



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

"I've had enough of gardening-I'm just about ready to throw in the trowel." Anonymous

If you think you are done with garden chores because it's winter, think again! Besides perusing the seed catalogues and reading home improvement magazines, pruning takes center stage this month in the "to do" list. Because of last month's warm weather, roses, fruit trees, and vines may have been given a short reprieve. Get out there now and take care of business. Save a rose stem or two for your Valentine and give the rest of the canes to friends. My rose canes will be available to you for free beginning February 6th.

Email me, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com for details.

- BEAT the winter doldrums by forcing bulbs indoors. All you need is a sunny window, a jar, water, and bulbs.
Try Paperwhite Narcissus, Amaryllis, and Lily of the Valley
- RELIEVE sunburn by cutting a tomato in half and rubbing the tomato on the burn. Allow the juices to dry.
- STOP bleeding on your hands or arms after pruning those rose bushes by saving teabags. Place the cool teabags on the cuts and they'll heal swiftly.
- POWER up your palate by planting heart smart greens such as kale, collard, and mustard for super sources of fiber, phytonutrients, electrolytes, and antioxidants.
- RAISE your happiness quotient by placing a bouquet of blooms by your bed to boost your optimism and enthusiasm.
- MIX perennials into bulb beds for longer lasting splashes of color. Fern and hosta are excellent companions as filler foliage.
- PICK UP a Rainforest Ecological Sprinkler which breaks-up water droplets to improve delivery of water to the root zone, preventing pooling and running off. Lowers water consumption and covers up to 2000 feet with an adjustable spray.
- LEAVE moles alone. Although their runs may be unsightly for a short period, moles are meat eaters and not interested in your plants. They actually munch on snail larvae, harmful insects, and grubs so think of them as garden helpers.
- OCCUPY a green philosophy and plant a new cultivar, perhaps an impressively colored Echinacea "Solar Flair" or the Korean ground cover fern, "Sohuksan."
- REFRAIN from dressing broken limbs or injuries on trees. Wound wood will develop on trees to protect them.
By putting a commercial salve on the damaged tissue, you may be inviting infections and pests.
- TAKE a trip to a botanical garden, public garden, flower show, or arboretum for inspiration, entertainment, and family fun.
- MOVE your backside off the couch and into the backyard.
- DON'T depend on the groundhogs to determine an early spring. When male groundhogs awake from hibernation they are not looking for their shadows but for females. They are the original Romeos!
- TRANSPLANT deciduous shrubs before the buds swell.
- APPLY final application of dormant spray to fruit trees.
- TILL your vegetable garden now to break up clods and help eliminate weeds.
- FEED houseplants when you notice signs of new leaf growth.
- PLANT strawberries.
- ADD curled parsley and garlic chives to a bed near your kitchen for all year beauty and culinary flavoring.
- TURN your compost pile.
- FEED the birds to keep them attached to your garden. Remove old nests as most avian fellows prefer to build new houses each year.
- CLEAN and sharpen your tools in preparation for spring.
- SAY "I Love You" with a colorful bouquet, a potted orchid, or a spray of fragrant posies. Flowers and amour go together.

My daffodils began blooming on January 6th and the jonquils are at their peak right now. Spring is just around the corner. This month I salute groundhogs and Cupids. Happy Valentine's Day. Let your arrows fly.

Happy Gardening to You!

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

www.GoddessGardener.com

925-377-7827

My virtual door is always open. I am available as a speaker and consultant. Feel free to contact me.

