

- **MIX** your coffee grinds and tea leaves in water to give acid loving plants a jolt of energy. Azaleas, rhododendrons, roses, fuchsias, camellias, and gardenias enjoy a sip of java.
- **HARVEST** tangerines, lemons, and oranges that have not been frost bitten for an extra boost of vitamin C to fight off the flu.
- **CUT** sprigs of purple lilac vine (*Hardenbergia violacea*) for indoor enjoyment. This vine is grown well on fences and screens.
- **SALVAGE** household items that you don't want any more and repurpose them for the garden. Old doors can be made into screens, a metal chair can become a trellis for a vine, paint a dresser to use as a potting bench. Be creative.
- **DOWNLOAD** garden apps. These recommended apps range in price from \$0.99-\$4.99 are available from the iTunes store: Armitage's Greatest Perennials and Annuals; Foolproof Plants for Small Gardens; and Purdue Tree Doctor.
- **CHECK** that all of your tools are sharpened, cleaned, and ready to get to work.
- **ADMIRE** the bark on trees even as the leaves unfurl.
- **VISIT** the Ruth Bancroft Gardens in Walnut Creek, a premier dry garden of water conserving specimens specializing in succulents, agaves, aloes, cactus, and a collection of plants from around the world that thrive with minimal irrigation. Tours, events, seminars, music, sculpture, and history are offered. www.ruthbancroftgarden.org.

Keep doing your personal rain dance. Be green with garden envy by getting your landscape ready for a beautiful rebirth. Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



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Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.

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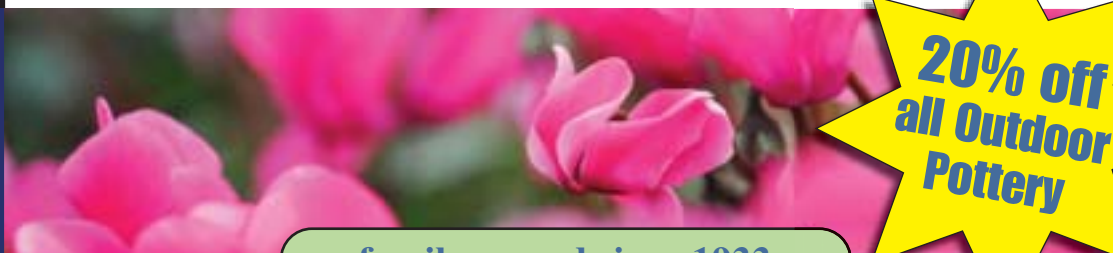


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