

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Awaken spring

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If you plant them on a slope, you'll be able to see the flowers more easily as their stems face downwards. Hybrids include shades of ivory, jade, maroon, pink, yellow, speckled and fringed combinations.

As the soil warms and the daylight hours grow longer, it is time to prepare your garden for seeding by weeding, hoeing and adding rich soil. This year I have chosen packets from Renee's Garden (<http://www.reneesgarden.com>) and have already jotted down when the seeds will be planted. At the end of March or beginning of April, I will be planting beets, leeks and clarkia. In April I will add cleome, columbine and dwarf dahlias. Brussels sprouts will wait for a summer sowing. Pumpkin seeds that I've saved will be planted in late May in anticipation of Halloween and Thanksgiving. If you want to carve them, choose a fun variety such as Warty Goblin or Super Moon. For that delicious holiday pie, the go-to favorite is Pik-a-Pie. Pumpkins need a large area



Cynthia boasts spring green nails squatting by the hellebores

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to grow making it essential to plan now to give your Curcubita pepo the room to thrive. Small pumpkins need a 12-foot area, medium pumpkins require 24 feet, and giants want a 36-48 feet space per plant.

Are you thinking of including perennials that will attract butterflies, bees, bats and birds? The National Pollinator Garden Network has announced it has surpassed its goal of registering 1 million pollinator gardens. In just three years, 1.04 million gardens were registered with the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. From tiny yards to public gardens, the million-plus gardens add up to a network of approximately 5 million acres of enhanced or new pollinator habitat. Offer a buffet with a diverse array of flowers, herbs, colors, fragrances, sizes, and shapes that will encourage these garden guards to visit and stay.

The elegant tulip soulangeana magnolia adds beauty and structure to any landscape and now is the time to choose a specimen in full bloom at your local nursery. Blooming time varies with varieties and micro-climates. Santa Rosa plum and peach trees are radiantly blossoming and will soon form fruit. Crab apple will follow shortly. Hopefully, the rains won't knock off too many buds. The frogs are chirping, birds are tweeting,



Red ranunculus pops up beside the yellow oxalis.

and cows are mooing. The orchestra of nature waking up from its winter slumber is music to my ears. It's time to polish our dancing shoes (and maybe your nails) as the vernal equinox has arrived with an equal balance of light and dark. The season of spring has sprung.

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Sunday March 24, 2019 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

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Please RSVP: ebmud.com/rsvp

For more information: Kristin.Bowman@ebmud.com 510 986-7610

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