

April Gardening Guide

... continued from page D12

- **BUILD** hugels while the soil is moist. You will find them invaluable this summer when water is scarce. (See October 7, 2015 issue for instructions: <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0916/Digging-Deep-Gardening-with-Cynthia-Brian-Water-Wise-Dreams.html>)
- **CHECK** trees for damage. Many trees are suffering or have died during the drought. Ivy growing up the trunks, mushrooms at the base, and mistletoe are signs of trouble. Call a certified arborist.
- **PLANT** purple. Compounds called anthocyanins in purple produce have anti-inflammatory effects would could help lower the risk of cancer and heart disease. Think purple kale, purple potatoes, purple carrots, purple cauliflower ... purple anything.
- **NATURALIZE** aquilegia, commonly called columbine. These delicate star-shaped petals will self-sow if planted by others to cross-pollinate. They come a range of bold colors including blues, rose, yellow, white, pink, crimson, fuchsia, and many bicolors.
- **SHADE** gardens lend themselves to the lush green to bronze foliage of astilbe. Spires of pink, red, scarlet and white add summer grace.
- **CUT** bouquets of Oriental poppies mixed with lilacs for a stunning indoor offering with a heady scent.
- **PHOTOGRAPH** your garden. If you have a stellar masterpiece, send me a jpeg with a description. Who knows, we may publish it. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com.
- **WELCOME** home the migrating birds with fresh water in the fountain and new seed in the feeder.
- **REPLACE** woody lavender bushes. After six years or so, lavender is ready for the compost pile.
- **BE** friendly to native bees by incorporating native wildflowers into your landscape. (See March 23, 2015 Digging Deep-Cultivate a Wildflower Meadow: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1002/Digging-Deep-How-to-Cultivate-a-Wildflower-Meadow.html>)



Santa Barbara daisies, Dutch iris, freesia, and asparagus fern share a plot.



Apple blossoms enhance the white picket fence.

- **CARE** for your lawns. The continued rains provide an opportunity to re-seed. I am sowing Pearl's Premium on rainy days then making sure the seed is watered daily until it sprouts. To protect the germinating seeds from hungry birds, our publisher, Andy Scheck suggests putting old screen doors on the patches. I've used old window screens. By summer the roots will be 14-to-20 inches deep and drought resistant. I'll keep you posted on my success or failure.
- **RAISE** your mower to a higher setting and forget the bag this month allowing the grass clippings to add nitrogen back into the lawn.
- **CLEAN** the patio. Sweep and wash furniture. Enjoy the sunny days.
- **START** tomatoes if your soil is warm. You may get a jumpstart on summer juiciness.
- **PICK** tangerines, Meyer lemons and tangelos as they ripen.
- **COMPOST**, compost, compost. The more nutrients you put into your garden, the more spectacular your scenery.
- **MARK** your calendars for wine and books event benefiting Be the Star You Are!® charity from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, at Dawn's Dream Winery Tasting room, on the northwest corner of Seventh and San Carlos, Carmel-by-the-Sea. www.bethestaryouare.org/#!events/kg2e.
- **PROGRAM** your DVRs to record "Wheel of Fortune" at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11 on ABC for a fun local experience. Make sure to watch to the final wave goodbye.



Lic.: #611120

Family owned in
Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Spring is here – it's time for spring cleaning but for your landscape! The trees and plants in the yard need to be inspected for water damage, remove dead or dying branches which may have been injured by disease/severe insect infestation or storm damage.

We also want to prune for improved plant appearance, tree and plant size to ensure all around health for your landscape.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service to make your yard a summer STAYCATION.

*Advance Tree Service
Your Authority on Trees.*



925-376-6528

advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com