

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide



Not to be confused with Virginia bluebells, wood hyacinths are spreading bulbs that are stellar as spring showstoppers.

BEWARE the tick. Ticks are attacking and they are not just on the deer. Keep your lawns mowed and the brush cleared. Rid your yard of Japanese barberry as this invasive species is a haven for ticks.

KEEP deer from nibbling your new sprouts by installing a 9 to 12-foot deer fence. Unfortunately, all of the natural remedies including soap, hair, sprinklers, whirlybirds, lights and noise are not effective long term.

REPOT orchids in spring if they are root bound or the planting medium has broken down. Most orchids need to be repotted every two to three years. If you notice green root tips on plump white roots, it is time to divide. Repot in lightly packed fir bark or sphagnum moss using a container large enough to allow for two more years of growth.

DIMINISH spring allergies by always removing your shoes before entering your home. Change your clothes, shower before bedtime to keep the pollen from gathering on your sheets. Ramp up your house cleaning efforts by dusting, vacuuming, and mopping often.

SHARPEN lawnmower blades for a cleaner cut. Stay off the grass if it has been raining as walking on wet grass damages the blades and the roots.

SNIP the flowers off bolting arugula kale lettuces, and other leafy vegetables to prevent the plants from going to seed. Add the flowers to salads, soups, and sauces or decorate your plates.

MARK your calendars:

April 21 is Easter. Fill baskets for garden lovers with my book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" available with extra freebies at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

April 22 is Earth Day

April 28 is the Annual Wildlife Festival at Wagner Ranch www.fwrna.org/annual-wildlife-festival.html

May 11 is the Moraga Community Faire. Visit the Be the Star You Are!@ booth to celebrate nature, books, and kids. www.bethestaryouare.org/events

Wishing you a hippity hoppity happy Bunny Day on Easter!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing



The mahogany colored Manzanita shines with pink spring blossoms.



A native of South Africa, freesias flourish in Lamorinda along with Dutch tulips.

Photos Cynthia Brian