

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Spring shopping: Seeds or starts?



Nigella, AKA Love in the Mist, spreads by seed.

I learned an important lesson in planting trees many years ago when I was designing my backyard. As my central focal point, I wanted a magnolia tree that boasts beautiful white blooms attractive to pollinators. I bought the biggest tree that I could find. It was approximately 10 feet tall in a huge container that was so heavy it took three people to manage it. I paid a fortune, but at the time, felt the cost assured me my desired outcome. That same week, my mother gave me a six-inch tall sapling in a quart pot. I planted it at the back of my garden, believing that it would never become a large tree.



Dig vetch into the soil to add nitrogen.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Within three years, both trees were the exact same size, and now, three decades later, my mother's magnolia gift is double the size of my purchase. Both are beautiful, but the free sapling is dramatic!

Easter and Passover arrive with spectacular spring showers of flowers highlighted by tulips, wisteria, bluebells, azaleas, flowering trees, and the fruity fragrances of lilac, hyacinth, and jasmine. Pick a bouquet from your garden to celebrate these sacred holidays.

No matter whether you spring into spring with seeds or starts, just do it!