



White roses are spectacular on a trellis.

- A natural and versatile herb, yarrow (*Achillea*) is actually a long-stemmed member of the sunflower family. Like sunflowers, it is deer resistant. Achilles, the Greek god unfortunately failed to paint his heel with a tincture of yarrow to make his body invulnerable to arrows. We know the rest of the story. Feathery, fern-like silver-gray leaves mark this fast growing native with flat clusters of florets in yellow, white, apricot, red or pink depending on the variety.
- Sea Holly Thistle (*Ernginium*) is a prickly textured plant with leaves like an artichoke. A sun lover, as much as the bees enjoy it, the deer don't. Use it in striking arrangements.
- A jewel of a flower, Oriental wind poppies (*Papaver orientale*) take two years to bloom and hate transplanting, but once you sow them, you'll enjoy them forever as they bloom from spring through summer.
- Another great Asian contribution includes the Asiatic lily. I prefer the deep pink variety, *Lilium Speciosum*. Plant as bulbs for a happy surprise as they burst into bloom year after year.

I'm grateful for the summer and for the heat, so I'm signing off to go play in my backyard in my bikini. Stay cool and enjoy your July family festivities.

Happy gardening and happy growing.



Cynthia Brian under an olive tree.

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