

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for Mid-October

- **BOOST** your levels of vitamin C before flu and cold season begins by brewing a homegrown rose hip, sage, and peppercorn tea. Pick ripe red rose hips from your rose bushes and red peppercorns from your pepper tree. Smash or grind and add to a teapot with shaved ginger, lemon rind, lemon juice, sage leaves, and honey. Peppery and delicious, hot or iced. Substitute garlic for the honey for a zesty herbal broth yummy with steamed vegetables.
- **AVOID** pruning hydrangeas that bloom on old wood as you won't have flowers the following year or more.
- **FERTILIZE** and aerate lawns this month.
- **PRUNE** shrubs and overgrown branches.
- **CLEAR** gutters and drainage lines of leaves and debris.
- **PROVIDE** food and water for migrating birds.
- **PLANT** cool season vegetables including kale, lettuce, arugula, and broccoli.
- **PROTECT** sensitive plants by covering them with burlap or bringing them indoors.
- **APPLY** a layer of mulch to garden beds to retain moisture and regulate soil temperature.
- **FILL** cracks in the driveway or garden paths to prevent further cracking.
- **APPLY** snail bait around plants susceptible to snail and slug damage.
- **TREAT** for aphids with a spray of water mixed with dishwashing detergent.
- **RAKE** fallen leaves to add to the compost pile or make a mulch.
- **GREEN TOMATOES?** Here's a tip for rapid ripening from reader Sally F. "In late fall, cut tomato vine at the base and hang upside down in a dry place, such as a garage or shed, with newspaper or cardboard underneath to catch any falling tomatoes. Tomatoes will ripen from the nearest stem base."
- **CARVE** your pumpkins, light the Jack-o'-lanterns, weave your webs, and decorate your yard with skeletons, ghosts, and scarecrows.

Happy Gardening! Happy Growing. Happy Halloween!



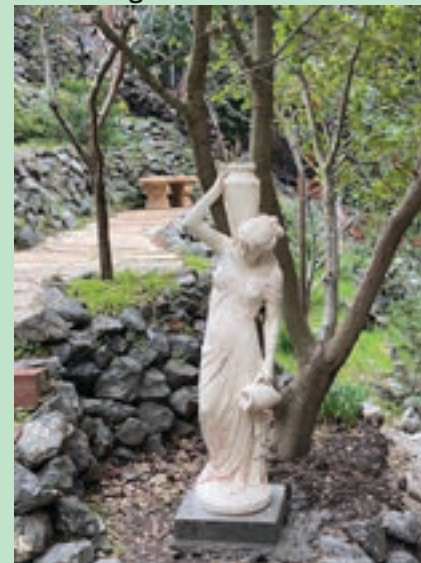
Rocks and stones anchor this spectacular waterfall and pool.



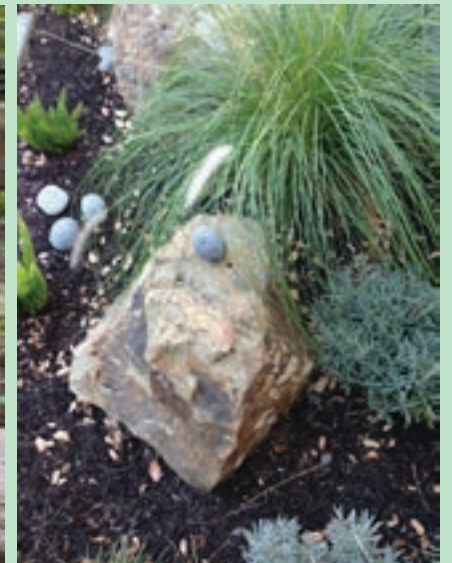
Yellow seaside ice plant grows in sand and gravel.



White lantana spills over a rock wall flower bed.



Terracing with rocks, Victor placed a statue Cynthia calls, The Water Bearer, along the stone pathway at the base of the creek.



Place a few significant rocks appropriately with plants or grasses to instill interest.

Photos Cynthia Brian