

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

FIGHT fleas and ticks organically with DEET-free Yard Guard Cedar spray. These blood-sucking pests carry multiple diseases for humans and pets. Use coupon code SUMMER18 and save 10 percent off your order at www.NaturesLawn.com!

BE SAFE on the Fourth of July. Only 295 communities throughout California allow for the "safe and sane" use of individual fireworks. For more information visit: <http://ca-fireworks.presskit247.com/>.

WATER your orchids with an ice cube weekly. This is a simple way to monitor the moisture and keep your orchids hydrated and healthy.

BUY-A-ROCKET to support the Fourth of July fireworks in Moraga: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/moraga-parks-recreation/catalog/index?search=rocket>.

MOW lawns more frequently, cutting no more than one-third of the grass height at each mowing to keep your lawns healthy. Water deeply and infrequently!

HARVEST plums and apricots. Pick up fallen fruit to prevent disease to the trees.

FIRE up the barbecue to grill your favorite veggies and sweet stone fruits.

PLANT squash now to use their blossoms for cooking in 30 to 40 days. Sowing okra, dill and cilantro will add to your garden's bounty later in the summer.

ENJOY containers or pathways of citronella geraniums, also called the Mosquito Plant or Pelargonium citrosum, in areas where you walk. The citrusy scent is pleasant when brushed up against, however, despite mass perception, my experience informs me that this plant, which does not contain citronella, does not deter the pesky biters. Empty all vessels with standing water daily to avoid an aquatic mosquito-breeding field. Turn on a fan and light a citronella candle.

Be grateful that we live in this beautiful land of spacious skies, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. Proud to be an American!

Celebrate with glee our Independence this Fourth of July. Hurry, it is summer!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Armenian cucumbers are delicious sliced for snacks or salads.

Photos Cynthia Brian



A field of corn will be ready for the 4th.



Fresh greens tossed with oil and vinegar.