



California Fuchsia (*Epilobium canum* 'Everett's Choice') and deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) heralding the end of summer

Beauty Award!

Congratulations to Chris & Liz of Redwood City whose garden has just been chosen for an award in the 22nd annual Mayor's Beautification Recognition Program in the category of Garden/Landscape! Their award letter gushed: "Among the many fine nominations, our judges agreed that your entry was absolutely outstanding." You can view their garden photos at SmugMug with the password 'beautyaward'. Pretty bloomin' great, huh?

We're so excited to be entering one of the most active times of the native gardening year: California fuchsias are in full swing, the last clarkias have set seed, and coyote bush is preparing to bloom. Welcome to a new season: autumn in California! It is a time for seed germination, root expansion, and the beginnings of new vegetative growth. After such an uncommonly cool summer we can't wait to see how Fall unfolds. Now's the time to prepare your gardens for the rains, finish updating your plant wish lists in anticipation of fall plant sales, and schedule installation or tending assistance with your garden care professional. For all clients, we are making appointments now for fall garden check-ups.

Garden Tips for Fall

As temperatures cool and the rains come, shrubs and perennials begin their major root growth phases for the year, while annual seeds begin to germinate. Start your fall efforts with cleanup, pruning, and dividing, followed by new planting and sowing just before the rains. Specifically:

- Deadhead final summer blooms, removing or distributing seed heads as desired.
- Prune or groom conifers, shrubs, and perennials that will soon sprout new growth.
- Take clippings of any grapes the squirrels missed, bright red toyon berries, and beautiful bare or evergreen branches for holiday decor.
- To avoid spreading disease, disinfect cutting surfaces of pruning tools by dipping blades into a solution of one part chlorine bleach to ten parts water after pruning each plant. Keep diseased prunings out of the compost pile.
- Divide clumping perennials such as iris or juncus. Divisions can be replanted throughout your garden and/or shared with friends and neighbors. They make great holiday gifts!
- Plant new additions and replacements, including bulbs. Fall is the prime time to plant California natives, enabling them to develop deeper roots before the long, dry, summer months.
- Refresh mulch as necessary, remembering not to smother groundcovers or grasses. Be sure to keep mulch 3" away from shrub crowns and at least 6" away from tree trunks.

High Summer in Hillsborough: a sustainable landscape in full bloom! Use the password 'july2010' to view photos at Smugmug.

The Going Native Garden Tour is now accepting applications for the April 17th, 2011 tour. Join the party and submit your garden either for the first time or once again. Please visit Going Native Garden Tour 2011, scroll to the bottom of the page and click the link. As an Indig Design client, please let us know if you'd like to have us assist in any way.



Harvest time for Roger's Red grape (*Vitis californica x vinifera*). A natural sweet/tart taste when dark purple and turning soft.



Whether kicking it up by planting California native grasses or kicking it out by removing high water-use

- If rains are late or light, deep soak currants and other summer-dormant plants to assist new growth.
- Sow seeds of annual wildflowers and warm season grasses (those that bloom in summer), making sure they do not dry out if rains are sparse.
- Adjust irrigation frequency for the season as well as for any changes in planting areas. Flush irrigation lines to clear debris or clogs prior to shutting off or cutting back irrigation for the rainy season.
- Consider purchasing and installing an ET smart controller to adjust your irrigation schedule automatically based on satellite weather data.

For existing clients:

Now is the time to add and replace plantings as well as change around any design elements. Peigi may let you know if she has suggestions but please feel free to contact us if you've got any wish-list items. Peigi may also request to drop by for a few seasonal photos but will always call or email ahead of time to make sure it's no problem. Thanks!

Small is HUGE! ©

We often get requests for small area garden designs - bigger than a breadbox but smaller than a usual residential front yard. In response, Indig Design has developed **Small is HUGE!**©, a new service that makes just such designs attainable and affordable. Spaces 500 square feet or less qualify. Our motto is "**California native plants in every garden!**" If you know of friends, family or even complete strangers who might be excited to take advantage of this program, please ask them to contact Joan for further information at info@indigdesign.com.

Fall Plant Sales

Since fall is the prime planting time for California native plants, many organizations hold plant sales, where you can find a wide variety of interesting and sometimes unique selections:

- Sept 11 - Strybing Arboretum [native plant sale](#) in San Francisco
 - Sept 26 - UC Berkeley Botanical Garden [plant sale](#) in Berkeley
 - Oct 16 - [Santa Clara Valley chapter](#) of the California Native Plant Society plant sale at Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills
 - Oct 16-17 - East Bay chapter of the California Native Plant Society [plant sale](#) at Native Here Nursery in Berkeley
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turf, now's the time, it's the way to go, it's the future!

Dear Debra and Jocelyn

This link's for you (and anyone else who doesn't mind some silliness). Feel free to sing along [There are fairies at the bottom of our garden](#).

Write To Us!

This newsletter is for you, and we'd love to hear what you'd like to see in future issues. Joan is available to answer your administrative or horticultural questions, and to schedule garden check-ups or consultations. Email Joan at info@indigdesign.com.

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Learning Opportunities

There are a number of native plant talks and classes in the coming weeks, to help you learn more about the plants in your garden and how to care for them. Here are a few suggestions:

- Peigi is giving talks on Sept 11 **Using California Natives as an Alternative to Lawn** and Sept 25 **California Native Plants in the Landscape** hosted by Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency. To reserve your space and for more information, call 650-349-3000 or visit BAWSCA.
 - Peigi's talk hosted by Gardening with Natives is on Nov 10 Garden Design Using Native Plants. Gardening with Natives, a subgroup of the Santa Clara Valley chapter of the California Native Plant Society, offers many free talks around the Peninsula and South Bay.
 - The Regional Parks Botanic Garden, in East Bay's Tilden Regional Park, offers classes and free lectures.
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Out and About

"Leaves of three, don't touch me!" What is this plant and what is it doing?

This is the infamous 'Western poison oak', *Toxicodendron diversilobum*, showing its beautiful fall colors. This time of year our Bay Area hillsides may display large patches of red hue, but don't go off trail unless you are immune to the ever-present and irritating oils of this deciduous shrub. Birds love its berries and deer think its shiny green leaves an epicurean delight. For all its seasonal beauty, too bad it's not garden friendly!

