

## Digging Deep

...continued from page D13

### 8. Short Work Spurts

Make a list of what you need to do in your garden on a weekly basis. Then throughout the week, check off the tasks as you have the time. There is no need to spend eight hours every Saturday or Sunday toiling (unless you want to). You'll feel exhilarated by accomplishing one or two small chores in an hour here and an hour there.

### 9. Mulch for Garden Health

By maintaining a 3-inch covering of mulch, you'll reduce erosion, maintain ground temperature, suppress weeds, conserve water, and prevent disease. Leaves, pine needles, shredded bark, wood chips, even gravel offer these benefits while beautifying and unifying the look of your landscape.

### 10. Photograph your Space

With our smartphones and digital cameras it is so easy to take pictures. Take photos in all the seasons for better record keeping as well as to document the years. It's amazing how quickly our gardens change and evolve.

### 11. Save a Tree

Seven million urban trees are destroyed every year. Americans are being asked to plant a tree or care for one that you already have. Trees combat global warming, absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, provide oxygen, clean our air, cool our environments, conserve energy, prevent erosion, supply nourishment, offer play spaces, grant shade, and increase the value of our land.

### 12. Bee Friendly

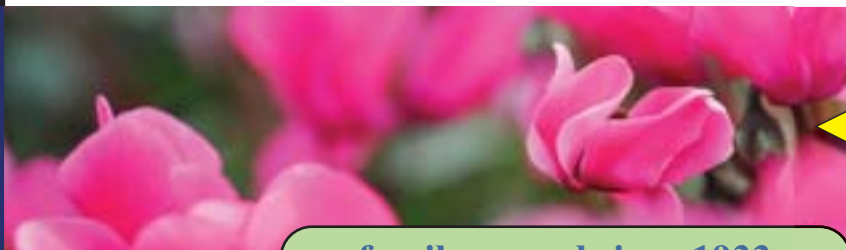
Make your garden attractive to birds, bees, butterflies, and bats and you'll enjoy a healthy, happy landscape. Provide pollen rich food, shelter, water, and landing places for beneficial visitors.

### 13. Forget Perfection

My motto has always been "failure is fertilizer." There are no mistakes in the garden. If you plant something and it doesn't grow, don't lament. Throw the plant on the compost pile and grow a new garden. Keep in mind that Mother Nature is always in charge. The birds, bees, wind, and wildlife will always be introducing something to your design that you did not plan. Strive for excellence but deep six perfection or you'll be deeply disappointed.

Gardening is good for you. Gardening boosts morale, lowers your grocery bill, and is a free fitness center. A garden's best crop is happiness. Plant some today.

# McDonnell Nursery



**20% off  
all Outdoor  
Pottery**

family owned since 1933

Trees • Shrubs • Vines • Annuals • Perennials  
Vegetables • Containers • Statuary & Fountains  
Indoor Plants • Decorative Items

[www.mcdonnellnursery.com](http://www.mcdonnellnursery.com)

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily

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

## BLUE RIDGE



925-258-9233  
CELL: 510-847-6160

LANDSCAPE COMPANY INC.

BLUE JAY FELDMAN  
OWNER/OPERATOR

[WWW.BLUERIDGELC.COM](http://WWW.BLUERIDGELC.COM)

LICENSED  
INSURED  
Lic# 818633



Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda  
Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly

Call 925-377-0977 today

We print and deliver 26,000 copies  
every other week.

**LAMORINDA  
WEEKLY**

Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda  
[www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)