

Cynthia Brian's Garden Guide for November



Dahlias augment any garden.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Red sunflowers.

SEED or reseed lawns. If you prefer to install sod, autumn is the best time. Make sure you have prepared the bare soil with plenty of rich, organic matter before sodding.

FILL bare spots with a mixture of seed, compost and potting soil. Make sure to water thoroughly and keep moist until the grass sprouts.

RAKE leaves, especially off lawns, as grass needs as much sunlight as possible. You can also use your mower to chop the leaves.

MOW lawns shorter in fall until the grass stops growing to prevent matting.

WINTERIZE your grass by fertilizing heavily before the first rain. By feeding your lawn you'll give it the tools it needs to develop strong roots to survive winter.

PLANT spring blooming bulbs anytime through January. These include daffodils, tulips, crocus, Dutch iris, and hyacinths.

SCATTER wildflower seeds for a spring butterfly garden.

CLIP florets of basil and continue consuming as the herb will die completely back during winter. Any extra leaves can be frozen or dried.

SAVE seeds from your favorite sunflowers to sow next spring and if you carve pumpkins, dry these seeds for later planting or roast them as a healthy snack.

PLANT perennials that will reward you with blooms throughout the year including chrysanthemums, dahlias, statice, and hibiscus.

DEADHEAD roses for a final flush of flowers.

ENJOY the plethora of shapes, sizes, and textures of gourds and pumpkins. You can use them to decorate for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and spray paint them in our favorite holiday colors for Christmas and Chanukah displays.

FIX leaky faucets and pipes to deter thirsty ants.

FERTILIZE your entire landscape in preparation for the forthcoming cooler climate.

ADD a thick layer of mulch (three to four inches) to deprive weeds of light and to insulate plants from varying temperatures. Leaves, compost, shredded newspaper, cardboard, and straw add organic matter to the soil. Because organic matter deteriorates over time, you will need to replace as needed.

GOAD your ghouls and rocks All Hallowed Eve, All Saints and All Souls Day with cheer and gratitude.



Perennial chrysanthemums brighten the fall landscape.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.
Cynthia Brian

