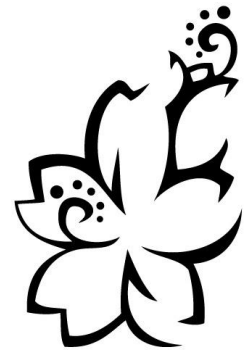


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## **November Gardening Tips**



November can bring glorious weather for gardening in the San Diego area. Warm but mild days and cool nights are ideal growing conditions for cool-season plants. Working in the garden is usually a very pleasant and rewarding experience this month.

If you haven't already done so, November is a particularly good time to add trees, shrubs and ground covers to your landscape. November can

sometimes deliver much needed rain in Southern California as it is possible to receive up to 10% of our rainfall in November or early December. It's a great time to prune dense trees and make sure newly planted trees are well-staked before the winter arrives.

Here in California, we have an amazing selection of native and drought tolerant plants that are often still under-utilized in landscapes. If you want to add some low water beauty to your garden, now is a great time to plant natives. Remember, even drought-tolerant plants need watering when getting established so don't neglect them thinking they are good to go once you plant them!

### **Edible Garden**

Onion seed, garlic and strawberries all need to be planted in the first half of November so don't delay. In addition, if like most of us you didn't finish your fall planting in October don't wait any longer. Transplant strawberries now so they'll develop sturdy root systems over the winter. Dig in lots of organic material and compost first to feed roots over the winter and through the summer.

Plant cool-season vegetables such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, kale, kohlrabi, mustard, lettuce and other greens. You might also add beets, carrots, radishes, turnips, and other root crops.

Plant cool-season flowers including calendula, cineraria, dianthus, delphiniums, Iceland poppies, nemesia, pansies, snapdragon, stock, wild flowers.

Wild Flowers: For long-lasting color choose a western seed mix that has both annuals & perennials or make your own mix using your favorites. Good candidates for a wild flower mix include California poppies, larkspur, clarkia, Chinese houses, godetia and gypsophila.

## **Natives**

November is an excellent time to plant California natives. There are many natives that are wonderful landscape plants including: California Lilac (ceanothus), Toyon or California Holly (Heteromeles arbutifolia), Monkeyflower (Diplacus), California Tree Mallow (Lavatera assurgenteum), Coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica). Several low growing varieties of Manzanita (Arctostaphylos) also make great native ground covers. Check out Moosa Creek Nursery's website for a full listing of available California natives that are available to order and pick up at our nursery, and a great selection of natives and drought tolerant plants from growers that we work with up through the central coast of California.

## **New Plantings**

**Biennials:** These showy cottage-garden favorites such as Canterbury bells, hollyhock, and Queen Anne's Lace do best if planted in late fall so that they will establish roots before soil temperatures drop and be ready to bloom on schedule come spring.

Plant azaleas, camellias, forsythias, dogwoods, and oriental magnolias so they'll settle in nicely. Plant colorful ornamental cabbage and kale for vibrant reds, blues, and purples to accentuate other garden colors all winter long.

Pansies are an ideal solution for quick color and if you haven't planted them yet, now is a great time to get them growing. Wide selections of plants and color are available at the nursery. Also, now is the time to plant holiday bulbs: amaryllis, narcissus, freesia, paperwhites, etc.

## **Garden Maintenance**

**Hydrangeas:** Contrary to some references or your own temptations do not prune hydrangeas this late in the year. Hydrangeas bloom on one-year-old stems (except for the Endless Summer). Pruning now will eliminate most of next year's flowers.

**Tropicals:** Many of these will still be blooming and looking good. It is not unusual for many of these to have a big fall flower burst now. Look for lots of color now on plumeria, hibiscus, bougainvillea and ginger. Let these heat loving plants harden off a bit before the cool temperatures of late fall and winter.

Reducing or eliminating nitrogen fertilizer and cutting back on watering will help the plants get ready for the cooler months ahead. These warm-weather plants are better planted earlier in the spring or summer.

**Keep Irrigation Going:** During our getting-cooler November days plants don't require as frequent irrigation as the warmer months. We should receive some rain however plants will still require irrigation when the soil begins to dry. Continue frequent irrigation during Santa Ana winds like we had recently. Automatic sprinklers that still come on when it is raining are a gross waste of precious water. Consider installing a rain shutoff sensor to your automatic sprinkler system that will shut it off when it rains. Give one

last deep watering to grapevines and deciduous trees but discontinue feeding. This will begin hardening them off for cold weather.

You want to discourage new growth that will be tender and susceptible to damage. Lightly prune top-heavy trees to reduce wind resistance by cutting out whole branches so you can look through the tree; this means wind can blow through. Hold off on heavy pruning until the trees are completely dormant.

Plan your dormant fruit tree spraying schedule to coincide approximately with cool weather holidays (Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, and Valentine's Day). Specific cues are the fall of the last leaf (Thanksgiving), the height of dormancy (New Year's Day), and bud swell (Valentine's Day). Spraying at the precise period of bud swell is especially important (before the buds swell is too early and after the blossoms open is too late).

**Pest Control:** Oil sprays smother the eggs of scale insects, aphids, and mites. Lime sulfur and powdered or liquid copper sprays discourage the growth of fungus (peach leaf curl) and virus. Choose a copper spray that contains at least 50 percent copper. On apricot trees use only copper sprays (sulfur will damage them). If the rains haven't thoroughly moistened the soil of trees to be sprayed deep water them a few days before spraying. Spray on a cool, dry, sunny day during a windless period to minimize evaporation and drift. Make sure that all leaf, branch, and trunk surfaces are thoroughly covered with the spray solution. Drenching the soil from the trunk to just beyond the drip line is also helpful. Reapply if rain falls within 48 hours of the application.

Discontinue watering and feeding roses and mulch roses with manure and compost. Prune them lightly to remove the long bloomed out canes but save hard pruning until January when plants are fully dormant. If the weather cooperates, 8 weeks after hard pruning you'll see your first blooms.

Renew acid mulches under azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons. Water them well to make sure they don't dry out from winter sun and winds. Twist off small buds on camellias for fewer but larger blooms.