

Cynthia Brian's Mid-September Gardening Guide

- Autumn is less than two weeks away. It is time to buy the spring bulbs you wish to plant. Visit your local nursery or order from catalogs for your favorite blooms:

Van Engelen Dutch bulbs: www.vanengelen.com

John Scheepers beauty bulbs: www.johnscheepers.com

White Flower Farm: www.whiteflowerfarm.com

Spring Hill Nursery: www.springhillnursery.com

Breck's Direct from Holland: www.brecks.com

- Save Energy from 4 to 9 p.m. as extreme heat is straining California's grid.

- Water containers daily if the soil is dry. Test by putting a pencil or stick a few inches into the pot. If the pencil comes out dry, it's time to water. If moist, skip it.

- Climate emergencies are on the rise. Heed these warnings offered by Lamorinda emergency services:

- Sign up for alerts on your smartphone with the Contra Costa County Community Warning

System- <https://alerts5.athoc.com/SelfService/CCCCWS/Register>

- Include the CWS emergency notification number (925-655-0195) in your favorite contacts so you will receive messages when your phone is set to "do not disturb". For directions on how to do this

visit- <https://www.lamorindacert.org/resource/cell-phone-do-not-disturb/>

- Know Your Zone! Contra Costa County is divided into evacuation zones. Knowing your zone will allow you to quickly identify your neighborhood's evacuation status and know when it's safe to return home. Find your zone here- <https://cwsalerts.com/know-your-zone/> Don't forget to save the



Watermelon crape myrtle is spectacular on the tree but does not make a good cut flower.



In a shady location, yellow begonias shine.

Photos Cynthia Brian

information where you can find it in an emergency.

- Review the Lamorinda Resident's Guide to Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation.

<https://lamorindacert.org/evacuate/documents/LRGWPE.pdf>

- Contact the water district to inquire about a rebate if you decide to replace your lawn with drought-resistant landscaping.

- Deep-soak established trees, especially if signs of distress are evident. Deep-soaking prevents roots from rising to the soil surface.

- Irrigate deeply early in the morning or as late as possible in the evening when the temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.

- Refrain from planting any new plants during a heatwave. Wait until mid-fall or whenever the days become cooler, yet the soil is still warm.

- Stay hydrated. Make sure your animals have plenty of water, too.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.