

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Sirius is Serious



Photos Cynthia Brian

Powerful pink jacobinia grows well in containers and is a hummingbird magnet.

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Swinging, I contemplated my future gardening desires.

This is the season to start making a list of what you want to grow for the forthcoming months. Bulbs to order or buy for autumn digging include daffodils, tulips, freesia, ranunculus, hyacinth, Dutch iris, anemone, and crocus. Freesias are one of nature's greatest gifts with splendid scents, a cornucopia of colors, and the ability to naturalize. Daffodils are probably the most popular and least expensive of all the bulbs. They also will naturalize. Deer, rabbits, and other critters won't eat them, allowing their happy flowers to bloom for long stretches. When winter is nearing its finale, crocus will make you smile as they push through the soil to reveal their rich colors of blue, violet, yellow and white. Treat yourself to a garden filled with tulips.

You'll want to buy your bulbs soon as they need to be refrigerated for at least six weeks before planting. For more impact, group colors, shapes, and sizes together in a swath. They are wonderful interplanted with delphiniums, pansies, and other annuals or perennials for a very merry greeting.

After a traumatic summer filled with climatic extremes, sowing seeds for a bountiful harvest of late fall to early winter salad greens and vegetables is a welcome endeavor. What seeds do you want?



Plant seeds of two varieties of Swiss Chard.

Try any of these:

- Lettuce
- Spinach
- Arugula
- Swiss Chard
- Kale
- Beets
- Fennel
- Turnips
- Broccoli
- Carrot
- Kohlrabi
- Shallots
- Garlic
- Radish

With the seriousness of the sizzling Sirius and the dangerous air quality outside, stay indoors and peruse catalogues and garden-

ing books to get ideas for fall planting. On Thursday, Sept. 17, I'll be doing a Zoom presentation, "Tips, Tricks, and Tonics in the Garden" for the Moraga Garden Club celebrating its 50th anniversary. For information on this Zoom meeting, call Membership Chair Jane Magnani at (925) 451-7031 for times to join in the conversation and presentation. We'll keep it light and fun.



Turnips, fennel and beets.

Summer is coming to an end and this is a great time to check for sale and clearance items that you may want for our outdoor landscaping for next year. I have found great deals at <https://bit.ly/3aG6qOI> including covers for patio furniture. As much as I love the heat, the chance of wildfires is omnipresent. Make sure to read my article on how to be prepared in the event of any emergency (see Page D14).

The Roman poet, Virgil described Sirius as "bringer of drought and plague to frail mortals, rises and saddens the sky with sinister light." The veracity of his narrative has been realized in 2020. Now more than ever, we can use large doses of humor, hope and healing. Let's employ kindness and empathy for one another as we prepare for planting autumn bulbs and seeds. A bright and beautiful spring display is only two seasons away. Embrace optimism.

Happy gardening. Happy growing.