

Lamorinda

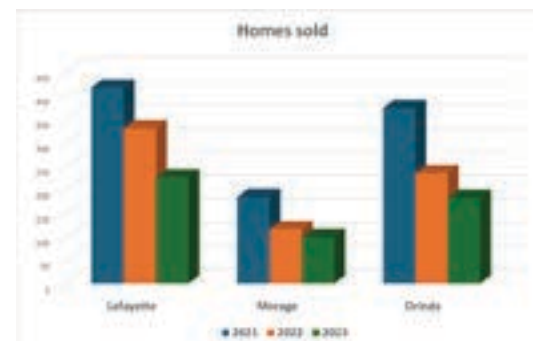
OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly

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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

2024 Garden Trends Part 2

By Cynthia Brian



Photos Cynthia Brian

January jonquils perfume the garden with their sweet scent.

"Sometimes in the winds of change, we find our true direction." ~ Source Unknown

Thus far, January has indeed been a windy month. Optimism is my true direction.

The vernal equinox is still two months away, yet my jonquils are already perfuming my landscape. Daffodils are a symbol of rebirth and usually begin to bloom in March. All jonquils are daffodils (*Narcissus jonquilla*), yet not all daffodils are jonquils. Since winter is my least favorite season, my optimism soars as I stroll through my garden witnessing these adaptable narcissi stretching their yellow and cream petals to the sky whilst most of my garden sleeps.

My bright pink *Bergenia* with large, glossy leaves that resemble elephant ears has been blooming for over a month, lining the edges of beds in front of the privets and along the lawn. I count on *Bergenia* to brighten the garden throughout the drabness of winter. *Bergenia* is easy to propagate by dividing the roots. *Bergenia*'s unflattering name is "pig squeak" because of the sound the leaves make when rubbed together.

The 2024 Garden Media Garden Trends Report shares information to enhance garden customer experiences and shape winning new products. The theme for 2024 is Eco-Optimism. The growing awareness of our global climate's volatility has increased the number of people planting for pollinators. Without birds, butterflies, bats, bees, and other pollinators, we wouldn't have the foods, medicines, beverages, or spices that we need for healthy living. Since pollinator populations have been declining, we must plant to improve their habitat, refrain from using pesticides, and explore methods to be organic. Since 2019, the number of people purchasing native plants has doubled. Native plants are specimens that are region-specific, and adaptable to the soil and climate where they naturally grow.



Pink *Bergenia* brightens the bottom of the privet bed.

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