

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D13

Feeling smug that I had outsmarted the gopher, blue jays, crows, squirrels, and deer, I ventured to see what was ripe and ready in my vegetable garden. Before arriving, I snapped a photo of two dragonflies “in flagrante” in my crepe myrtle bush, a sight I had never witnessed. They didn’t budge the entire time I was inspecting the herbs. The pilgrimage to my potager revealed an absence of culinary poverty. Artichokes, arugula, sorrel, lettuces, potatoes, radishes, carrots, beets, Swiss Chard, mustard, mints, parsley, cilantro, dandelions, onions, fennel, nasturtiums, kale, thyme, basil, guava blossoms, and many greens were the beginnings of the fresh summer flavors awaiting my table. Dust the dirt off a just dug carrot and you’ll understand Cezanne’s words about a revolution. There is nothing more tasty than eating what you grow straight from the soil. It’s superfood packed with all the vitamins, taste, and heart-health nutrients we all crave and need. Soon I’ll be harvesting tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, squash, beans, peas, tomatillos, melons, and whatever other seeds I planted or the birds brought in.

Now that summer is upon us, any day or evening is worth celebrating. Arrange a pretty table with bouquets of fuchsia hued carpet roses, get out the croquet mallets and horseshoes, set out the votives, fill the tiki torches with oil, light the fire pit, let the birds sing the tunes and the wildlife provide the entertainment for a

stellar summer supper. Throw some burgers, salmon, or halibut on the grill along with greens, fruit, and veggies, open a bottle of local vino, and invite your loved ones over for a garden fresh feast. Let’s get this party started!



Nature calls – a rare sight – dragon flies mating on a crepe myrtle.



Carpet roses, cypress trees, and grasses make great cut bouquets for any gala gathering.



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Mulching trees and shrubs conserves water

Mulching is important for trees and also shrubs. Besides being attractive, mulch can be used to conserve soil moisture, to buffer soil temperature extremes, to control weeds and competing vegetation and to replenish organic matter and nutrients in the soil.

The majority of landscape trees evolved in a woodland environment with natural mulch around them. Often the practice is to rake up or blow away any natural mulch in a home landscapes.

In a natural environment, trees generally do not grow in lawns or meadows and their root systems do not compete well against lawn grasses. A mulched area around a tree should be provided for the benefit of the tree. The size of the mulched areas around a tree depends on the size of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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