

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener Cynthia Brian

As the leaves turn

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Besides spreading this mulch throughout my property, my plan is to mow my lawn, water it deeply, scatter lawn seed, and cover with a layer of this rich amendment. By adding these nutrients now, my garden will be ready for a winter nap and re-emerge in spring in full glory.

The changing of the colors of autumn leaves is later this year than any previous year. My trees usually begin their transformation in October, but this year, I began witnessing the stunning procession in November. The deep reds we witness are a result of an increase in the sugar content while the yellows are a diminishment of chlorophyll due to the sunny days of autumn combined with the cooler evening temperatures. Most people believe it is the changing of seasons that cause the leaves to turn. Although the chilly nights do deserve some credit for the rapid foliage change, the true reason that the leaves change color is dependent on species and environment. Japanese maples, dogwoods, liquid ambers, and some species of crepe myrtle appear flaming while redbud, ginkgo, birch, apple, wisteria, and larch shimmer in yellows and gold. Oaks change to russet, Chinese pistache herald pumpkin orange hues.

My personal favorite is to watch the veins on the leaves of my grape vines change from deep greens to multi-hued magnificence. Also, Boston ivy and Virginia creeper offer dazzling autumn shades.

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Adorn a wall or fence with climbing Boston ivy, a fall stunner.

Cynthia Brian's Digging Deep Gardening Guide for November



Ten yards of soil amendments arrive to enrich the landscape.

BUY soil amendments by the bag or by the yard to enrich your soil before winter rains.

VISIT your local nursery to choose shrubs, trees, and bushes with colorful deciduous leaves that you want to showcase in your garden.

DEADHEAD rose blooms to encourage a couple more budding flourishes before January pruning.

DIVIDE daylilies, bearded iris, and plant spring-blooming bulbs. My daffodils are already sprouting!

PRUNE dead branches from small trees and call an arborist to check larger specimens.

FERTILIZE roses, citrus and begonias.

RAKE leaves into a compost pile or bin.



A hay bale loaded with gourds, pumpkins, and colorful leaves welcomes autumn.

RESEED tired lawns.

HARVEST apples.

ADD shredded newspaper to your compost pile. The zinc in the ink adds nutrients and the paper will decompose.

ROOT winter crop seedlings. I planted Brussel sprouts, Swiss chard, sugar snap peas, and kale and sowed seeds of arugula, greens and lettuce.

THROW seeds of a cover crop over vegetable gardens to restock nutrients for next season. Vetch, clover, mustard, beans, and peas are excellent choices.

MAINTAIN fire precautions around the perimeter of your property and home as fire season is still with us.

PREPARE your birdhouses for overwintering feathered friends.

Happy Growing. Happy Gardening.



Wisteria vine turns yellow and burnt umber.