

## Fall is here...sort of

By Charlie Mosse, November 2020

According to the calendar fall is upon us. However, as usual the weather says no it is not. This last week was very hot and dry and we should be prepared for more of the same, perhaps we will be lucky and we will have better weather.

Mother Nature rules so work accordingly. We all make sure the trees are properly watered by at least 3 passes with the hose and perhaps even submersion is required to wet the entire root ball. If you submerge, be sure to angle the pot to drain it properly, especially the shallow pots. Deeper pots drain better due to gravity have more of an effect than it does in shallow pots. Adding some liquid or dissolvable fertilizer for submersion is a good idea. The soil gets thoroughly penetrated by the fertilizer solution. More soil particles absorb more fertilizer than just pouring fertilizer through the soil or watering over dry fertilizer. Food for thought.

In the fall plants respond to shorter day length and cooler temperatures. Some respond to temperature more than they respond to day length and vice versa. Regardless, plants slow down and start storing reserves for the spring flush and then eventually stop growing, well not exactly but close enough.

Some of our trees do not stop like they would in a cooler or colder climate. Junipers can easily keep growing slowly all "winter" here in San Diego County. It all depends on the temperatures the plants experience and the duration of the cold periods. If the winter is mild and there are scattered cold nights with warmish days, then junipers keep growing. If there enough cold nights with cool days you might even get some winter discoloration