

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for April

- **CONTROL** snails with organic treatments. You can hand pick them, put out bowls of beer, add copper tape to ornamentals, throw egg shells in affected areas, or scatter Sluggo. Eliminate watering at night when snails feed. They multiply and flourish in the wet and damp. In dry weather they will retract into their shells sealing off the opening with mucus. Snails can be dormant for four years.
- **RAKE** lawns to remove debris and aerate. If fertilizer is needed, this is the time to apply.
- **DON'T** eat the mushrooms growing in your yard unless you are certain they are edible. Consult a mycologist as many mushrooms are toxic and potentially fatal if ingested.
- **VISIT** Wildlife Earth Day at Wagner Ranch in Orinda on Sunday, April 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Several community organizations will also present earth-friendly endeavors. I will be autographing my newest book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" as well as talking about botanicals. For more information on this nature-lover's event organized by the naturalist guru, Toris Jaeger, visit <https://fwrna.org/wildlifefest/>.
- **PLANT** agastache, columbine, penstemon, salvia and trumpet vine to attract hummingbirds. When the threat of frost is finished, hibiscus, bougainvillea, and citrus can be planted.
- **BUY** discounted tickets to the June 15 Oakland A's versus Los Angeles Angels baseball game with a portion of proceeds benefitting the 501 c3 charity, Be the Star You Are® <http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org> or go find your seats to buy directly at <https://groupmatics.events/event/Bestar>.
- **EAT** your dandelions for a wealth of nutritional and medicinal benefits. An Italian proverb instructs, "He who wants to eat a good supper should eat a weed of every kind."
- **WALK** in the woods, a park or hug a tree to get your dose of forest bathing known as the Japanese tradition of shinrin-yoku.
- **SAVOR** springtime. It's the bugle baby for beauty, fragrance, and new life.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Penstemon seeds can be scattered in a sunny location to attract hummingbirds.



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