

Cynthia Brian's Mid-month Gardening Tips

RELAX and rejuvenate around a pond, stream, or waterfall in a garden.

VISIT the National Heirloom Expo, Sept. 6, 7 and 8 in Santa Rosa for the world's pure food fair. www.theheirloomexpo.com

PROTECT your pet by knowing which plants are toxic to them such as daffodils, hemlock and oleander. See a full list at www.aspc.com

CREATE mini herb gardens in window boxes or strawberry pots. Buy four-inch pots of sage, lemon thyme, basil, and parsley for a pretty and aromatic edible display.

DEEP-soak trees like magnolia or redwoods, especially when you see them dropping abundant leaves.

SOOTHE cuts, burns, bites and reduce redness after too much summer sunbathing by planting the succulent aloe. Cut off a piece of the spike, squeeze out the anti-inflammatory and antiseptic gel to apply directly to your skin.

HARVEST Asian pears, apples, peppers, squash, tomatoes and eggplant.

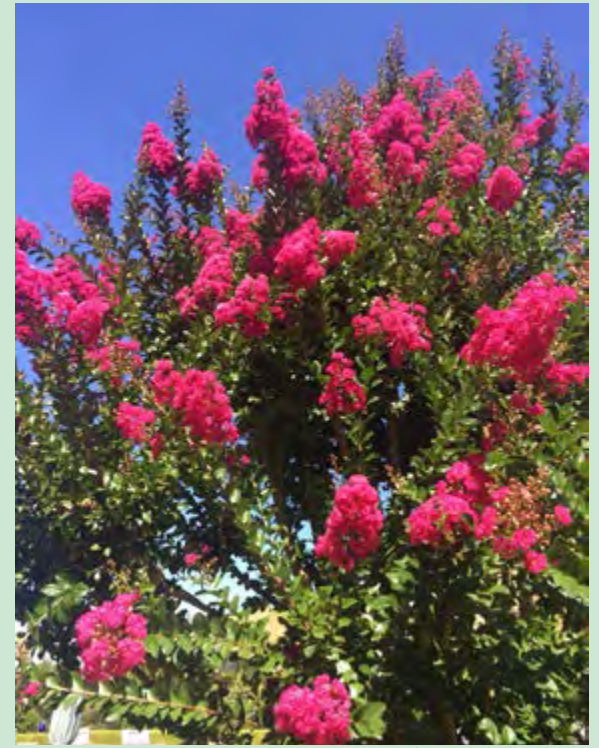
ADD color to your planters with bright, perennial pelargoniums. My favorite colors are the deep maroon and bright pink.

MAKE a statement on your porch or patio by grouping urns and pots planted with pretty petunias and pansies.

PULL up a chair next to a hummingbird feeder and let the show begin as hummingbirds enchant you with their chatter, twitters, squeaks and songs. Their hovering wings buzz, trill and thrill.

CONTINUE to compost all of your vegetable and non-meat scraps including cabbages (no Kings).

SET a table outdoors using your favorite tableware and glasses for an upscale meal alfresco on a hot August night.



Crape myrtle trees are beautiful in every season. Photos Cynthia Brian

Trending in my garden:

- Naked Ladies are dancing in the breeze.
 - Tomatoes are finally red and sweet, although most don't make it to my kitchen. I eat most of them right off the vine with a snip of nearby arugula and basil
 - Deer have been deterred from my orchard and garden with fencing.
 - Pearl's Premium lawn is green with some bare and brown spots, but definitely looking better this summer than any previously seeded grass.
 - Choke weed is invading. It spreads rapidly, choking out the nutrients and sunlight needed for other plants to grow. I wage a constant pulling battle against it.
 - Fluorescent pink crape myrtle trees are in full bloom, attracting hummingbirds and bees.
 - Incredible amounts of exercise for me as I pull hoses up and down hillsides to keep plants alive.
- Gardening is good for my body, mind and soul as long as I give my back a break.

Do good deeds, stay healthy, and enjoy the month of August.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Blue Agapanthus is complemented by the pink oleander in the rear.



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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

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