

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

PRUNE daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, bluebells, freesias, and other bulbs once the leaves have turned crispy yellow.

ADD companion plantings of Oriental poppies, allium, delphinium, daylilies, salvia and peony.

PHOTOGRAPH eggs in a bird's nest, but don't disturb the nest. The mother bird is alert and watching.

CELEBRATE National Pollinator Week June 17-23 by planting three new pollinator plants that will attract bees, butterflies, and birds. Try Nigella (love-in-a-mist), bee balm and fennel.

DIVIDE perennials before the weather is too warm. Alstroemeria, hosta, yarrow, aster and astilbe. Most perennials need dividing every three to four years to maintain annual blooms.

ADD three inches of mulch to your garden. If you have pine or redwood trees, gather the needles to mulch your roses, azaleas, rhododendrons, fuchsias, and other acid-loving plants. The mulch will keep the plants cooler and maintain moisture.

CONTAIN all mints in pots with saucers. Spearmint, peppermint, pineapple mint, catnip, and the rest of the mint family can easily become invasive when planted in the ground.

DEADHEAD roses at least weekly to encourage continual blooming.

BAIT for snails and slugs.

PLANT annuals in blocks of odd numbers—three, five, seven, nine, or more to create a more natural and aesthetically pleasing look to the human eye. To achieve this, you can plant the same variety of flowers in each odd grouping, or you can create color blocks with several similar varieties.

CUT bouquets of alstroemeria flowers for two weeks of vase life enjoyment.

WALK through your garden to savor the scents of a variety of plants.

PICK cherries as they ripen before the birds eat them all.

DO a second planting of beets, chard, beans, and radishes.

LISTEN to the serenading of the bullfrogs as they seduce with their song.

REPEL mosquitoes by emptying all vessels containing even a few drops of water. Add Dunks® to ponds or non-circulating water sources. Citronella and lemongrass plants supposedly help placed on the patio.

POUR a glass of wine and decipher the flavors that emanate from the garden.

COMMEMORATE dad on Father's Day with a gift from the garden and include a copy of my book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" available at <http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>.

CELEBRATE the summer solstice on June 21 with a controlled and safe bonfire. Did you know that the word "bonfire" derived from the words "bone fire" because bones were burned to make lime to sweeten the soil? In years past, bone fires, or bonfires were beacons to guide travelers on land and sea.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Daddy's Day!



Drought resistant Graptoveria succulent cascades from a container.



The flowers on an olive tree have no scent.



Cut alstroemeria flowers for a bouquet that will last two weeks.



Stick your nose in a patch of sweet-smelling Oriental lilies.