

Warm Holiday Wishes

From my family to yours



I'm so thankful to be part of such a wonderful community.

Thank you for all your support and referrals in 2019.

Wishing you a wonderful 2020.

www.holcenberg.com

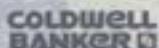
Michelle Holcenberg

Coldwell Banker Top 100 SF Bay Area

michelle@holcenberg.com

925-324-0405

BRE #01373412





Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian 'Tis the Season



Photo Cynthia Brian

As the temperatures drop, the colors become more intense with a grand finale of fall foliage on the Japanese maples.

By Cynthia Brian

"Down came the rain and washed the spider out!" - Toddler song

Halleluiah! It is raining ... and raining, and raining. It was indeed a blessed Thanksgiving weekend as the heavens finally opened and lifegiving tears spilled from the sky. Our grounds have been so parched that even the amended clay soil is as hard as cement. The start of the rainy season means it is time to get garden work completed.

On the first day of rain, I donned my rain gear to fertilize the lawn and reseed the grass with my homemade "lawn patch." The recipe is simple: In a wheelbarrow or 5-gallon bucket, mix potting soil with lawn seed. Sprinkle the combination in areas where your lawn is bare, making sure that there are at least 20 seeds per handful. Since the patch needs to remain moist to stimulate growth, doing this chore when it is raining is optimum.

On the second day of rain, I realized that this was not a light shower, but the beginning of a deluge. As soon as there was a break in the weather, I cleaned patio furniture, moved lounge pads to storage and wrapped the furniture in plastic to endure the winter under a patio cover. Large containers of birds of paradise and palms that are frost tender were transported to protected areas.

After three days of continual downfall, it was time to plant my bulbs and transplant perennials. The bulbs had begun to sprout and as I dug holes, I realized that about 5 inches down, the earth was still very hard and dry. Rain ... we will need so much more.

... continued on Page D11