

5 QUICK TIPS!

For a Flourishing Fall Garden

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Fall has arrived, and with it comes the start of cooler temperatures, cozy sweaters, and warm, comforting drinks. Fortunately, here in Orange County, the arrival of pumpkin-spiced treats doesn't have to signal a retreat indoors and a fond farewell to our outdoor spaces. Fall brings a renewed opportunity for garden enthusiasts to cultivate their love for nature. With the soil still warm from fading summer heat-ups and temperatures beginning to drop, fall is an ideal time to refresh your garden and experiment with different plant varieties.

Whether you're caring for a lush landscape or nurturing a container garden, fall gardening requires thoughtful planning and execution. From plant choice to soil care, the work you put in now will determine the success of your garden in the following seasons. So, grab a spiced chai, slip on your garden boots, and let the changing colors and brisk breeze inspire and guide you.

Here are five (5) quick tips that can help you kickstart your fall garden:

1

OPTIMIZE PLANT HEALTH.

To protect against pests and diseases and make room for new growth, divide, trim, and mulch dead plants and clippings. This proactive approach ensures optimal plant health despite fluctuating environmental conditions. Also, make a habit of regularly removing weeds as they compete with plants for nutrients and water.

2

ADJUST FOR WEATHER.

Santa Ana winds and sporadic rainfall can occur during this season. Keep an eye on weather forecasts. Be ready to take measures to protect your garden from sudden weather changes and adjust your watering schedule accordingly. As fall brings shorter days and cooler nights, plants generally require less water.

3

CONSIDER NATIVE PLANTS.

Research and invest in California native or California Friendly® plants, which are not only beautiful but also crucial for supporting local wildlife. Because these plants are naturally adapted to the local climate, they require less water and are resistant to native pests and diseases.

4

ACCLIMATE YOUR PLANTS.

Position plants where they will eventually be planted to allow them to adapt to their new locations, climate, light conditions, and other environmental factors. Observe how well the plants fit into your garden's design, considering placement, growth, color, texture, and size before planting.

5

UTILIZE FALLEN LEAVES.

Rather than disposing of fallen leaves, use them as a natural mulch or make leaf mold. Leaves help maintain soil moisture, suppress weed growth, and improve soil structure. As they decompose, leaves release essential nutrients into the soil, fostering a healthier plant environment.

