



# BETTER ENVIRONMENTS

October 2009



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

## October Gardening Tasks

This month's weather makes heavy work almost enjoyable. Most perennials and some annuals can be transplanted or divided and replanted. These include acanthus, agapanthus, Japanese anemone, astilbe, bergenia, bleeding hearts (dicentra), calendulas, evergreen candytuft, columbine, coralbells (huechera), coreopsis, michaelmas and Shasta daisies, daylilies, delphiniums, dianthus (carnation, pinks, sweet William), dusty miller, foxgloves, heliopsis, helleborus and many more.

For fall color, some plants to include are barberry (berberis), cotoneaster, nandina, snapdragons, cyclamen, pyracantha, raphiolepis, pansies, poppies and viburnum. Trees include sapium, persimmon, Bradford and Aristocrat pear, crape myrtle, California

pepper and Raywood Ash.

Trim roses after their last flush of blooms, but hold off on severe pruning until they are fully dormant in January. Feed them with a no-nitrogen, high-phosphorus, high-potassium fertilizer to help them harden off. Now that you've seen the roses perform over the summer, consider which ones you should replace or add. You can prepare the new planting holes, adding some organic matter and manure or long-release plant food. This will give plants a good start either this fall for transplants or next January for bare root plants.

After you have pruned your oleanders, remember not to burn the trimmings. The entire plant is toxic, including the smoke from burning and the water in which

flowers have been placed. According to the AMA Handbook on Poisonous and Injurious Plants, the toxins in the plant are cardioactive glycosides similar to those in digitalis. However, you can compost oleander leaves, flowers and stems—but only if the pile gets hot enough—since bacteria and fungi will break down the organic compounds. Large stems and branches that won't compost quickly should be discarded.

Transplant azaleas and camellias. Thin bloom buds to three or four inches apart for fewer but more spectacular blooms in the spring. Feed camellias and azaleas lightly all winter long to help develop their spring blooms.

(<http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu>)

**Our winner for this quarter's drawing is Lewis and Ruby Baskins. They will have their choice of three flats of seasonal color or \$25 off their landscape maintenance bill.**

**Thank you for all of your participation this quarter. Your feedback helps us do a better job.**

## October Fun Stuff

Here are some activities being sponsored by the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation:

October 2: Member's Only Preview Night 5 pm—7 pm Our **Member's Only Preview Night** is a big hit and back by popular demand. Come and get the best selection of plants offered and talk plant talk with fellow enthusiasts. Native Plant Society will participate. Cost is \$15 per person in advance; \$20 day of the event. RSVP with payment by September 25. Please call 310-544-1948 for more information.

October 3: Fall Plant Sale 9 am—4 pm Sponsored by Propagation Work-

shop and South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation. This annual plant sale is an important fundraiser for the foundation and a popular community event. Shop early for best selection. Additional vendors will be participating, as well as the Native Plant Society.

October 8 & 10: Discovery Garden 10 am—Noon Observe a bug zoo, learn insect anatomy, and go on a guided bug hunt. Each program will also include story-time, an art project, and a potting activity.

October 10 & 11: Orchid Show & Sale 9 am—4 pm Sponsored by the South Bay Orchid Society. Commercial grow-

ers will be on hand to sell as well as showcase their outstanding flowering plants with artistic display. Thousands of orchids will be offered for sale.

October 25: Fabulous 50's Car Show on the Upper Meadow 9 am—4 pm This year's show will feature pre-1970 racing Datsuns. Honorary Chairman, John Morton, will preside. Between 50 and 60 cars will be on display.

Las Gabrielinas 1:30 pm—4 pm Flower Arranging Demo for Fall. Learn to make attractive holiday arrangements for your home. Instructor: Gudy Kimmel, Master Judge, National Garden Clubs, Inc.

## Bennett Landscape – Fall Checklist

In order for Bennett Landscape to better service your property, please review the following checklist. Indicate the items that you require and send back to our office as soon as you can. We will then schedule the work that needs to be done. You can either mail it, e-mail to [BennettLandscape@cox.net](mailto:BennettLandscape@cox.net) or **fax directly to our office at 310-534-3176.**

**Overseed Bermuda** – Annual ryegrass or perennial rye seed with top dressing. Additional charge for the materials (winter season grass)

Circle Choice: Annual Ryegrass @ \$1.00  
Back Lawn/Dethatch Only

Perennial Rye @ \$2.75/lb. Front Lawn  
2 cu. Ft. steer manure @ \$4.25  
3 cu. Ft. Kelloggs Topper @ \$9.95

**Plant Annual Color** - For Sun/For Shade  
Additional Charge for materials

Location to be planted \_\_\_\_\_  
Color Preference \_\_\_\_\_ Variety \_\_\_\_\_

**Water Shut-off Device – Raincheck Sensor** – This water conservation device automatically shuts off the automatic mode if there is 1/4" of rainfall. It then resumes on the next scheduled day. Charge: \$115.00 (price may differ depending on installation location). Please discuss with contractor the location and visibility issues.

**Tree Trimming** – Lace, thin-out and shape trees before winter winds and rain. Under 10 ft., labor is included. Additional charge if over 10 ft. tall.

Type of Tree(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Trim Roses** – Done during late December and early January. No labor charge. Minimal charge for the materials, bone meal, steer manure and dormant spray used to winterize roses.

\$2.00 per rose bush if total amount is less than 12 bushes .  
\$1.50 per rose bush if total amount is more than 12 bushes.

Approximate number of bushes \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Prune Deciduous Fruit trees and dormant spray** – Done after leaves are completely off trees, Jan. – Feb. Examples are Plum, Peach, Nectarine, Apricot, and Pear. Additional charge for labor and materials.

Type of trees \_\_\_\_\_  
Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Bareroot Trees and Fruit Trees Wanted** – Delivery mid-end December

Type of trees wanted: \_\_\_\_\_ # Wanted \_\_\_\_\_  
Location \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the above work to be completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Hm. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print) Bus. \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
Service address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

It is extremely important that you communicate your requirements. If you have questions before you fill out the above form, please do not hesitate to give us a call. Our office staff will be happy to answer your questions. If you have any other requests or concerns, please list them below.

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\_\_\_\_\_