

Cynthia Brian's Mid-month Garden Reminders

- **PLANT** Woodland Herbaceous Peonies, a separate species of herbaceous peony that thrive in the shade. Naturalizing in a deciduous woodland area with the early spring sun and summer shade, they will grow to one-and-a-half-feet tall and self-seed as a ground cover. Woodland peonies provide three-season appeal with delicate white flowers in early spring, lush green foliage throughout the growing seasons, and dramatic indigo and scarlet seed pods in the fall. <http://peony-senvy.com>.
- **LOOKING** for a preplanned garden selection? High Country Gardens offers deer and drought resistant plants that have color, texture, and curb appeal. www.highcountrygardens.com,
- **PRUNE** those thorny creepers, bougainvillea, now to remove old flowers. Cover with burlap if exposed in an area that gets frost.
- **COLLECT** turkey feathers to add to bouquets to wreaths for Thanksgiving.
- **PICK** persimmons. Fuyu persimmons can be eaten like apples but the hachiyas must be mushy ripe before eating.
- **PUREE** warty pumpkins for the sweetest, smoothest, most delicious pumpkin dish you'll ever taste. Obviously, don't puree the skins!
- **CUT** branches from liquid amber or Japanese maple trees to use indoors for a punch of end of fall color.
- **PLANT** your spring bulbs now through January to enjoy a meadow of continuous flowers next year.
- **PICK** up pansies to plant for winter. 2017 has been named The Year of the Pansy.
- **ADD** a cover crop to your garden to fix the nitrogen and make green manure for spring. Austrian winter pea has delicious edible pee shoots. Other great mulching cover crops include clover, mustard and vetch.
- **DISCOVER** a tree to climb with your kids. It's that time of year!
- **CULTIVATE** ornamental grasses for low-maintenance and drought tolerate plantings. Maiden hair grass, blonde ambition grass, feather reed grass, and silky thread grass are a few of the lesser known but easily propagated species.
- **TRAIN** rambling and vining plants on a trellis or tall support for a spectacular vertical garden wherever space is lacking.



Pick a few branches from a liquid amber tree to enhance your interiors.

- **SOW** wildflower seeds that will attract pollinators, hummingbirds and beneficial bugs.
- **PRUNE** all perennials when finished blooming. Add the stems and spent flowers to the compost pile.
- **FERTILIZE** lawns.
- **GIVE** thanks every day for something. Keeping a gratitude journal alongside your garden guide is a great tool for remembering to be grateful.



Warty pumpkins have the sweetest and most delicious flesh.

Thank you, thank you for being my special gardening gang. I am humbled to be your guide on the side. There is no such thing as a brown thumb, just one that hasn't turned green yet!

Happy gardening and happy growing! Happy Thanksgiving and Turkey Day!



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WINTER TIPS

Cleaning and thinning your trees may reduce the potential storm hazards without compromising the shade. In some situations the risk of failure cannot be reduced without removal of branches. Remember that healthy structurally sound trees are generally wind fast even when mature.

Storm damage is usually, but not always, related to structural problems that could have been addressed with proper structural training when the tree was young. Co dominant (two trunks with a narrow angle of attachment) trunks account for many trees failures. The hazard of wind damage is higher on the regrowth of trees that have been "topped".

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