

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

By Cynthia Brian

"Why stay on earth except to grow?" – Robert Browning



Alstroemeria and lilies are perennial beauties this time of year. Photos Cynthia Brian

End of the school year, graduations, Father's Day, weddings, baby showers, vacations. June signals the beginning of summer and the season of outdoor celebrations. With so many milestones to check off our fun to-do lists, we hardly have a moment to think about gardening. Yet, for the next several months most of us will be enjoying the outdoors more than ever. It's time to make sure that our landscapes are welcoming, manicured, and inviting. Kumquats, loquats, and cherries are ripe for the picking, bougainvillea is resplendent with fluorescent radiance, pansies brighten beds while poppies still flourish on hillsides. Pick a bouquet of alstroemeria,

the lily of the Incas, for a pop of bright color to add to your party. If you have been diligent in saving your gray water, make sure you are dumping it daily into your garden to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Heidi from Vector Control informed me that because of the drought, mosquitoes are expected to be a major problem this summer as people collect water in barrels and buckets. Be water and mosquito conscious by pouring out your saved water immediately into your landscape or houseplants.

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Look closely at the throats of foxgloves.