

## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for August

**STAY** hydrated. Drink lots of water, don't do garden chores in the extreme heat, and keep sports drinks on hand.

**BE** fire safe. Read how to landscape your garden to be more fire-resistant.

<https://blog.voiceamerica.com/2019/05/21/firescaping-for-survival/>

**STAKE** gladiolus as they tend to be top-heavy and fall over.

**DEADHEAD** roses and other perennials to keep the blooms coming.

**CLEAN** pruning shears with alcohol after each use.

**CONTINUE** weeding. Make sure to cut any dry, tall grass.

**HARVEST** fruit and vegetables in the morning for best flavor and nutrition. A few of the fruits and vegetables that are currently ripe are plums, peaches, apples, melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, beets, beans, corn, carrots and zucchini.

**PICK** up any fruit that has fallen on the ground to prevent rodents, raccoons, turkeys, and other critters from invading your garden.

**ENCOURAGE** herb growth by pinching the tips. Use the cuttings in your recipes.

**MULCH** your garden to retain moisture and keep roots cool. Do not use gorilla hair as it is highly flammable. Keep all mulches moist.

**SOW** seeds of brassicas including cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, kale, and kohlrabi for an autumn harvest.

**PLAN** now for autumn planting.

**WATER** plantings in containers daily, if needed. The heat dries out pots quickly.

**ORDER** spring-flowering bulbs from catalogs including tulips, Dutch iris, daffodils, woodland hyacinths, and whatever else grabs your attention.

**PLAN** a picnic party. Re-live your summer camp frolics. Casual or upscale, the fun begins outdoors.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing!



Stake gladiolus when they get top heavy.



Comfortable lounge chairs under umbrellas for shade in the loggia.



Turn outdoor dining into an elegant affair with gauzy fabrics and formal floral displays.