

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

CREATE simple arrangements with branches cut from blooming peach, pear or plums. Add a few daffodils or freesias.

BLOW the "angel" seeds of dandelions if you want dandelions growing in your garden. (This was a favorite past time as a child, although we weren't allowed to blow "angels" into the lawn.) Dandelions are nutritious and delicious in salads and sautés and they attract quail.

PICK lettuce, parsley, arugula, Swiss chard and baby mustard to add to meals.

MAKE an artful wall hanging using a variety of succulents.

ADMIRE the tulip magnolias as they emerge or cut a stem to enjoy indoors.

WATCH for aphids, moths, slugs, and snails on artichoke plants as they mature. Blast the leaves with water if you see any infestation.

TALK to your doctor if you are experiencing pollen-related allergies. Pollen fertilizes plants but causes misery for sufferers. Acacia trees are beautiful in bloom but may trigger hay fever or asthma.

AERATE and de-thatch lawns if necessary. Be prepared to scatter seeds and fertilizer before a rain.

SHOOT lots of photos of spring unfolding.

BEFORE recycling empty milk cartons, fill with water to use on houseplants. The residual calcium is good for the plants and it also rinses clean the cartons for the bins.

BUY your favorite seed packets in anticipation of sowing.

SPREAD alfalfa pellets mixed with diatomaceous earth around your rose bushes to promote large blooms and healthy plants.

The vernal equinox is still three weeks away. The sun is shining on our gardens and for all of us. It's playtime.

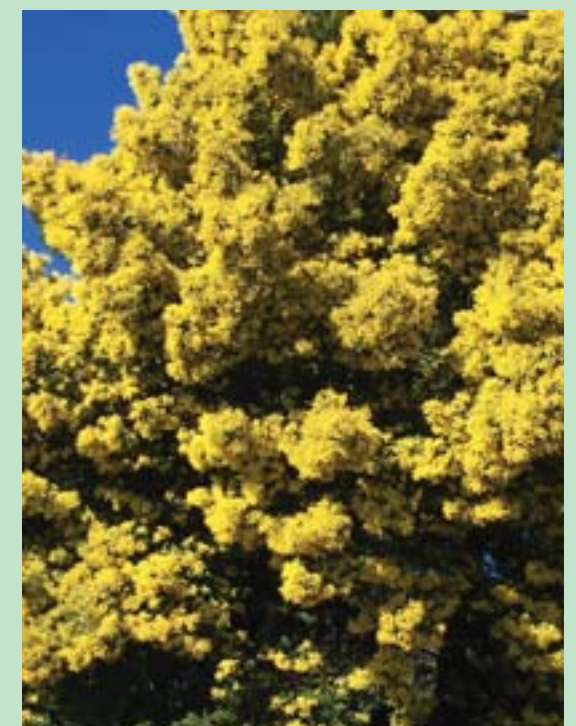
Happy Gardening. Happy Growing!



Baby Artichokes need protection for insects.



What child can resist blowing a dandelion "angel" puff?



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