

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

... continued from page D12

- **ALLOW** moles to live in your landscape as garden helpers who eat snail larvae, grubs and harmful insects while they aerate the dirt.
- **DIG** out dandelions with the root attached. Use the leaves and flowers in salads and tea. Roast the root with a few drops of olive oil. Dandelion is a detoxifier, helping our liver and digestive system.
- **FERTILIZE** lawns before or during a rain to increase root production, eliminate weeds, and add an emerald luster to your grass. If rainfall is not in the forecast, you will need to turn on your sprinklers. Choose a cool day to feed, water deeply, then infrequently thereafter.
- **SPRUCE** up the patio furniture before spring has sprung. Use the weekend to get your lounge chairs ready for relaxation and outdoor fun.
- **INSPECT** irrigation pipes and sprinkler systems for leaks. A small drip can equal a loss of 50 gallons a month while a steady drip could equate to more than 2,500 gallons of wasted water.
- **REPLACE** washers in hoses as they deteriorate over time. If you are still getting a spray from the faucet connection, replace the coupling.
- **REPAIR** and sharpen gardening tools, including lawn mowers, shredders and shears.
- **PLANT** gaillardia, the National Garden Bureau plant of 2015. The majority of the 23 species are perennial. The common name is "blanket flower," named after a talented Native American weaver whose grave was "blanketed" with colorful flowers mimicking the intricate blankets she wove.
- **IMPROVE** air quality with sansevieria, commonly called snake plant, and also known as mother-in-law's tongue. Snake plant is one of the best pollution filtering plants. It grows in low light and loves humidity.
- **USHER** in spring with an attractive arrangement of calla lilies and a variety of daffodils scattered amidst yellow succulent blooms.
- **CELEBRATE** St. Patrick's Day with a container of oxalis, also known as shamrocks.
- **ENJOY** the blooms of camellias, azaleas, tulips, bearded iris, and numerous annuals this month as they exhibit their cavalcade of colors.
- **WELCOME** the equinox, a celebration of equal hours of day and night, by dancing, singing and frolicking in the ferns. (Okay, frolic where you wish!)

Wishing you the luck of the Irish and a harmonic vernal rebirth. Do your part to conserve our natural resources.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



White camellias amongst the ferns are as showy as gardenias.



Sage is a great choice for a planter outside your kitchen.



Cynthia Brian loves the birds.



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SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Spring is here – it's time for spring cleaning but for your landscape! The trees and plants in the yard need to be inspected for water damage, remove dead or dying branches which may have been injured by disease/severe insect infestation or storm damage.

We also want to prune for improved plant appearance, tree and plant size to ensure all around health for your landscape.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to make your yard a summer STAYCATION.

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I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.