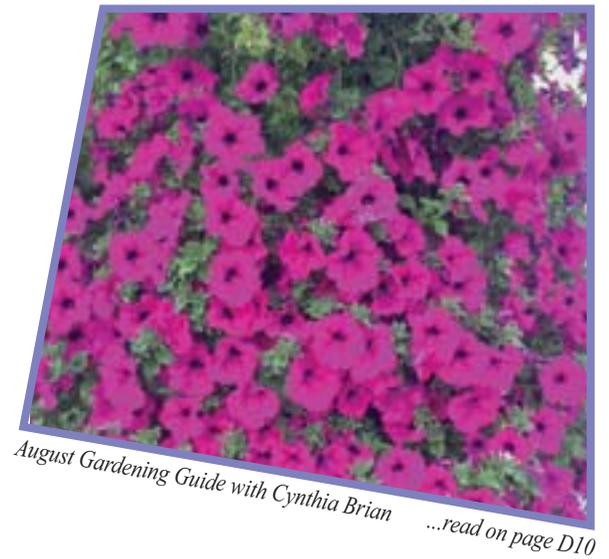


# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 8, 2018



## Feng Shui

# Creating a sense of grounding, balance, and wellness through the Earth element

By Michele Duffy



Every one of the Five Elements is well represented in this living room, including the Earth element. Can you locate the Earth element additions?

Photo provided



The Five Elements

The Five Elements are the second most important and used tool in Feng Shui, besides the Bagua map. In Feng Shui, we use the Five Elements to balance and enrich home spaces so that the feeling of home promotes grace, ease and support. Our home should function as a personal retreat, a restorative place we rejuvenate and refresh and so if the home does not feeling that way, the Five Elements can help. The Bagua includes all Five Elements and each Bagua area is ruled by one of them.

The creative or productive Five Elements cycle is as follows: Water creates Wood; Wood creates Fire; Fire creates Earth; Earth creates Metal; and Metal

creates Water.

There is also a Five Elements controlling cycle as well: Water controls Fire; Fire controls Metal; Metal controls Wood; Wood controls Earth; and Earth controls Water.

An environment with a lot of the Metal element, such as white walls and metal furniture, can be brought into better balance by introducing the warmth of the Fire element with lighting, candles or spherical shapes, and an overly Wood décor with lots of green, plants and vertical artwork can be balanced by cutting back the wood with some of the Metal element.

So how does the Earth element – which governs the whole 2018 Earth Dog year through January 2019 – help us in our homes to be happier, more grounded and at ease?

First, Earth has a mothering quality and makes you feel securely balanced and peaceful from within, so you create a better balance between nourishing self and others. Earth is the peacemaker and with a better connection to the idea of establishing healthy boundaries and an ability to say no, Earth can then do the most good in the world.

Earth is represented by colors that range from yellow, orange, brown, pink, and certain blues (also a secondary Water color). Square shapes also symbolically represent the Earth element as do materials such as crystal, ceramic, brick, clay, rock, stone and shells.

Second, from a personal health and wellness perspective bringing the Earth element into balance will support many of the health initiatives we are integrating into our personal care regimes. Many people will find in 2018 the necessary energetic support to quit smoking, improve exercise commitments, refocus on dietary choices or establish a better work-life balance. Balancing the Earth element at home is another way to create the desired results.

Third, by fostering the Earth element in our home, we can create a respite that deepens our connection to the nourishing role home is meant to play in our lives.

... continued on page D4



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Tucked along a quiet lane, this single level traditional is hard to beat. The turn key property offers high ceilings, open rooms, new hardwood and carpet flooring, new paint, stone counters, large yard and so much more. The popular bike trail is nearby as is easy commute access. Enjoy three bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms. Offered at \$1,595,000



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City      | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 18             | \$850,000      | \$2,599,000     |
| MORAGA    | 16             | \$570,000      | \$2,425,000     |
| ORINDA    | 25             | \$750,000      | \$2,450,000     |

Home sales are compiled by Cal Resource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California Resource. Neither Cal Resource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

