

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Tips

- **MULCH** your yard with three inches of wood chips or other organic materials to maintain temperature, prevent erosion, and keep your plants happy for the forthcoming hot weather.
- **FERTILIZE** with all purpose feed before the heat hits.
- **PLANT** Mexican Evening Primrose along a fence or in a wild setting for a pretty pop of pink that blooms only in daylight and thrives in poor soil.
- **WATER** your garden early in the morning, then at dusk for maximum absorption and minimal waste.
- **BUY** elegant, long-lasting peonies to add to your collection. Peonies like six hours of full sun in well-drained soil and they can live for 50 years or more. They bloom through June and their glossy green leaves remain green through winter when they die back to the ground, reemerging in spring. Peonies are one of my very favorite, no fuss, flowering shrubs.
- **GROW** a tea garden in containers filled with herbs and edible fragrant flowers such as rose, calendula, nasturtium and lavender.

Enjoy your final days of spring with a cup of your homegrown tea.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Calendula, also known as poor man's saffron, provides a yellow color and light flavor to teas and broths.
Photos Cynthia Brian



If you use cream in your tea, make a lavender cream. (Notice the honeybee in the flower).



Mexican Evening Primrose blooms only in the day and grows in poor soil.



Float a sprig of a scented pelargonium in hot water to infuse tea with a rich, relaxing essence.