

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for September

... continued from page D13

PRESS apples for the delicious fresh juice.

VISIT The National Heirloom Exposition, the "world's pure food fair," Sept. 8-10 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. Education about heirloom growing, sustainability, market farming, and risks of genetically modified foods will be the focus. Enjoy heritage poultry and livestock shows, giant pumpkin and vegetable contests, foot stomping music and tractors. www.theheirloomexpo.com.

BUY a deep soaker hose to give thirsty trees a good drink. If you see tree roots rising to the surface and leaves wilting or falling, get some H2O to your trees.

DEAD HEAD roses and control powdery mildew with a spray consisting of 2 teaspoons cooking oil and 2 teaspoons baking soda mixed in a gallon of water.

CHECK out Cate's Garden premium bypass pruning shears and easy action ratchet pruning shears made from SK5 high carbon steel blades. These great garden tools have a lifetime warranty. www.catesgarden.com/vip

LOWER yard maintenance with ground covers such as sedum, liriop, succulents, creeping thyme, baby tears, and vinca major or minor.

PROTECT your tender plants, roses, and citrus from the hungry deer. They are especially destructive now as their food sources dwindle. There are few deer-proof plants, although my deer don't touch oleander, digitalis, bearded iris, naked ladies, heuchera, rosemary or Russian sage.

DESTROY any star thistle plants that may come up in your landscape. These very prickly weeds are difficult to get rid of once established. Seeds blow in from the hills. The cows and deer don't eat them.

DIVIDE iris, lilies and naked ladies. Replant in other barren areas or share with a friend.

PROVIDE a shady area for your pets to play and relax. Make it interesting and a cool place for you to unwind.

DRY herbs and flowers. Garlic, leeks, artichoke blossoms, Bird of Paradise, hydrangeas, sunflowers, bachelor buttons, sage, lavender and protea can be hung upside down from rafters in the garage.

STARE up at the clouds at sunset for a multihued moving performance. Do it with your kids or grandkids.

IMPROVE your soil with compost and mulch now. Compacted clay soil will experience severe run-off when winter rains arrive.

ATTEND the Pear and Wine Festival on Sept. 26 at Moraga Commons. Visit the Be the Star You Are! booth to receive a free brand new book as part of the literacy outreach project, "Read, Lead, Succeed!" Info: http://starstylerradio.net/Events/Entries/2015/9/26_Pear_%26_Wine_Festival_2015.html

SELECT the perfect September bouquet at your local farmers' market as your garden displays wane.

SIT by a waterfall to enjoy the trickling falls and the sounds of silence.

SOW seeds of kale peas, kohlrabi, turnips and cabbage in preparation of a winter harvest.



Dead head roses

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California Trees

Darren lives his life with passion, and trees have been his passion since he was a kid, working with his father in the tree care company, he is a firm believer in the power of planning, and in the importance of giving back to those aspects of life that sustain you.

California has a rich horticultural history and many extraordinary specimens of trees can be seen in nearly every community here. Each of the many tree species provides unique form, texture, color and often aroma. These are the trees that provide shade, help to conserve energy, improves property value, reduces storm-water runoff, sequester CO2, mitigate air pollution, and make urban living healthier and more peaceful. "We all have a role to play in planning for the future of our trees". So invest in the future and plant the correct type of tree in the proper location.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping

Advance Tree Service

Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.



925-376-6528

advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com

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