

## Late Autumn in the Garden

It was a cool day today but for me this is southern California at its best. The toyon berries are bright red, Roger's Red grape has autumn foliage that competes with New England (yes, I said it! - well, on a smallish scale anyway), the grasses are tawny, the sky cloudy, and Milo happy.

Milo guarding the homestead. Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) berries, Roger's Red grape (*Vitis* 'Roger's Red'), purple three-awn grass (*Aristida purpurea* ssp. *purpurea*).



Yellow leaves of Chinese fringe tree (*Chionanthus retusus*) in dormant alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*)

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Lettuce, arugula, Swiss chard, celery and herbs. Mexican sage (*Salvia leucantha*) in back is still a hummingbird attraction.

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I am planning to plant some monkeyflowers in the front yard. For now I wouldn't be doing anything in the back since we are hoping to make big changes. We are working with a landscape designer for the first time, so I'm a bit nervous but hopeful that we will come up with something exciting.

Spent a little time tonight cleaning up the my blog lists on the right. It had gotten a bit messy. Any thoughts on that?