



## Let Fall Colors Inspire You

This fall, I am especially awestruck by the clarity of the air, the beauty of the hills and the ever-changing colors of the landscape. A few weeks ago I was in a home gift shop, and I found myself inspired by their gorgeous fall merchandizing, as well. There is nothing like cooling temperatures, evolving colors, and brilliant landscapes to make you realize a change is in the air.

The message here is that your home's interior should be changing, too. A few weeks ago we discussed the idea of removing the bright colors of summer to create a more neutral and calming palette. Now may I suggest that we take inspiration from nature's beautiful fall colors, and introduce autumn accents into our homes.

We are in that wondrous time of year: summer is becoming a hazy memory and the holidays are not yet requiring our full attention. The evolution of color continues in the yard and local landscapes, and there are still days comfortable enough to beacon us outside. Take time to enjoy our local area, look around you and appreciate the beauty, inspiration and gifts that nature provides, free of charge.

Any seasonal decorating you do now will be appropriate through Thanksgiving. Display some cornstalks along the fence, prop an old rake against the house, make a scarecrow with the kids, or collect a different pumpkin for every member of the family. Buy a single gourd or ear of Indian corn every time you go to the grocery or farmer's market, bring out an array of orange, terra cotta, gold, cream, olive or purple candles, pour some fall potpourri in a wooden bowl, place a pot of mums in a seasonal container, or clip branches laden with berries and display them in a favorite vase.

Check your linen closet for pillows, throws or bedding in warm autumn colors. Enjoy the aroma of simmering apples and cinnamon sticks, as they are softening to be made into pie or cider. Consider soup, stew and chili for your evening meals, and use apples and pumpkins to make seasonal pies and breads.

Natural materials like wood, brass, copper and straw are perfect for accessorizing your home at this time of year. Bring out brass candlesticks, woven baskets, and wooden pieces to integrate into your décor. Light candles in the evening to bring a feeling of warmth to your living area. Fill a large container with branches, foliage and pinecones to add texture to the hearth, as well as provide kindling for the fire. Collect acorns, colorful fall leaves and branches to adorn your tabletops.

Enjoy nature's bounty this fall.

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