trees of autumn.**