



A magnificent gift of Amaryllis.

Photo Cynthia Brian

Cynthia Brian's Digging Deep Gardening Guide For December

"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own."

Charles Dickens

With all the suggestions on how you can give of, from, and for the garden, I'm sure you are ready to start digging deep. We do have a bit of work to do before the winter storms. Get ready, get set, grow!

- **SPREAD** three inches of compost around perennials to insulate against the coming onslaught of cold weather. When warm temperatures return, the nutrient rich cover acts as a feeder.
- **WASH** empty pots and containers with a bleach solution, then store upside down until spring planting season.
- **LOWER** the blades of your lawn mower to a two-inch height and give one final fertilizing.
- **HYDRATE** young plants with deep watering to prevent frostbite.
- **BRING** tender outdoor plants indoors for over wintering, or move close to the warmth of the house foundation. You may want to spray with a fog to prevent freezing.
- **DIG** in the rest of your spring flowering bulbs now-daffodils, tulips, crocus, snowdrops, and scillas. Plant in drifts of a dozen.
- **REMOVE** all diseased or bug infested plants and toss with the trash. Do not compost!
- **FEED** the birds by allowing sunflowers, aster, Echinacea seedpods to remain on the plants.
- **POSITION** poinsettias in a barrel of ferns for a splash of color at the front door.
- **DONATE** to your favorite charity. It is the season of giving. Mine of course, is Be the Star You Are!® 501c3 (<http://www.bethestaryouare.org>)
- **PICK** persimmons and pomegranates to use in your culinary feasts.
- **PLANT** bare root berry bushes, asparagus, grapes, and artichokes.
- **PROTECT** birds of paradise or other tender perennials by covering them with burlap covers or even dog blankets.
- **PRUNE** rose bushes for a final flurry of flowers. For rose hips, don't prune.
- **FINISH** planting all spring blooming bulbs. For months of future blooms, plant throughout the month.
- **SPREAD** peanut butter in pinecones to feed overwintering birds, or buy seed to fill your feeders.
- **BRING** branches from your evergreen trees inside to use as inexpensive holiday décor. The fresh fragrance gives your home a cozy, festive feeling.
- **CHECK** out the new documentary, Tapping the Source, where I encourage viewers to turn failure into fertilizer. (<http://www.tappingthesourcemovie.com>)
- **CONTINUE** our quest to READ, PLANT, GROW!

May the magic, miracles, and memories with family and friends be your greatest gift this December. Keep digging deep-it's the power of your source.

Happy Gardening to you!

©2010 Cynthia Brian
The Goddess Gardener
www.goddessgardener.com
Cynthia@goddessgardener.com



DESIGN
INSTALLATION
IRRIGATION
DRAINAGE
STONEMWORK
CONCRETE WORK
DECKS
FENCES
PATIOS
LAWNS
PONDS
CLEANUP &
HAULING

BLUE RIDGE



925-258-9233

CELL: 510-847-6160

LANDSCAPE Co.

BLUE JAY FELDMAN

OWNER/OPERATOR

WWW.BLUERIDGE.LC.COM

LICENSED
INSURED
Lic# 818633

Garden Lights landscape & pool development inc.

Garden Lights is an Award Winning
Landscape Design-Build Firm
Offering Services in . . .

- Landscape Design & Installation
Planting - Masonry - Concrete - Carpentry
- Low-voltage Landscape Lighting
- Pool / Spa Design, Installation & Remodels
- Water Gardens, Ponds & Waterfalls



Design & Install with just one call.

925-254-4797

Free Consultations

Serving the Lamorinda Area for 18 years. Bonded - Licensed & Insured Lic. #702845