#### LAFAYETTE

1 Cerro Encantado, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1542 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 6-28-18  
1060 Lizann Drive, \$1,650,100, 2 Bdrms, 2166 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-25-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 04-05-04  
1129 Martino Road, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 3326 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-27-18  
3326 Beechwood Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1880 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 6-22-18  
3357 Beechwood Drive, \$987,000, 2 Bdrms, 1189 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 6-22-18;  
Previous Sale: \$136,000, 10-21-80  
3606 Brook Street, \$1,523,000, 3 Bdrms, 2885 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-22-18;  
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 04-30-10  
393 Colorados Court, \$1,600,500, 3 Bdrms, 1959 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-21-18;  
Previous Sale: \$656,000, 07-29-03  
905 Dewing Avenue, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1349 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 6-19-18;  
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 03-02-18  
1654 Glen Oak Court, \$1,120,000, 3 Bdrms, 2096 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-18-18;  
Previous Sale: \$57,000, 12-01-72  
735 Glenside Drive, \$1,335,000, 2 Bdrms, 2003 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 6-15-18;  
Previous Sale: \$375,000, 01-30-91  
3765 Highland Road, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 1731 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-22-18;  
Previous Sale: \$866,000, 07-24-12  
3270 Judith Lane, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 2072 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-15-18  
3212 Los Palos Circle, \$2,599,000, 6-15-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,126,000, 03-24-16  
946 Oak View Circle, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2400 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-20-18  
568 Silverado Drive, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 6-22-18  
3519 South Silver Springs Road, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1895 SqFt,  
1957 YrBlt, 6-20-18  
3660 West Road, \$1,190,000, 2 Bdrms, 1015 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 6-22-18  
1039 Windsor Drive, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2010 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-20-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,015,000, 05-15-14

#### MORAGA

8 Baltusrol Street, \$901,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-26-18;  
Previous Sale: \$780,000, 10-10-14  
20 Indian Wells Street, \$1,560,000, 4 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-28-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,495,000, 02-19-16  
5 Paseo Linares, \$2,425,000, 5 Bdrms, 4188 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 7-2-18;  
Previous Sale: \$2,254,000, 01-04-16  
1747 Spyglass Lane, \$1,215,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 6-27-18;  
Previous Sale: \$350,000, 04-29-86  
158 Willowbrook Lane, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 3003 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 6-28-18  
218 Alderbrook Place, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2741 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 6-22-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,003,500, 06-10-09  
1982 Ascot Drive #C, \$570,000, 3 Bdrms, 1473 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-15-18;  
Previous Sale: \$570,000, 05-24-18  
61 Ascot Place #37, \$840,000, 2 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-15-18;  
Previous Sale: \$543,000, 08-30-10  
1373 Camino Peral #A, \$925,000, 6-20-18;  
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 03-15-07

... continued on page D11





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### Handsome Orinda Estate

3 Honey Hill Court | Orinda  
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Gorgeous remodel in the popular Lafayette Trail neighborhood. Walk to town, trail and schools.



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31 Broadmoor Street | Moraga  
Offered at \$1,525,000

4 BR | 2.5 BA | 2828± SQ. FT.

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### Buttoned-up in Burton Valley

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## Feng Shui

# Creating a sense of grounding, balance, and wellness through the Earth element

... continued from page D1



Shells, crystals and rocks all activate the Earth element in our spaces, so add some in a ceramic bowl and place in the center of your home or frame your favorite photo, like this one placed in this home.

There are three Bagua areas ruled by the Earth element (see Bagua map) including Relationships, Health and Self-Knowledge/Wisdom. Each element, including Earth, has a more predominant Yin or a Yang aspect and to that end, the Relationship area is Yin Earth, the Health area is balanced Yin/Yang, and the Self-Knowledge and Wisdom area is more Yang Earth. We can choose any one or all three of these Bagua areas to adjust or activate in our homes. How to choose? Start with whatever area feels most out of balance. Are you feeling out of balance in your relationships, is your health suffering or are you struggling to achieve consistency with your spiritual practice? Use these questions to guide you to which Bagua area needs your

attention most.

