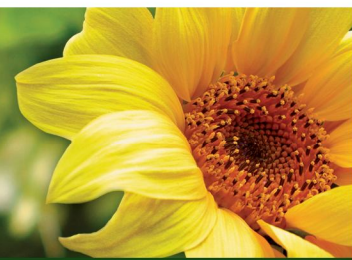




Through the Garden Window



Creating the Scenery of Your Life

December 2012

Serving the
High Desert and
Inland Empire.

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 292390
Phelan, CA 92329

Phone: 760.868.6104

Phone: 909.987.6309

Fax: 760.868.9266

E-Mail:

info@PerfectionLandscape.com

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Color Changes

Is It Still Fall?

By Cindy Poore

Well, kinda.....

The thing about living in Southern California, is that you get lots of weather variety! Surprised us with a really warm fall and a lot of the leaves are still hanging on to the trees at least at my house. Usually by Thanksgiving, they are all on the ground and a big wind, (normal day here) will blow them all away. Hopefully, you aren't the neighbor's house they blow to!

If you still have leaves to fall or on the ground, now is a good time to get started on the clean up. If left on the ground in drifts and mounds, they will stay moist and moldy all winter and be a haven for unwanted bugs and critters. Yes, it is starting to get cold out (finally) but get out there and clean them up it's only gonna get colder and wetter. And remember to wait until all the leaves have fallen off your deciduous fruit trees and vines before you prune them for the season.

Now would be a good time to start a compost pile if you are so inclined. And the rich composted soil will be ready come spring for new flower or veggie planting. And remember to cover your exposed compost pile so the lovely nutrients won't get lost to the wind or rain.

Now is also a great time to get prepared for the weeds the winter rains are going to bring. You know they are coming. It's inevitable. Call us and we will come out and spray our magic elixir, weed killing, time-saving, don't even bother to show your little leaves kind of pre-emergent. Call us. We can make it happen.



Are you watering correctly?

Most of the time, when I ask about someone's **winter watering schedule** I frequently hear that they are not watering at all or that they continue to water just as they do in summer, but turn down the time on their sprinkler clock to just a few minutes.

This is so wrong! Here is the thing. I know you are looking forward to the water bill shrinking in the winter, but even though your plants still need supplemental water in the winter, just turning down the minutes is not healthy for your plants.

Remember when you weaned your kids from bottle to solids? You didn't just throw the bottle away one day and start shoving food down their throats any more than you would continue to feed them milk a little at a time every two hours until they were teens.

Plants **NEED** to be weaned off the 2am feedings. They need their little roots to grow deep and strong. You gotta make them work for that moisture by reaching a little farther each time.

Wean your plants with less frequent watering, but still **water deeply** in order to thoroughly wet the root ball and wait 3 to 7 days before watering again. I often see people with plants having a single one gallon emitter run them for 3 minutes on a drip system. That amounts to 6.4 ounces of water. Twice that if there are two emitters. Not enough for nearly any plant. Better to water them longer and less frequently.



"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need."

Marcus Tullius Cicero

Christmas Gift Ideas:

It's not officially winter until December 21st. Even though it is still fall, we are all Christmas or Holiday shopping. Crazy! Here are some killer gift ideas!

“You Grow Girl!” By Gayla Trail Amazon.com

(I just love her name!) This hip and funny book is a must for anyone who does or wants to dabble in gardening of any type. “Chocafull” of sensible gardening advice and recipes, “gardening for the people” I know all my gardening friends will love it!

Flip Flop Mats from Uncommongoods.com

Remember those old door mats when you were a kid made from recycled tires? Well these are made from recycled flip flop material. More colorful than the old tire ones, but just as effective in keeping the outdoors OUT!

Gift Certificate for a new YOU! At Kokomo Fitness

I don't think there is anything better than feeling healthy and good about yourself. I have been working on this and can say for sure that healthier makes more things possible. Call my friends at Kokomo Fitness in Hesperia at the Fresh and Easy Shopping center (760 995-3366) www.kokomofitness.com They offer expert, certified trainers with diet and exercise help and the accountability that will get the job done. For YOU or a loved one. Nothing better.

Something that doesn't cost Nuthin! From YOU

Really, the most valuable thing we all have to offer is our time. That is the most cherished and remembered thing after all. Make or buy something sweet or savory and take it for a visit with someone you miss. Record on paper, audio or video a memory or story book for your kids or grandkids (tell'em where the treasure is buried!) Put the names of the people and notes on the back of old photographs and mail them to your kids and relatives. Give away part of your extensive Christmas ornament collection (before Christmas) Repair a squeaky door or change some light bulbs for your elderly neighbor. Play a game with someone, even if they cheat.... You get the idea. That's what life is all about. Giving is the most fun anyway.

We hope your holidays are filled with the people you love, warm memories and the very best of times!

Merry Christmas and Happy New year to you and yours! So glad we know you!

Call us if we can help you with your sprinkler, weed or garden challenges. We are here to help. (760) 868-6104

My Favorite Recipes

*From my friend
Annabel O'Leary*

Christmas brings the cookie exchange. This one is easy, simple and decadent!



Coconut Lace Cookies

½ stick butter, melted
¾ cup brown sugar
¼ cup flour
½ cup shredded coconut
½ tsp. vanilla
1 Pinch of salt

Combine ingredients well
Scoop on parchment covered cookie sheet. (Allow lots of room for them to spread) Bake at 375° for 8-10 minutes. Cool and eat.

Guild the lily: If that isn't enough to get you going, you can make these more special (and calorie laden) by melting 4 oz. Bittersweet chocolate gently in the microwave. Stir with a fork and drizzle over cooled cookies. Let cool or freeze 5 minutes to set.
YUM!



“We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing.”

George Bernard Shaw