

A Bit of Sunshine

Typically, we enjoy sunny, sweater weather during the winter in Phoenix. I can't recall a winter season being so gloomy and rainy~don't get me wrong, we love and need the rain, but it's rare having several days of heavy, gray, overcast skies. The weather for the next 5 days will continue this pattern so I thought I'd share some sunshine pictures of the yard I took last week. Unlike other parts of the United States, winter is our "green time". Some of the trees have lost their leaves, but for the most part, our landscape is colorful this time of year.



The orchard is abundant with citrus. The tangerine tree is so heavy with fruit this year and each piece is delicious.



LIFE AT
Bella Terra

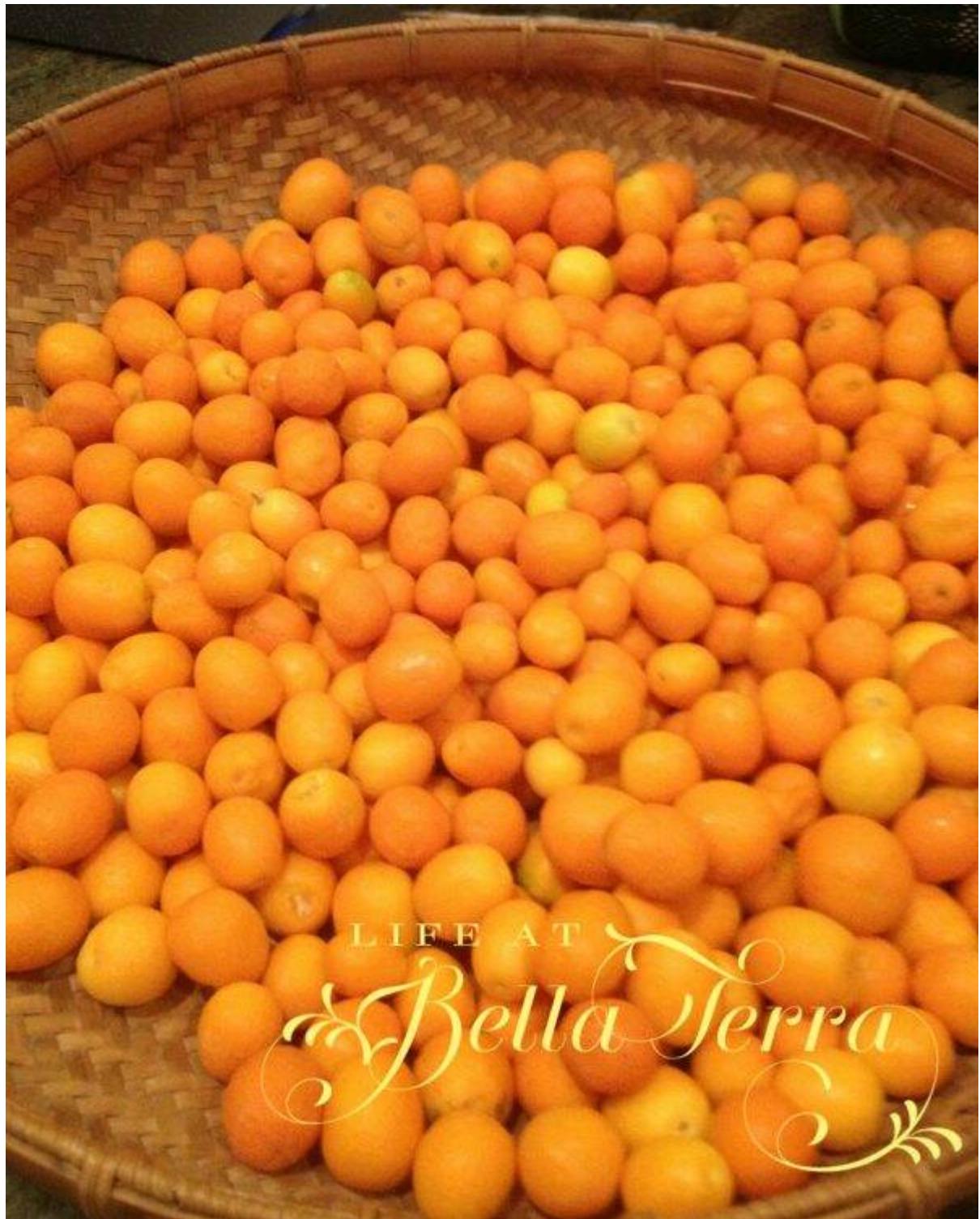
We have
lemons and grapefruits and a wide variety of oranges.



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The previous owners planted a kumquat tree to celebrate a wedding anniversary. Now we get the benefit of this sweet/tart little fruit. A few years ago I made kumquat marmalade. It was a complete hassle trying to get all the numerous seeds out. I'm not sure I'll admit it was worth the effort, but I'm certainly willing to try again! Or if anyone has a good recipe involving kumquats, let me know.



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The garden is filled with lettuces, endive, cauliflower and broccoli. Tomatoes are still green but hopefully we will be picking those once the weather warms up.



Next to the vegetable garden is the flower garden and a perfect place to sit in the late afternoons.



My husband built this obelisk for me. It's painted a French blue and has its place in the garden. Look at that cobalt sky!!!



The geraniums (which we brought down from the mountains a few months ago), are loving the cooler, damp weather.



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And of course, here's Cooper. He's my constant companion following me around the yard on this gorgeous day.



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Wherever you are, I am sending some sunshine to brighten your day!

Mary