Do a personal audit of the Bagua areas ruled by Earth and identify which objects, furniture and art may represent Earth in your space. If you discover a predominance of clutter in any of the Earth areas, your first job is to clear the stagnant clutter. What else is each area subliminally communicating to you? Are the far right areas at the entrance to your master bedroom and home aligned with loving and nourishing relationships? Is the health center of your home a long hallway or a draining bathroom? Are the near left areas of self-knowledge and wisdom overly controlled by lots of Wood element plants, green décor or wall colors? Take a personal audit first of the Bagua areas governed by Earth that you would like to address and bring them into balance with the Five Elements, either adding more Earth and Fire (Fire creates Earth) or if there is too much Earth, add the Water element.

In these uncertain times, grounding ourselves at home can help create the difference between a year of wellness, happiness and quiet personal triumphs versus succumbing to the stresses of life that are always at our door. If you believe the Five Elements is a challenging subject you are certainly not alone, and that is also why using a professional Feng Shui consultant who consistently applies them can help you to better balance the Earth element in your home so that you receive the desired results of nourishing support. When we feel supported and aligned with balance, we can accomplish almost anything regardless of what life throws our way.

May the 2018 Earth Dog year continue to bless you with the grounding balance and deep happiness through the nurturance you create right in your own home.

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>WEALTH &amp; PROSPERITY</b><br>XUN<br>Wood<br>Southeast<br>Purple         | <b>FAME &amp; REPUTATION</b><br>Li<br>Fire<br>South<br>Red<br>Summer                      | <b>RELATIONSHIPS</b><br>Kun<br>Earth<br>Southwest<br>Pink                |
| <b>FAMILY</b><br>ZHEN<br>Wood<br>East<br>Green<br>Spring                     | <b>HEALTH</b><br>TAI JI<br>Earth<br>Center<br>Orange, Yellow<br>Brown                     | <b>JOY &amp; COMPLETION</b><br>DUI<br>Metal<br>West<br>White<br>Autumn   |
| <b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; SELF-CULTIVATION</b><br>GEN<br>Earth<br>Northeast<br>Blue | <b>CAREER &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b><br>KAN<br>Water<br>North<br>Black & Dark Blue<br>Winter | <b>HELPFUL PEOPLE &amp; TRAVEL</b><br>QIAN<br>Metal<br>Northeast<br>Grey |

The Bagua Map: Front Door

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2018 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com).



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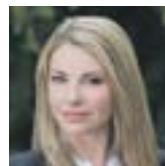
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**Mary Staten**  
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mary.staten@compass.com  
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2 car garage | \$1,995,000**



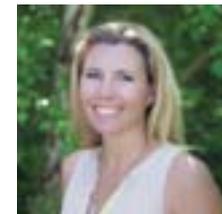
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# Current trends in home remodels

By Jenn Freedman



Old and new kitchen

Photos provided



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Whether you're looking for inspiration for a much-needed remodel, considering buying a freshly renovated home, or are simply intrigued, "modern farmhouse" and "updated rancher" are the terms commonly used in today's modern home design.

Darrick and Erin Martin wear two hats, both as real estate agents and home renovators. Their business, Martin Homes, specializes in buying, selling, and remodeling homes in Lamorinda and Walnut Creek.

"There is a trend in updated rancher homes painted white with black or bronze highlights and high-end finishes like build-in refrigerators and commercial ovens (e.g. Wolf or Viking). White is the color most millennials prefer for its clean, neutral look," Darrick Martin explains.

Finola Fellner of Compass Real Estate agrees. "That farmhouse style is super in right now. These young kids buying today love homes that are done with clean lines, kind of on the modern side of design."

Some of the specific details within this current design trend include: an open floor plan, creating a brighter, more inviting space where people want to spend more of their time; an oversized kitchen island, establishing a sense of place where families can entertain, eat meals together, complete homework, and work; smooth walls that eliminate the dated "orange peel" texture of the '70s and '80s; and hardwood floors throughout the home, creating uniform flooring that is easy to maintain.

Homeowners also like simple trim options that fit with the overall home aesthetic, like shiplap walls (interlocking wooden boards), shaker style trim and doors (a simple, flat-panel door with a slightly raised border), and clean, squared corners.

... continued on page D10



COMING SOON!

