

A mother 's Gardening Guide for May from Cynthia Brian

- **WARNING!** Don't buy euphorbia esula no matter how much it captivates you, as it is not containable.
- **BUY** your mother the perfect garden gift for Mother's Day, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," and receive a plethora of extra goodies that she'll love. Visit <http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>
- **EMPTY** standing water from any receptacle as mosquitoes are breeding including birdbaths and animal water bowls. Check rain gutters and storm drains. Stock ponds with mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) which are free from vector control.
- **WEED** while the soil is still moist, digging up the roots. The smaller the weed, the easier it is to pull out. Don't allow the plant to go to seed.
- **REPLENSIH** mulch as it decomposes. Mulch deprives weeds and seeds from sunlight while enriching the soil. Add 3 inches to beds and keep a few inches away from tree trunks.
- **FERTILIZE** roses with alfalfa meal to add acid to the soil.
- **PREVENT** ants from protecting aphids around bushes and trees by using sticky barriers.
- **LEAVE** grass clippings on lawns to provide nutrients and don't mow when the lawn is wet.
- **VISIT** the Be the Star You Are! booth at the Moraga Faire to pick up complimentary potpourri to celebrate Mother's Day and buy raffle tickets for the opportunity to go to an A's batting practice to meet the players. <http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events>
- **PATROL** for invasive species and eradicate them from your yard.
- **ATTRACT** beneficial insects and pollinators to your garden by planting swaths of aster calendula, California poppy, fennel and Queen Anne's lace.
- **PREPARE** your vegetable garden. Check your local nursery to buy edibles you enjoy, specifically tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.
- **PLANT** color spots of petunia, begonia, cosmos and marigolds.

Wishing every mother a month of peace, joy, health and love. Thank you for being and knowing best!

Cynthia Brian



Bright and elegant azaleas.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Along a path, fluorescent pink ice plant sparkles.



The cover crop of flowering fava beans.



Ivy cascading from a fountain is attractive and can't spread.