

COMING SOON: MORAGA TRANQUILITY

212 Sheila Court, Moraga | Offered at \$1,475,000



- 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2,050 square feet •

Lovely single-story home on serene cul-de-sac close to top K-8 schools. Gorgeous resort-style pool and spa, deck, patio and level lawn. Open kitchen/family room, large living room and formal dining. The perfect spot to make new holiday traditions.

JUST SOLD

390 Hermosa Court, Lafayette



LAFAYETTE HOME SWEET HOME Remodeled Burton Valley charmer with flat yard. Sold for \$1,675,000. Represented buyers.

Now is a good time to start preparing your home for the spring 2021 market. Contact me so we can make a plan to reach your real estate goals in the new year.

www.holcenberg.com

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian

As the leaves turn



Photos Cynthia Brian

Liquid amber leaves and fruit are a kaleidoscope of shades.

By Cynthia Brian

“A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature.” ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

It's only 5:15 in the evening and the darkness of night has arrived. I've been out in the garden prepping the soil as the sun sets and the moon rises. Normally by this time of the year, I would have had all my spring bulbs and perennials planted and my lawn reseeded. But we have had no rain and the daytime temperatures are still too warm to guarantee any success with these normal autumn chores.

My clay soil is clod dry and needs amending. I originally bought several bags of nutrient-rich soil, but soon realized that my garden required a truckload. I had 10 yards of a high nutrient amendment comprised of compost, green waste, rice hulls, and chicken manure delivered to replenish the earth before planting. Although it will take me some time to add this fertility to my soil, my lawn, trees, established and new plants will be thanking me. Also, shoveling manure is a natural stress reliever during these difficult days.

As the world turns the leaves on our deciduous trees to reds, ambers and golds, this is a perfect opportunity to replenish your mulch and enrich your soil. If your garden is small, you can buy bags of amendments at your garden center or hardware store, but if you have a large property as I do, it is best to order a truckload. Most bags of mulch or compost are comprised of one to three cubic feet. Truckloads are sold by the yard. One cubic yard is 27 cubic feet making a truckload massively less expensive, although more wheelbarrow and muscle intensive. A variety of mixtures are available including aged wood fines, grape compost, sandy loam, red lava, and fir bark. All will help loosen clay soils and all will provide moisture retention, erosion control, and fertilization to landscapes before winter arrives. Be aware that when used in containers, runoff may cause stains.

I consider these special soils to be the best friends in my garden. As with building a house, the strength of the foundation of your garden will ultimately determine the success of your plantings.

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