

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Some like it hot!



This pistache in a pot has already changed to its autumn red coat.

... continued from Page D14

Lavender, salvia, sage and roses grow vigorously in summer. Ubiquitous oleander and the common geranium beat the heat with a profuse of petals lasting until the cold weather begins.

As a child, the four o'clocks lining our country road opened daily exactly at the prescribed hour. The ones that perennially sprout in my Lamorinda garden germinated from those ranch heirloom seeds do not live up to their namesake. My errant sun-worshippers open at 8 a.m. and close by 4 p.m. Blissfully, right on cue, just as my hillside is



Four o'clocks can grow in poor soil and are supposed to open at 4 P.M.

looking drab, dry, and dismal, my Naked Ladies poke their long necks out from their mounds. Every year I delight in their ability to shimmer when most everything else is withering.

The big question in the cauldron of August is when and how to water. Just because a plant is drought resistant or heat-tolerant doesn't mean it doesn't get thirsty. To keep our garden healthy, we can't under-water or over-water. What's the secret? The optimum time to water is very early morning to prepare your garden for the day. The roots will retain the moisture and the plant will stay hydrated.

... continued on next Page