

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

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- **CHECK** out an attractive alternative to downspouts with the solid copper Rain Chains. With several styles and sizes to suit every home, you now have the ability to direct water to your garden and at the same time enhance the beauty of your exteriors. Visit [www.rainchainsdirect.com](http://www.rainchainsdirect.com) or call (310) 702-9529 for more information.
- **FORCE** hardy flower bulbs of amaryllis, freesias, and paperwhites for Christmas blooming by potting them in sterile, neutral ph potting soil in an area where they will enjoy a temperature of 72-82 degrees Fahrenheit with good air circulation and low humidity. Give them a big drink of warm water, tamp down the soil, and do not water again until green sprouts. Amaryllis sprout spectacular shows within eight weeks.
- **DEER** proof your bulb garden with a collection of allium, fritillaria, English Bluebell, brodiaea, narcissus, crocus, anemone, hyacinth, and peony for a floral display that lasts from April through July.
- **CUT** stalks of peonies to ground level and discard the cuttings as they are not good for compost. If your peonies didn't bloom, they may be planted too deep. Dig them up this month, rework the soil, and replant 1/2 inch higher than soil level.
- **WASH** patio furniture, pads, pillows, and accessories before covering or storing to avoid mildew, mice migrations, rust, and rot.
- **GROUP** gaillardia and chrysanthemums along with grasses in a barrel for fabulous fall color. The National Garden Bureau has named Gaillardia "the" perennial to grow for 2015.

- **LOWER** mower height as lawn growth slows. Reduce irrigation time, but continue to water until the rains arrive as grass needs the strength to be healthy for winter. If you didn't fertilize in October, fertilizer now with an organic fall blend.
- **GUARD** against an unexpected frost by watering deeply and covering susceptible shrubs with burlap, fabric, or blankets the afternoon before the cold arrives.
- **COLLECT** rainwater in barrels or large garbage cans to use on your plants. (Fingers crossed that it does rain soon.)
- **REDUCE** your garden workout by seeking out plants that are identified as "compact." Look for tags that say dwarf, patio, knee-high, tiny, or baby in the variety name. If a plant tag says "perfect for cut flowers" it will grow to be too large for a small space.
- **ADD** artistic value to your landscape with hanging baskets, mirrors, lighting, antique wrought iron furniture, statuary, and water features.
- **CELEBRATE** a month of gratitude with an arrangement of roses and anemones in warm sunset shades.
- **DECORATE** for Thanksgiving with pumpkins around your outdoor seating areas.



Clean vegetable garden and amend with soil, compost, straw, leaves and a cover crop.



A barrel planted with gaillardia and chrysanthemums is a fall feature.

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