

Published January 15th, 2014

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian Technology in the Garden

By Cynthia Brian



Walk around a pond during the month for a dose of inspiration. Photos Cynthia Brian

simply access apps that will answer most questions, introduce us to new species, diagnose problems, and create the ultimate landscape.

Are you ready to experiment using technology in the garden? Begin 2014 with a tech bang by checking out any of these phone apps for your garden. Some are not quite ready for prime time, but they are a good beginning. If you are not a gardener, this short list of apps may convince you that nature rules. And to sweeten the deal, these apps are all free!

Garden Compass:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/garden-compass-plant-disease/id605855033?mt=8>

This app allows you to shoot a picture of a pest or plant for submittal to a selective team of garden experts who will identify and provide specific product recommendations. This app is an easy way to solve a pesky problem.

Garden Minder: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gardenminder/id510434403?mt=8>

Want to design the perfect raised bed for edibles? This all-in-one app offers lists of vegetables from A-Z with simple directions on when and how to plant and cultivate.

Garden Time Planner:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/garden-time-planner/id594225389?mt=8>

Including annual flowers in the database, this tool from Burpee will show you when to sow and when to reap your vegetables and fruit specific to your region to ensure a hearty harvest.

Leaf Snap:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/leafsnap/id430649829?mt=8>

Have you ever been on a hike and found a leaf that you just had to know what it was? Leafsnap was designed by researchers from the University of Maryland, the Smithsonian, and Columbia University. Snap a photo of any leaf and the app will identify the species! This makes experts of us all.

Our Rose Garden:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/our-rose-garden/id577793777?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo=4>

If you are a rose lover, you will love this app created by the University of Illinois Extension. It includes videos, a gallery to track your rose favorites, and information on planting, pruning, and caring for the hardest working plant in your collection.

Diagnostic Sample Submission:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sample-submission/id669269520?mt=8>

Similar to the Garden Compass app, the Plant Diagnostic Sample Submission allows you to submit digital photos to a university diagnostic laboratory for identification of diseases and pests. No more need to wonder if you have spider mites or rust, this app could become a farmer's best friend.

Now that it is winter and we've put our gardens to bed, instead of just dreaming about the future, let's go into action and embrace the latest technology to help us become the best stewards of our yards as possible. Dream it! Do it! Start clicking!

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders

By Cynthia Brian

- PRUNE your roses towards the end of the month.
- PLANT bare-root trees, vines, and roses now.
- VISIT the San Francisco Botanical Garden, home to the most significant magnolia collection for conservation purposes outside of China during the annual Magnolia Bloom Jan. 15-March 31 to take advantage of docent and curator led daytime and moonlight tours plus family activities.
<http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org>.
- CLEAR creeks running through your property of debris. Even though the weather has been dry, a storm could cause flooding if your storm drains are blocked.
- JOIN a garden club. If you live in Lafayette, I'll be speaking to the Happy Valley Garden Club on Feb. 3!
- WALK in nature at least once a week to restore balance to your life.

Wishing you a year filled with the gift of beauty, learning, and digging.
Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!

(c)2014

Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

Cynthia@goddessgardener.com

<http://www.goddessgardener.com>

925-377-7827

Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.



If they weren't damaged by the freeze, naval oranges will be ready to pick at the end of the month.



Yellow Narcissus



Potted cyclamen brighten a winter border or path. Photos Cynthia Brian



Don't miss the magnificent magnolias at the San Francisco Botanical Gardens.

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

[back](#)

Copyright © Lamorinda Weekly, Moraga CA