

## Cynthia Brian's Goddess Gardener May Gardening Guide

As the temperatures rise, our plants need more care and attention, so let's get to work.

- **WATER** early in the morning as the weather warms to prevent evaporation.
- **WEED** constantly before weeds take over the garden. Remove the entire root system of weeds before sowing the seeds you want to grow.
- **PLANT** warm-season vegetables including tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, zucchini, and whatever edibles your family enjoys eating.
- **FERTILIZE** your actively growing plants with a balanced fertilizer and follow the instructions carefully. Over-fertilizing can damage your plants, so don't be tempted to add more than recommended.



Tulip Magnolia, Prague

Photos Cynthia Brian



Crown Imperial Plant, Karanac, Croatia

- **IMPROVE** the biodiversity of your soil ecosystem through mulching and composting. Spring and fall are the ideal times to increase organic matter and humus content. Adding compost to your garden reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, and allows the soil to hold water well which means less watering.
  - **PICK** up the last of the spent camellia blossoms from your garden to protect your plant for next season.
  - **SWEEP** debris from driveways, walkways, steps, and porches to freshen up for spring.
  - **BRIGHTEN** your curb appeal with colorful annuals and perennials including petunias, zinnias, cleome, salvia, dahlias, snapdragons, impatiens, and bachelor buttons.
  - **PREVENT** pests. Keep an eye out for aphids, whiteflies, and other common garden pests. You can use organic pest control methods like neem oil or insecticidal soap to keep them under control.
  - **EMPTY** standing water from pots, tires, neglected ponds, pools, or any place where mosquito larvae will breed. With all the rain we've had this year, mosquitoes could spread the West Nile virus and other diseases.
  - **CLEAR** debris from your home and garden perimeter. Dried limbs, leaves, and weeds need to be removed. Fire season is upon us.
  - **VISIT** the Be the Star You Are!® booth at the Moraga Faire on Saturday, April 29 between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to pick up a bag of complimentary spring potpourri and have your kids plant seeds in our craft area. Bring your gardening questions and I'll be there to answer them. [www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events)
  - **DONATE** your shoes: May 1-June 30: The Be the Star You Are!® charity Shoe Drive continues at these sponsored locations: Mark Hoogs, State Farm Insurance, 629 Moraga Road, Moraga, 925-254-3344, [www.TeamHoogs.com](http://www.TeamHoogs.com)
  - 5 A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga, 925-631-7000, <https://5aspace.com/>
- For more information, visit <https://www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive>