

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide for August

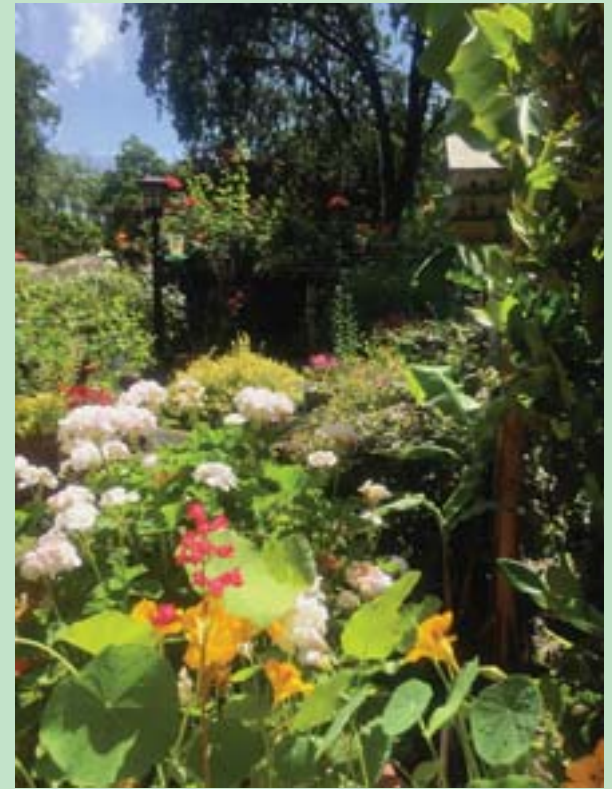
- **WATER**, water, water. August is one of the warmest months and it's necessary to keep an eye on your containers and yard. If you see drooping leaves, it's time to sprinkle. In the hot weather, you may have to water daily.
- **ADD** pea gravel, decomposed granite or spaced stepping stones planted with creeping thyme in the gaps for a permeable path with a Mediterranean appearance.
- **STORE** herbs by drying them, hanging the stems upside down. For instant soup flavorings, chop finely, add the herbs to an ice tray with a small amount of water, and freeze.
- **DIG** out dandelions from your garden and lawn. As long as you have not used insecticides or pesticides, you can add them to salads or stir fry.
- **ESTABLISH** a wildlife habitat in your yard by providing food, water, shelter, and sustainability for the wandering and flying critters.
- **SPICE** your supper with floral edibles of nasturtium, calendula, violas, roses, citrus blossoms, dianthus, pansies, chamomile and blooming herbs. Eat the daisies, but not the toxic flowers of tomato, potato, pepper or eggplant plants.
- **PLANT** seeds of beans, carrots, radishes and beets for a second crop to harvest in the fall.
- **FLUSH** birdbaths and fountains regularly to maintain fresh drinking water for our feathered friends as well as repel mosquito larvae from hatching.
- **PINCH** zinnias and chrysanthemums to encourage bushier blooms.
- **WASH** your car on your lawn. Your car will get clean and your lawn will benefit from the extra soak.
- **WATCH** out for errant sparks from fire pits, barbecues, candles and tiki torches. It's fire season.
- **DRIVE CAREFULLY** .School is in session. Ask your children what vegetables they want to eat as snacks, then make sure those treats are planted in your garden.
- **SEND** your college kids off to school with a potted plant. It will bring the outdoors in and provide oxygen to the brain.
- **EMBRACE** the controlled chaos of your garden and enjoy the perfection of imperfection.
- **LAUGH** at the sky.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

Happy August!



Bright orange cannas flank a fountain under-planted in a riot of colorful annuals.



A symphony of plants



A pergola with intertwining grapes, pink bower vine, and wisteria.