



Looking out the window to flowering pear and camellia tree.



Perennial chartreuse Lenten rose (hellebore) is deer-resistant and water-wise.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Looking out

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With less than three weeks to go before the vernal equinox, this is an auspicious time to contemplate how we want to orient our window views for the future. When you look out your windows, what do you want to see? Do you want flowering or fruiting trees? Do you want a monochromatic design? Are you like me and want to luxuriate in color? Are bulbs the surprise you anticipate yearly, or do you prefer planting annuals and perennials?

My garden is abloom with pear, peach, and plum trees. Orange, tangerine, tangelo, lemon and lime trees are filled with ripening fruit. Daffodils blanket the landscape, tulips are beginning to pop, columbine, wild strawberry, and vinca minor are flush with flowers. I couldn't finish pruning all my rose bushes because so many were still budding. Nature orchestrates a steady stream of amazement.

Although the nights are still cool, the days are warming allowing the soil temperatures to rise. Weeds are rapidly sprouting, and the ground can be worked in preparation for seeding and planting. Read garden catalogs or books for ideas on how to design spaces that will offer you years of enjoyment. I'm preparing beds in full sun where I'll scatter seeds of Lauren's dark grape poppies. Poppies can handle frost and bloom best when started in early spring. These seedlings will emerge within 14 days. The flowers will boast four-to-five inch chalice-shaped flowers in a showy port wine hue and they will self-sow for future enjoyment.

Another favorite perennial plant that I'm adding to my garden is the Lenten rose, or hellebore. These plants that feature chartreuse, white, pink, and purple flowers with evergreen foliage are hummingbird friendly, deer-resistant and water-wise. They thrive in part sun to full shade and are hardy to minus 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

What will you plant in your spring garden as you look out?