

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

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Tips on how to get organized

... read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian March into spring



Tulip magnolias and palms are an uncommon, yet gorgeous combination.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

*"Rain, rain go away. Come again another day!" ~
Nursery Rhyme*

Do you remember being a child tired of the winter mud puddles and anxious to go outside to play? As much as California has needed the downpours, I find myself reminiscing about the dreariest, grayest, coldest winter of my childhood when my sisters and I decided to run away from the farm to find the sunshine.

We were all under the age of 5 and on the

first rainless day in March we loaded our big red wagon with the most essential items ... our dolls, dinosaurs, pogo sticks, jump ropes, picture books, puzzles, miniature tool kit, hula hoops, Monopoly money (we thought it was real), rock collections, roller skates, and a shovel. Items like food, water, clothing, and blankets never crossed our minds. Our mom handed us a bag of sandwiches, and Dad suggested we take our dog for protection. We kissed our parents goodbye and told them we were off to wonderland.

My garden is my wonderland, and I am

antsy to start sowing. But, alas, the soil is still too damp and cold, so I have retreated to reading about resources for spring planning and planting. This is my way of marching into spring with increased knowledge while providing you with helpful information.

A book I highly recommend is by Susan Mulvihill, "The Vegetable Garden Problem Solver Handbook," which is chock full of easy-to-understand data on how to identify and manage diseases and other common problems on edible plants with natural solutions. I interviewed her on my radio broadcast, StarStyle®-Be the Star You Are!® where you can listen to her advice (<https://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/142669/the-vegetable-garden-problem-solver-and-garden-guidance>). Filled with hundreds of full-color photographs, many from her garden, and an extensive reference chart of problems with solutions, this book is an essential guide to pinpointing challenges and finding the answers quickly.

... continued on Page D8



Hang a basket of violas for instant color and a pop of excitement.