## 2910 WINDTREE COURT, LAFAYETTE

Don't miss this fabulous and chic approx. 3,860 sf one level home with pool, pool house and California room. It is a home designed for ultimate indoor/outdoor living! The main house boasts 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, gorgeous chef's kitchen, spacious family room with custom built-ins, lovely formal living and dining spaces, private master suite with attached sitting area, hardwood floors throughout, possible au-pair set up and much more! The pool house with an additional full bath is ideal for a guest room, media room, private office or art studio. The California room is amazing with built-in pizza oven, gas & wood burning grill, dishwasher, 2 TVs, living & dining rooms and much more. Enjoy Lafayette's top-rated schools, close proximity to commute routes, Lafayette-Moraga Trail, BART and Town!

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# Current trends in home remodels

... continued from page D8



White walls and trim create a timeless look and blank slate. Black hardware is most common for the whitest white shades while bronze hardware is prevalent with slightly off shades of white.

One of the Martin team's recent Lafayette remodels showcases many of these details: walls were knocked down to create an open floor plan between the living room, dining room, kitchen, and straight through to the family room. Carpets and various tiles were replaced with uniform hardwood floors, and walls, ceilings, and fireplace were simplified to white.



Another of the Martin team's Lafayette renovations involved a complete overhaul of the kitchen with high-end appliances, shiplap walls, a large kitchen island, shaker cabinets, and white surfaces. The updated bathroom illustrates details like bronze hardware, shiplap walls, wood flooring – and of course white.

With such simple, clean choices, remodel updates like this may even transcend trendiness and last forever.



# Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

## MORAGA ... continued

- 1439 Camino Peral, \$705,000, 2 Bdrms, 1159 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-19-18;  
Previous Sale: \$563,500, 07-25-07
- 75 Corliss Drive, \$1,270,000, 5 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-22-18
- 59 Corte Del Caballo, \$1,354,500, 4 Bdrms, 2632 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-20-18;  
Previous Sale: \$255,000, 10-10-85
- 792 Country Club Drive, \$800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-15-18;  
Previous Sale: \$765,000, 11-07-14
- 19 Ketelsen Court, \$1,440,000, 3 Bdrms, 3833 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 6-18-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,105,000, 09-16-15
- 42 Miramonte Drive, \$832,000, 4 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-15-18;  
Previous Sale: \$365,000, 09-21-12
- 282 Paseo Bernal, \$915,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-21-18;  
Previous Sale: \$570,000, 08-29-03

## ORINDA

- 684 Fox #RUN, \$1,470,000, 3 Bdrms, 3053 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-27-18
- 1 Poco Paseo, \$1,165,100, 3 Bdrms, 1554 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-25-18;  
Previous Sale: \$837,500, 07-31-09
- 65 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1784 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-25-18
- 489 Tahos Road, \$1,830,000, 4 Bdrms, 2440 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 7-2-18
- 179 Camino Pablo, \$895,000, 2 Bdrms, 1112 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 6-18-18;  
Previous Sale: \$88,500, 07-25-78
- 241 Camino Pablo, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 1130 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 6-18-18;  
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 02-13-15
- 126 Canon Drive, \$1,650,000, 2 Bdrms, 3266 SqFt, 1924 YrBlt, 6-15-18
- 5 Charles Hill Place, \$1,755,000, 3 Bdrms, 2145 SqFt, 1915 YrBlt, 6-18-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,280,000, 05-14-12
- 3 Darnby Court, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2430 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-19-18
- 131 Donna Maria Way, \$1,165,000, 3 Bdrms, 1506 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-20-18
- 23 Donna Maria Way, \$1,260,000, 3 Bdrms, 1879 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-15-18
- 99 Donna Maria Way, \$1,635,000, 4 Bdrms, 2146 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-22-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,330,000, 10-25-16
- 92 El Gavilan Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1941 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 6-21-18;  
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 07-19-04
- 75 Estates Drive, \$1,655,000, 4 Bdrms, 3068 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-21-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,499,000, 02-17-15
- 136 Glorietta Boulevard, \$965,000, 3 Bdrms, 2015 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-15-18
- 62 Hacienda Circle, \$1,590,000, 4 Bdrms, 1841 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-21-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,343,000, 06-17-16
- 8 Las Vegas Court, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 6-22-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 09-27-05
- 52 Mira Loma Road, \$1,819,500, 4 Bdrms, 2240 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 6-20-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,460,000, 01-04-18
- 9 Overhill Court, \$1,940,000, 5 Bdrms, 3326 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 6-15-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 06-28-07
- 50 Parklane Drive, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1503 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-15-18
- 4 Rich Acres Road, \$1,479,500, 4 Bdrms, 3171 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 6-20-18
- 10 Tara Road, \$1,715,000, 3 Bdrms, 2397 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 6-15-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,014,000, 10-29-10
- 6 Tara Road, \$1,025,000, 4 Bdrms, 2816 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-21-18;  
Previous Sale: \$280,000, 12-22-88
- 14 Valley Court, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3950 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 6-15-18;  
Previous Sale: \$130,000, 01-29-82
- 12 West Hill Way, \$2,111,000, 4 Bdrms, 3487 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 6-21-18;  
Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-30-15

