

## November Gardening Guide

# Color Me Happy

By Cynthia Brian

*"I feel like a warm, red autumn!" — Marilyn Monroe*



A wall fountain is festooned with pumpkins and gourds to celebrate the season.

Photos Cynthia Brian

My favorite part of a November autumn is looking out from my bedroom balcony to the kaleidoscope of colors dotting the landscape in the valley. Trees are cloaked in hues of magenta, sienna, umber, gold, russet, umber, purple, red, pumpkin and a variety of greens. Wherever I walk or drive, the picturesque autumn foliage of northern California rivals the forests of the Eastern seaboard. We are indeed fortu-

nate to live in a climate that harks four seasons.

November of this year brings us an election as well as Thanksgiving. Since politics is not my favorite subject, I prefer to focus on what needs to be done in our November garden before Turkey Day. Autumn is the best time to plant because the soil is still warm and the rains are imminent. To find trees bursting with colorful leaves, visit your local nursery. Japanese Maple, pistache, liquid amber, crape myrtle and many fruit trees put on quite a spectacular show this time of year. Buy them now and plant them where they will grow, thrive and enhance your landscape.

### Information on Grass Seed and the Rain

When it rained this past week, I ran outside to plant seeds of my 100-year-old-plus heirloom hollyhock seeds as well as sunflower seeds. The drizzly weather also posed the most auspicious moment to reseed my lawn with Pearl's Premium lawn seed and fertilize with an organic cover. My new grass is already sprouting.

Several emails have arrived asking for more information

about my experience with Pearl's Premium. I'm not paid to talk or write about this product. (Although I probably should be on the payroll because I'm so passionate about this seed.) Being a believer in one's right to have a lawn for enjoyment, I've been on a mission to find the grass seed that will remain green while using less water. With my first summer of using Pearl's Premium behind me, I offer you my personal experimental results.

1. Grass remained somewhat green with brown and bare spots where the irrigation missed the mark.
2. Pearl's Premium definitely choked out the majority of weeds.
3. I watered twice a week in 12-minute segments per station using 34 percent less water over the previous year.
4. The lawn was mowed once a week and grass clippings were left on the lawn at least twice per month to add nutrients.
5. Although not a lush green in the summer, the grass did not die.
6. With just two rainy days, the lawn has emerged as emerald. I still have a lawn!

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