# MONTHLY GARDENING CHORES--NOVEMBER

#### By Leslie E. Stevens

November is the last month to prepare our Mediterranean gardens for winter dormancy and transition to our rainy season. It also heralds the arrival of migrating Monarch butterflies that spend the winter along our Central Coast.

### Chores

### Prune back blackberry and boysenberry canes to the ground, leaving the new young canes for bearing next year’s fruit.

### Cut back overgrown plants, rake leaves, and clean up garden debris to minimize overwintering pests and diseases.

### Mulch garden beds to maintain more consistent moisture and soil temperatures, enrich the soil and reduce weeds.

### Divide, trim and mulch overcrowded bulbs and tubers such as clivia, daylily, fortnight lily and irises.

### Planting

### Late fall is prime time for planting biennials such as hollyhocks, Canterbury bells and foxglove, as they need the colder weather to flower next spring.

### Tulip, crocus and hyacinth bulbs should be available now. Store newly purchased bulbs in the refrigerator in a bed of slightly moist sawdust to provide needed chill time.

### Seeds of beets, carrots, chard, onion, peas, radishes and turnips can still be sown. Consider planting seedlings of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. Also lettuce, arugula and mesclun remain options in the South County and coastal areas.

### Artichoke tubers should be available in nurseries now. Amend top foot of soil with organic matter and plant tubers 6-to-8 inches deep.

### To add more color to the autumn garden, plant fall flowering or fruiting trees and shrubs such as strawberry madrone, Catalina cherry, lemon bottlebrush, Mexican sage and grevillea.

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### Pests & Diseases

### Use floating row covers to protect new seedlings of vegetables in the cabbage family to discourage cabbage loopers and other pests.

### Spray off dusty plants to minimize populations of white flies and mites until winter rains arrive.