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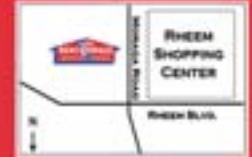
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- Dish & Glassware Boxes
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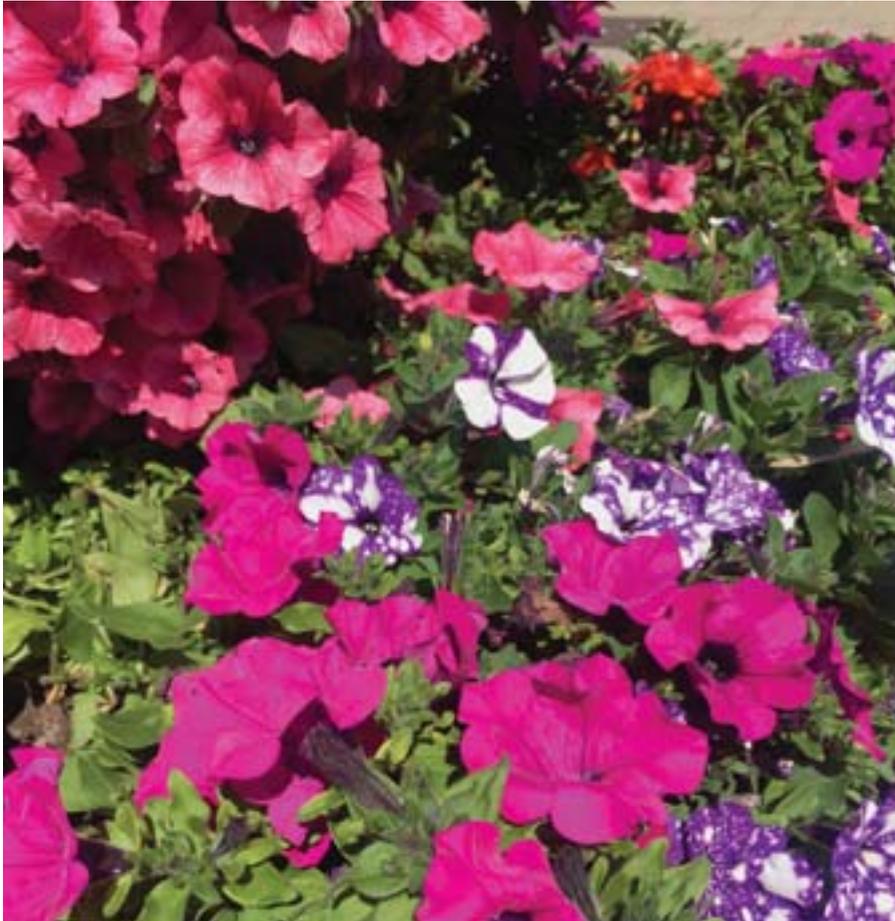


## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for August

# Towers of flowers

By Cynthia Brian

*"A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it." ~ George Moore*



*Petunias, petunias, petunias - the favorite summer flower.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

Europe has been experiencing the highest temperatures of recent years causing major forest fires, crop losses, beach restrictions, and deaths from the simmering heat. In all the times I had visited Ireland since my teen years, the sun never shone. Yet recently when I visited the Emerald Isle to attend a wedding, spend time with my first-grade teacher, and embark on an overdue road trip with my childhood Irish pen pal, a heat wave was in full swing with temperatures in the high 90s. Dusk didn't arrive until at least 11 p.m. when both the moon and the sun shared the sky.

