

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide for May

SCATTER snail and slug bait before they destroy all your sprouts.

PREPARE for fire season. Cut out the deadwood from bushes and trees, prune limbs and clear brush.

CLEAN leaves from gutters.

CUT tall wild grass to the ground.

CHOP leaves and flowers from wild mustard for salads and sandwiches.

WATER deeply and when needed.

PULL daffodil and other bulbs spears as they dry.

DEADHEAD roses, calla lilies, and calendulas as blossoms fade.

CLEAN greener this spring by using friendlier ingredients found in your garden such as lemon juice to remove grease, mildew and stains.

WALK a nature trail for exercise, beauty, and curiosity satisfaction, keeping your distance from others and bringing a mask.

PLANT beans, squash, cucumbers, corn, gourds, melons, and pumpkins directly into the garden now. Because of their tender taproots, they do not transplant well.

BUY tomato seedlings to plant anytime.

COMPOST your coffee grinds, eggshells, vegetable peelings and tea leaves.

BAG your lawn clippings only every other mow. It's best to leave the clippings on the lawn as feed for the roots, but many people find the extra grass too messy.

TUCK edibles into your flowerbeds. Parsley and garlic chives look especially handsome as a border.

REGROW scallions by sticking the root ends in water after snipping. You'll get a fresh crop very quickly.

THIN apples and stone fruit to ensure a bigger, healthier harvest. Leave two to three fruit per cluster.

HARVEST artichokes, arugula and Swiss chard.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



An overabundance of blossoms on citron lemon trees are perfumed bee magnets.



Artichokes will be ready to harvest soon.



Rhododendrons burst into fluorescent bloom as the camellia flowers wane.



Clipped boxwood hem a parterre of bearded iris, cornflags, roses, and daylilies.