

- **FILL** Easter baskets for the garden lovers on your list with essential garden tools including a pair of sturdy gloves, hand forged trowel, packets of seeds, a water wise nozzle, and a pot of Dutch tulips.
- **PROVIDE** privacy with pathway plantings of tall, upright grasses. Screening grasses which may grow to seven feet tall or more include feather reed grass, switch grass, and maiden grass.
- **SCATTER** seeds of self-sowers such as cosmos, California poppy, blanket flower, nasturtium, sunflower, and pot marigold for annual fireworks of color.
- **STOCK** up on cacti, succulents, and other drought tolerant plants at the Spring Opening Plant Sale on Saturday, April 12 at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek (<http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>).
- **DELIGHT** in the pop of multihued tulips, delphiniums, aquilegia, muscari, hyacinths, and freesia parading in your landscape.

Swing into spring and feel like a kid again. Our gardens are abloom. This earth is yours.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

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The Goddess Gardener

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Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.



Grasses can be privacy screens. This Australian grass tree also sports fascinating spires that resemble horns at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. Photos Cynthia Brian



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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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