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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Growing wisdom

... continued from Page D15

My favorite old-fashioned peonies are blooming and available to purchase and plant in full sun. Peonies offer gorgeous flowers in a multitude of colors and shades and their foliage will add structure to your garden until they die back in winter. Peonies are perennial and will probably outlive all of us.

It's time to plant summer blooming bulbs: gladiolus, crocosmia, dahlias, begonias and lilies. Crocosmia, also known as firecracker plant, blooms all summer in fiery shades of red, orange and yellow. It requires little care and combines well with other ornamentals to create a beautiful scene in your yard. Crocosmia is also a magnet for hummingbirds and provides a vivid splash of color to containers. I like to gather them for my indoor arrangements as they are long lasting as cut flowers. You'll find a wide selection of summer bulbs at your favorite nursery and garden center.

Succulents are always a wise choice for drought areas. Sedum dendroideum is a shrub-like perennial plant with yellow blooms that attract bees. It thrives in warm weather, doesn't need much water, and continues to expand in size. You can cut off pieces and plant in other areas to create a succulent hedge. The deer will eat its fleshy stems so it is not a good specimen in areas where the animals roam.

Every day I learn something new in the garden, usually by the mistakes I unwittingly make. I'm excited about the forthcoming summer, yet I am reveling in this spring season that has included plenty of rain. The more I rake, dig, weed, plant, sweep, and mulch, the more I grow wisdom.



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