

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 18 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 8



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

The Need to Weed

By Cynthia Brian

Photos Cynthia Brian



A plethora of flowers beneath the tangled weeds means hand-weeding is essential

“Digging the garden tending the weeds, Who could ask for more?” John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Before the weather gets too warm and the soil hardens, we must eradicate weeds from our gardens. I know, I know. A weed is just a plant growing somewhere it is not wanted; where we live and how we cultivate determines the perspective we may have about what is a weed and what is wanted a specimen.

The weeds in my garden are invasive, prickly, adaptable, and undesirable. The grass weeds that have blown in from the hills make excellent hay; yet the thistles, euphorbia spurge, hemlock, bindweed, black medic, pelargonium robertianum, and geranium purpureum are a constant source of pain, strain, and drain.

Everyone knows about wild thistles. They have prickly leaves and stems with colorful flower heads. They are in the same Asteraceae family as daisies and sunflowers. What you may not know is that they are ecologically important, providing food and nectar for pollinators, including bees, butterflies, birds, and mammals. In some parts of the



Pink azalea, yellow freesia, and bluebells appear after weeding

world, they are cultivated for their ornamental value. As I was about to pull out two large thistles, butterflies landed on the leaves and purple buds. Watching them savor their meal, I let these weeds live another day.

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