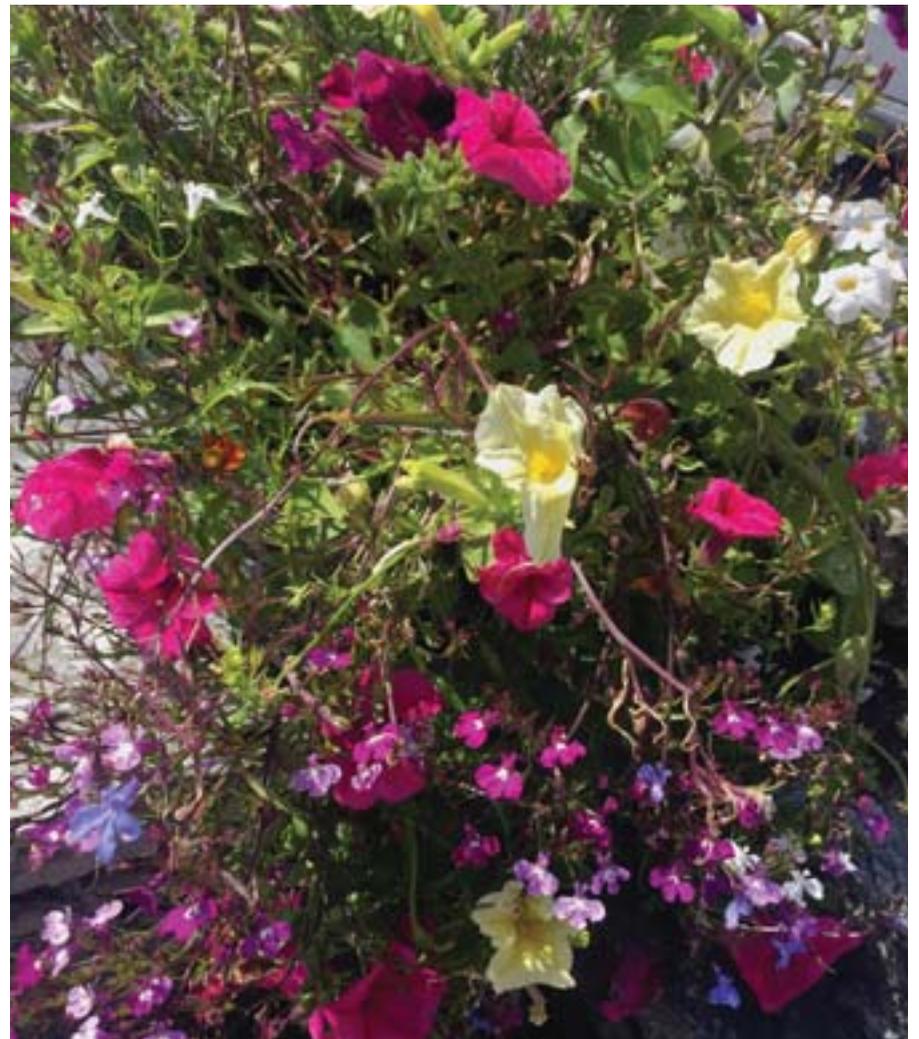
Although the countryside was dry and golden, almost resembling a California June landscape, Dublin was ablaze in flowers. Everywhere we walked towers of flowers adorned street corners, tubs hung from pubs overflowed with glorious blooms, while horns honked at me as I foolishly stepped into the street to photograph the beauty. Even the Guinness Storehouse boasted a soaring riser of cascading petunias in vibrant hues of red, pink and fuchsia. On the Aran Island of Inismor, thatched cottages were enlivened with baskets of purple petunias, blue, lavender and white lobelia, and geraniums. The Doolin pier boasted an old boat loaded with flowers in yellows, oranges and reds, while streets in Galway were lined with roses, agapanthus, verbena, astilbe, ivy, and even more petunias. Besides the exquisite flowers everywhere, I was enthralled by the doors that led to houses for the fairies and leprechauns that adorned many of the landscapes.

