

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for end of November

- **CLEAN UP** any leaves or weeds remaining from annuals and vegetables. Compost your healthy debris. Cleaning up now will prevent the population of snails, earwigs, and sowbugs from expanding.
- **WATER** ornamentals and perennials that have withered from the dry winds.
- **PRUNE** shrubs before new flower bulbs form. As soon as crape myrtles lose their leaves, shape your trees. Prune fig trees to a size to keep the fruit within reach.
- **CUT** back leggy geraniums and pelargoniums. New growth with an abundance of flowers will re-emerge by spring.
- **FORAGE** only for plants that you can positively identify.
- **FERTILIZE** your hedges with fertilizers high in nitrogen. Lawns need their second feeding application now. Water deeply.
- **RAKE** fallen leaves to add to the compost pile.
- **CLEAN** rain gutters of leaves and add to your compost pile.
- **SPRAY** deciduous fruit trees with dormant oil. Pears, peaches, plums and apricots will benefit from three rounds of spraying, usually toward the end of November, December and January.
- **PERUSE** nurseries for perennials such as columbine, carnations, coral bells, and chrysanthemums which can be planted from six-packs as soon as it rains.
- **DEADHEAD** your roses regularly to maintain blossoms and fragrance until January. If you prefer, allow the rose hips to grace your bushes with their vibrant red and orange color. Pick the hips to add vitamin C to your tea.
- **DIVIDE** perennials and separate overgrown clumps. Plant elsewhere or share extras with a friend.
- **COLLECT** dried grasses, pods, willows, branches and other natural materials for a cornucopia of autumn arrangements.
- **HOLLOW** out a pumpkin or gourd and plant with succulents for an appealing Thanksgiving display.
- **CREATE** glorious fall hued floral arrangements with the firecracker colors of roses, gerbera, berries and reeds.
- **VEGETABLES** such as broccoli, beets, carrots, lettuce, peas, turnips and spinach can be planted by seed when carefully watered.
- **HARVEST** your pumpkins, gourds, squash, apples, walnuts, persimmons and tangerines. Create a basket of edibles as festive holiday décor.
- **ENJOY** the fall foliage and views of the changing tree colors from a hilltop location.
- **BE** grateful for your garden. Whether your plot is large, medium or small, or even if you only showcase a potted plant in the window, you are a gardener. Keep digging. Grace and gratitude are buried in the dirt. Everyone grows with nature.

Take time to give thanks for the little things every day, not just once a year. Be grateful for what you have. Having an attitude of gratitude makes every moment shine brightly.

Each day is Thanksgiving Day when you live, learn, laugh, love, and appreciate what you have. Share the abundance.

Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, and delicious Turkey Day!
Happy gardening. Happy growing. Happy Thanksgiving!

“Gratitude is riches. Complaint is poverty.” Doris Day



Succulents planted in a white gourd for a pleasing Thanksgiving arrangement.



The fiery red leaves of Boston Ivy.