

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.