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| **Wednesday, October 23, 2013131023-1****In this Issue:** **Metro Monthly Green Tips: October 2013** |
| **Metro Monthly Green Tips: October 2013** Green tips are applicable both at work and at home, and here are some fall planting pointers that are being implemented at L.A. Metro properties and are also applicable to your own home. * **Compost the leaves.** Falling leaves may seem like an inconvenience when planning your garden or cleaning your yard. Instead of bagging the leaves and leaving them out with the trash, consider collecting them and composting them to create nutrient-rich, organic soil that will be ready for use by the spring.
* **Fertilize organically.** When preparing your soil for next year, add organic, slow-release fertilizers that will help enhance your soil over time. These fertilizers are made of natural materials, contain vital nutrients to help your plants grow, and prevent plants from getting nitrogen. Most garden stores today carry a wide variety of organic fertilizers; many catalog companies also sell organic products. Organic fertilizer is also better than chemicals around children and pets that may play in your yard.
* **Plant trees.** By the time autumn rolls around, summer heat waves are long past, rainfall is usually more plentiful, and new trees, bushes and flowers have a greater chance of surviving than they would if they were planted during a hotter season. Choose native drought tolerant species that are pest resistant and can grow in the kind of soil and amount of sunlight available on your property. Your local garden store should be able to help you select the right type of plants.
* **Other ideas.** If you have a vegetable or fruit garden that you want to maintain throughout the winter, consider planting root bulbs and leaf crops that will continue to produce despite the colder weather.
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