

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 19 Wednesday, November 9, 2022



Handyman discusses sink stoppers ... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

The musty, sweet smell ... it's fall



Golden leaves of a red-branched Japanese Maple. Photos Cynthia Brian

*"Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away; Lengthen night and shorten day!
Every leaf speaks bliss to me, Fluttering from the autumn tree..."~Emily
Brontë*

When it rained this past week, did you smell it? The scent of earth mixed with fallen leaves and decomposing plant matter signals the transition of the seasons. On the calendar, autumn began on Sept. 22, but it wasn't until November that I inhaled this intoxicating aroma that brought back childhood memories of the end of harvest, jumping in piles of leaves, and blazing bonfires.

In just a week, it seemed that so many trees changed their wardrobe from vibrant green to sunset colors of amber, gold, red, bronze and yellow. The "foliage show" is late here in California, yet it is glorious. As the leaves turn, they also drop, blanketing our landscapes with a marvelous source of nitrogen phosphorus, potassium, and nutrients that the soil craves. As much as you want to tidy your



You can almost smell the fall fragrance of this autumn orchard.

garden, refrain from raking the leaves into your green bin. Leave a layer of leaves on the ground to encourage the photosynthesis process in the natural circle of life. If leaves are too big, mow or cut them and add them to a compost pile with food scraps, lawn clippings, eggshells, coffee grounds, and other biodegradables. After a few months, you'll have a rich mulch filled with worms and beneficial microbes to add back into your garden at no cost to you. When you add organic materials to your soil, you are providing food for the organisms that improve soil aeration and drainage while reducing soil compaction. The nutrients will release over time

As we inhale the delicious flavors of fall and experience the cooler temperatures, it is also time to perform tasks in preparation for winter.

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