Whenever I travel, I gravitate to gardens. No matter where I am in our wondrous world, experiencing the spectacular floral creations of a nation is enchanting. Gardens relax, refresh, and energize me. I return to California excited to create something fresh and new.

For a friend who raises chickens, I designed a birthday arrangement that felt sunny and bright using firecracker plants, hollyhocks, roses, nasturtium, calendula, Italian berries, and sorrel stalks all gathered in a rooster teapot.

My Irish first-grade teacher always told me that she kept a leprechaun in her pocket. I was hoping to persuade her to allow her little friend to emigrate to California with me, but I guess I'll just have to make due with installing a fairy door on a tree and planting a few shamrocks.

This August as you travel, make sure to visit a few gardens and spend time exploring the towers of flowers at your destination. You'll find what you need.



*Yellow petunias anchor this flowing basket of pinks, and lavenders.*



*A field of blue agapanthus fronts pink oleanders.*



*A small guest house flanked with ivy and astilbe.*



*A tower of flowers.*



*In Galway, a tiny door leads to a house for leprechauns.*

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for August

**BE ALERT** for smoke and wildfires. Clear debris from around your house, cut dry grasses and limbs, and be sure to pack an emergency go bag.

**DONATE** to California Fire Relief Efforts through Operation Disaster Relief. More information at <http://ow.ly/ks8A30lekGe>.

**SPRAY** roses for mildew and mites. Spray shaded crape myrtles for mildew and spray azaleas for thrip if necessary. Ask for organic sprays at your favorite garden center or nursery.

**SCATTER** Sluggo to kill snails and slugs.

**JOIN A.S.I.D.** (American Society of Interior Designers) and Janus et Cie for a Summer Garden Party in San Francisco in honor of my new book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," where you'll enjoy a flower arranging demonstration, elegant bites, cocktails, presentation and book signing. Info at <https://www.cynthiabrian.com/gardening>.

**SOAK** outdoor containers at least once weekly by allowing the water to fill the pots until water begins to drain from the bottom.

**PROVIDE** plenty of fresh water daily to pets during these hot months and feed them juicy summer fruits to enjoy such as watermelon, cantaloupe, blueberries and tomatoes.

**PLAN** for fall planting of water-thrifty plants including lavender, Plumbago, Black Eyed Susan, globe thistle and honeysuckle vine. You'll save on water bills for next year with these hardy perennials.

**CREATE** a beautiful arrangement straight from your summer garden with firecracker plants, hollyhocks, roses, nasturtium, calendula, and any grasses or reeds.

**DESIGN** a tower of flowers by using a pyramid stand and hanging baskets or pots from it filled with your preferred plants. Petunias, lobelias, pelargoniums, spider plants, and any draping plant will look terrific.

**GROW** a butterfly buffet by planting a mix of flowers that will provide food and habitat for caterpillars and butterflies through the fall. Keep your garden insecticide and pesticide free to attract other pollinators. Food species for caterpillars include oak, cherry, willow, dandelion, clover and dill. For the butterfly, plant Echinacea, liatris, buddleia, agastache and achillea. Milkweed will provide both larval nutrition and nectar for the adults.

**PREPARE** for fall by ordering spring blooming bulbs including allium, grape hyacinth, tulip, daffodil, hyacinth and crocus.

**GET** a tetanus vaccine every 10 years. Sometimes called lockjaw, tetanus is a serious disease caused from bacteria found in soil, manure or dust. When humans get a cut or puncture, the bacteria may enter the body causing this serious infection.

**CUT** canes of blackberries back to the ground after harvesting.

**MULCH** when needed to maintain moisture and climate control.

**PICK** peaches, tomatoes and zucchini as they ripen. Don't let fruit or vegetables rot on the ground.

**TIE** up vines that have become unruly or prune to a desired contour.

**STAY** cool by the pool and celebrate August under the stars on beautiful warm evenings.

No matter where we travel, it's always wonderful to come home. We love California living.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



*On a thatched cottage in the Aran Islands hang gorgeous baskets of blooms.*



*At Doolin pier in West Ireland, a boat of orange, yellow, and red greets visitors.*



A birthday creation in a rooster teapot.



Cynthia Brian sits in an Irish garden with the full moon as the sun sets.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are1® S01 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com).

Buy a copy of the new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store).

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