

## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May



**Reliable, repeat David Austin Lady of Shallot rose boasts a rich salmon color and tea fragrance.**

**SOW** for succession to provide pollinators a buffet throughout the growing season.

**SAVE** your back and build a raised bed. It's easy if you enjoy DIY projects. When you wire the bottom, you won't have gophers or other diggers eating your crops.

**INVOLVE** your kids in gardening by allowing them to grow seeds that feature a rainbow of colors to fill their plates. Red radishes, orange carrots, green peppers, purple beets, and an array of lettuces will sprout quickly.

**PLANT** aromatic herbs and nutritious vegetables that will ensure the health of your family. Beans, peas, eggplant, broccoli, potatoes, cabbage and turnips. Toward the end of the month, add tomatoes to your plot.

**TRELLIS** your vining plants such as wisteria, jasmine and bower plants.

**TOWER** gardens are a great alternative if you have a small space. Find ready-made options online.

**CHECK** sprinklers and irrigation systems for leaks.

**FERTILIZE** containers as needed. Plants in pots lose nutrients more quickly than those planted in the ground.

**SPRUCE** up your patio to prepare for entertaining. Power wash hard surfaces and get ready to celebrate a Mother's Day picnic at home.

**SOW** annuals now in a rich soil mixture. Marigolds, cosmos, zinnias, and bachelor buttons are excellent choices for a showy summer.

**MULCH** your garden with grass clippings, chopped leaves, and other organic composts to reduce weeds.

**ELIMINATE** any standing water from gutters, pot saucers, old tires, or



**A flowering cherry is a beautiful asset to any landscape.**

puddles to reduce the breeding of mosquitoes.

**DEADHEAD** spent blossoms from any annuals or perennials to encourage continuous blooming.

**PRUNE** back daffodil leaves only when they are yellow and crispy.

**THROW** bait to eradicate snails and slugs from devouring new sprouts.

**READ** my books available from

<https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. To avoid shipping charges, I will leave your enhanced package outside my office door for you. There will be no personal contact.

**MOW** your lawn without the bag at least every other week. This allows the nitrogen and nutrients that are in the grass to nurture the growing blades.

**EAT** the flowers from nasturtiums, roses, arugula, cilantro, thyme, roses, basil and sage. They add flavor and beauty to many dishes.

**CUT** a branch from a flowering tree, like cherry, for a striking indoor statement.



**Riotous wisteria twines amongst magnolias and loquats.**