

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Nature talks



A salmon-hued geranium complements the pool setting.



Close-up of pink single-petal peony.



Bing cherries are being harvested early as the birds are feasting on them daily.

Photos Cynthia Brian

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2. **Color and Texture changes:** When plants experience a deficit of nutrients, they will exhibit distinct changes in the leaves. Nitrogen loss results in yellow or very pale green leaves. Iron and manganese deficiency will show yellowing between the veins of leaves, called interveinal chlorosis. Chlorosis means a lack of chlorophyll which is the pigment responsible for a healthy plant's green color.
3. **Slow growth:** When plants have insufficient nutrients, minerals, and food, plant growth is stunted.
4. **Flower and fruiting patterns:** Again, nutrient deficiencies or water stress affect flowering and fruiting. There could be a reduction in production, smaller flowers or fruit, or even lower quality.
5. **Root development:** Roots provide valuable insights into the needs of a plant. If roots are

shallow, brown, mushy, too dry, or lack fine feeder roots, this could indicate poor soil conditions, too much water or waterlogging, lack of moisture, or the necessity for fertilizer.

6. **Interaction with pollinators and wildlife:** When plants lack resources, their normal characteristics may be modified to attract pollinators or seed-dispersing animals. They may produce additional fruit, pollen, or nectar to entice animals and insects to stop by to help with reproduction. If you've ever walked through a patch of forget-me-nots after flowering, you'll remember how your socks or pants were covered with sticky seeds ready to be deposited elsewhere.

The more time we spend outdoors in nature, the deeper sense of connection and knowledge we will acquire. Our association with the natural environment is a direct source of stress relief, inspiration, peace, and reflection. This leads to greater understanding and

appreciation for our earth while cultivating a harmonious relationship with nature. We become intuitive to the needs of our plants and trees.

This past year at the Biodiversity Conference in Montreal, more than 190 countries committed to protecting 30% of their lands, oceans, and inland waters by the year 2030. Biodiversity loss is one of the top threats to humanity. Humans have the ability and the responsibility to assist the health and longevity of our planet.

The leaves on my magnolia tree were drooping, furling, wilting, and dropping. All it took for it to bounce back to its elegant beauty was a deep soaking.

Nature is talking to all of us. We need to stop, look, and listen.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Summer!