

## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

- **START** seeds as soon as the soil is warm enough. If you are anxious, start your crops indoors near a south-facing window or use a fluorescent light for 12 or more hours per day.
- **CLEAN** out perennial beds now and prepare the soil for replanting.
- **WELCOME** home the migrating birds with fresh water in the fountain and seed in the feeder.
- **PLANT** edibles amongst your ornamentals. Lettuces, parsley, dill, and basil are pretty as well as delicious.
- **DIG** out and replace older woody lavender bushes. Lavender thrives for about 5 or 6 years then is ready for the compost pile.
- **ADJUST** your lawnmower to a higher setting and allow the clippings to nourish the soil.
- **PLANT** host plants for the butterflies such as milkweed and dogwood. Leave a patch of dense vegetation for protection from inclement weather and a small mud puddle to quench their thirst.
- **INVEST** in a well-made wheelbarrow or hand truck to haul heavy bags of soil, rocks or pots of plants.
- **RESEED** lawns with the people, pet, and planet-friendly Pearl's Premium lawn seed available in 5 or 25-pound bags of a sunny mix, shade mix, or sun/shade blend. The roots go to 4 feet needing 50-75% water, making for a better drought-tolerant lawn. To order, visit [www.PearlsPremium.com](http://www.PearlsPremium.com). Use discount code STAR20.
- **EMPTY** all vessels that contain water as mosquito larvae is already hatching.
- **PICK** up fallen camellias and dispose of them. Camellia blooms are abundant this year and they drop daily. Do not allow the decayed petals to stay on the ground to avoid damage to the mother plant. If you notice dark brown veins in the petals, your camellia may be suffering from petal blight. Treat weekly with a foliar fungicide.
- **PRUNE** the new wood on your woodland or panicle hydrangeas down to 18-24 inches now to encourage fuller blooms later.
- **STAY** informed about Covid-19 only via reliable information. Visit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov> or The World Health Organization at <https://www.who.int> for updates.

May hope traverse our nights and bring us all a brighter morning free of woes. Take a breath and inhale spring.

Stay healthy, be well, and be safe.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Spring.



Fallen camellias blooms must be gathered regularly to protect the plant.



Late-blooming daffodils sing with joy. Note the early bloomers behind are finished.