

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for December

A holly jolly garden

By Cynthia Brian

"As the rain falls equally on the just and the unjust, do not burden your heart with judgments but rain your kindness equally on all." – Gautama Buddha



Fuyu and Hachiya persimmons are ready to pick for Christmas puddings and cakes.



Photos Cynthia Brian Be a child again and play in the fallen leaves.

The month of December ushers in a time of joyfulness and giving with gardeners being the most generous givers of all. Harvests of persimmons, walnuts and pomegranates make for baskets of nutritious and delicious gifts. Root cuttings, potted plants, and arrangements made from bark, branches and pinecones are natural reminders of the wonders of a pre-winter season. The final flush of rose blooms mixed with orchids create a lush yet simple table display when a few glittering candles are added. With the colder weather, trees are ablaze with their final cloak of autumn hues as an array of colorful leaves litters the ground. Chrysanthemums are thick with blossoms adding a brightness and lightness to the darkening sky.

We encourage the rain and the intermittent sunshine.

Soon our landscapes will boast sparkling lights and festive decorations to welcome family and friends to enjoy holiday treats. Children of all ages are excited for the surprises that await them for Hanukkah and Christmas.

I'm excited to announce that my much anticipated garden book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," Book I in the Garden Shorts series is now available in both color and black and white. Buy directly from www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store for the best price and autographed copies; 25 percent of your purchase is a donation to Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3 charity (www.BetheStarYouAre.org). With every order placed directly at our store, you'll receive seeds and extra goodies. This book is a great gift for all the gardeners and nature lovers on your holiday list.

Have a holly jolly December and remember to give yourself the gift of rest and relaxation as there are only minimal gardening tasks while Nature takes her annual nap.

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The bark of the eucalyptus works well for holiday decorating.



Pomegranates are high in antioxidants.