

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

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Cover trees, especially citrus with plastic, bubble wrap, or blankets to protect from frost and freeze.



Despite the freeze, bergenia blooms brighten the garden.



The bark from a century old olive tree is as beautiful as a sculpture.



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& Landscaping

Family owned in Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

IT'S TIME TO PRUNE YOUR PINE TREES

With current winter drought conditions home owners need to make sure to water their trees too. Lack of water brings bugs and diseases. Proper pruning is also essential this time of year for your Pine trees. Bark Beetles can infest your tree when it is weak from lack of water or due to sap that comes from pruning in the spring and summer; these beetles are dormant during the fall and winter months. Beetles also can carry diseases from tree to tree, and the only way to stop them is to prevent them by having a healthy tree in the first place. So don't wait until it's too late have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service

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- **MULCH** your garden with at least three inches of organic matter to control temperature, fight erosion, and maintain moisture.
- **SHORT** on space? Vertical gardening and living walls offer effortless, space saving green environments providing privacy screens, ambiance, and health benefits.
- **SHARE** your love of nature with someone you admire this Valentine's Day. Give a living plant that will remind them of your gift for years to come.
- **INVEST** in a canvas tote bag or other reusable bag instead of using plastic or paper. You'll save trees and help eliminate pollution.
- **BUY** your firewood from local sellers. When you transport firewood from other areas, there may be invasive tree-killing pests hitchhiking on your load.
- **WRAP** tender plants and trees (especially citrus) with blankets, plastic, or bubble wrap when another freeze or frost threatens. The cold nights are not over yet despite the warmer days.
- **INVITE** our feathered friends to dinner by filling feeders. Pluck dandelions daily and put on a plate in a place frequented by California quail. Your guests will reward your efforts by eating harmful insects.
- **PRUNE** ornamental grasses to 12 inches to encourage new growth.
- **CUT** branches of forsythia, quince, flowering pear, and other early blooming shrubs as the buds swell for long lasting interior interest.
- **INVESTIGATE** the new plants debuting in 2014 such as Ms. Mars sunflower, Candy Stripe verbena, and my personal favorite, the David Austin rose, Royal Jubilee celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

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