

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

- BRIGHTEN the dark days of winter with indoor tropical plants. A rubber tree under planted with bright pink or red kalanchoe will do the trick.
- FORCE paperwhites, lily of the valley, or amaryllis by putting the bulb in a jar with water by a sunny window.
- PRUNE crape myrtles, roses, berries, grapes and fruit trees now. If your roses are still blooming, cut the blossoms to bring indoors, then prune. Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plum, and prune trees need their branches pruned now to allow for more sunlight penetration, air circulation, and bigger fruit production. Cut out all dead wood.
- REFRAIN from dressing broken limbs or injuries on trees. Wound wood will develop on trees to protect them. By putting a commercial salve on the damaged tissue, you may be inviting infections and pests.
- SAVE teabags to put on cuts you will incur after pruning roses. Place a cool teabag to encourage swift healing.
- POWER your palate by planting heart smart greens including kale, collard and mustard for super sources of fiber, phytonutrients, electrolytes and antioxidants.
- FEED houseplants when you notice new leaves developing.
- CLEAR debris from creek beds if you are fortunate enough to have a creek on your property to avoid overflows, erosion, and damage.
- TRANSPLANT deciduous shrubs before buds begin to swell.
- USE a rooting hormone to plant canes of roses and grapes from your personal cuttings.
- PERUSE seed catalogues for springtime ideas.
- CURL up with a copy of "Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul" for a dose of laughter and inspiration this winter. First edition autographed copies available at [www.starstyleradio.com/store](http://www.starstyleradio.com/store).
- SAVOR the thunder, lightening and rains. Let's pray we are getting our reservoirs filled to eliminate another drought year.
- DON'T count on the ground hogs to signal an early spring. Males aren't seeking shadows when they emerge from hibernation. They are looking for love.
- REMEMBER your love on Valentine's Day with a colorful live plant or a bouquet of posies. It's true that flowers and amour are bedmates!

Happy Cupid Day! Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



*A Fuji apple tree with a lone rotten apple awaits pruning.*



*The winter wardrobe of a tangle of grapevines.*



*Bees feast on the nectar from the loquat blossoms.*



*Forget-Me-Nots blanket the ground.*