

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide



A tree filled with tangerines kissed by honeybees.



Tomatoes tossed with cilantro for an end of summer salad.

PRUNE “widow makers” – dead branches on trees. You can identify the dead branches before the leaves fall from the rest of the tree.

CHECK the crape myrtles in bloom. If you are considering planting a tree or two later in autumn, this is the perfect time to decide what color will be an advantage to your landscape. Crape myrtles are excellent specimens for year-round attractiveness. The leaves will turn red and golden in late autumn, the bark is bare and beautiful in winter, the leaves are shiny green in spring, and the tree blooms midsummer to late fall.

REFRIGERATE crocus, tulips, and hyacinths for six weeks before planting.

ADD aged chicken manure to your soil if you are noticing that it is less fertile.

MARK your calendar for a visit to the Be the Star You Are!® nonprofit booth at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28. Thanks to our sponsor, The Lamorinda Weekly. Details at <https://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events>.

DEADHEAD tuberous begonias to keep them blooming until frost. The flowers are edible with a tangy, citrusy flavor.

ENJOY the final days of freshly picked tomatoes tossed with basil or cilantro.

HARVEST tangerines, Asian pears, and grapes as they ripen.

PHOTOGRAPH your deciduous trees as the changing colors emerge. The contrast of colors will amaze you as you reflect on the timeline.

DEHYDRATE extra fruit and vegetables for tasty snacks. Kids especially love these dried sweets.

CUT and compost the damaged parts from “ugly” produce and cook with the rest.

WASTE NOT! Be a steward of our planet with simple up-cycling.

WELCOME the cool and crisp days of autumn. Fall forward!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



A bowl of bruised, cracked, malformed but tasty “ugly fruit”.