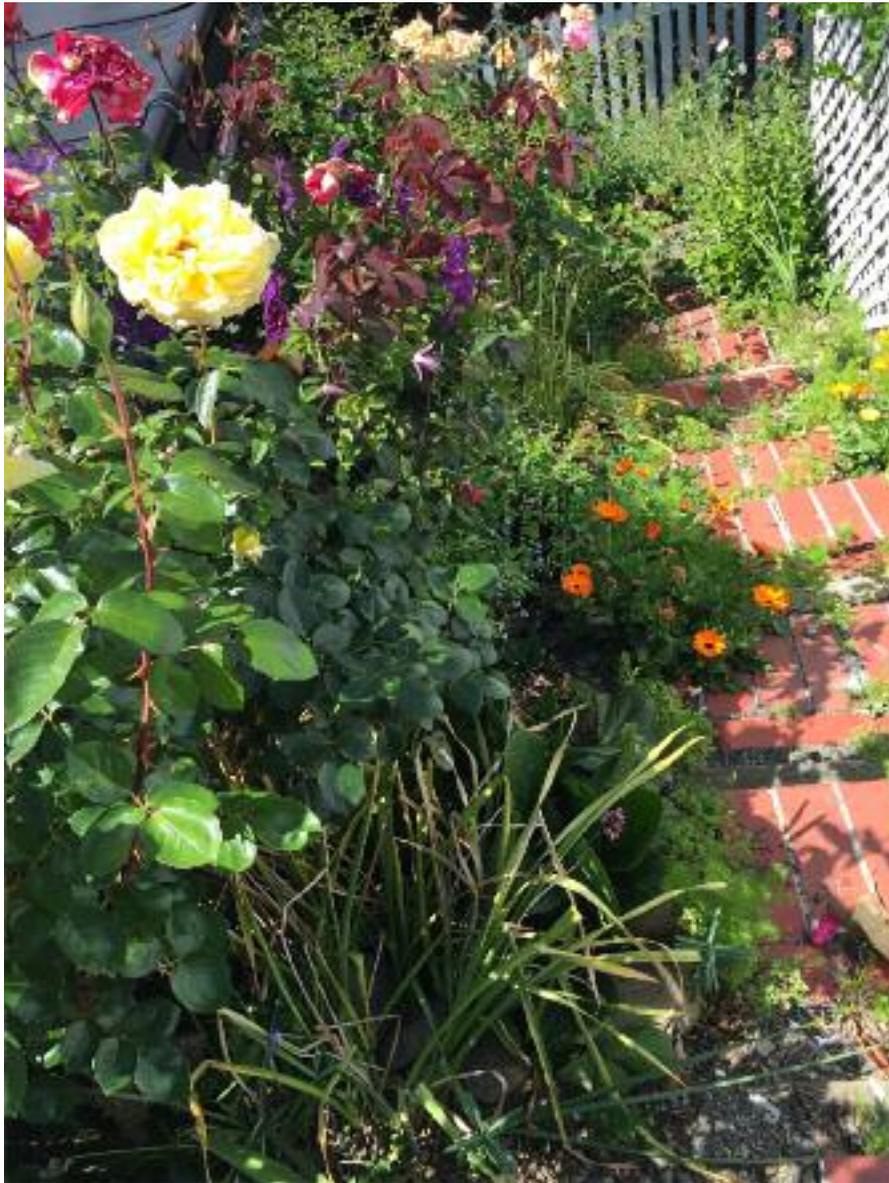


Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

By Cynthia Brian

"May the sun bring you new energy by day, may the moon softly restore you by night, may the rain wash away your worries, may the breeze blow new strength into your being, may you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life." – An Apache Blessing



A bed head garden is wild and free.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Mulberries will be ripe soon. Get your baskets ready for the harvest.

May! What a glorious month, perhaps the most fragrant feast for our senses of the entire year. With only one evening of April rain, nature blossomed into May magnificence lavishing the landscape with color, texture, birdsong, and a painter's palette of picturesque pleasures. Elegant and dainty bearded iris spread their alluring colors and intoxicating scents along driveways and paths. Azaleas and rhododendrons sparkle in the moonlight. Now is the time to experiment with new plants to lift our zapped spirits to new heights. If you like azaleas as I do, this is the time to get them into the ground after they have completed their spring flowering.

I planted a sampling of new azalea releases from J Berry Nursery including Fuchsia Parasol, Orchid Showers, Pink Ribbons and Pink Jewel. These rebloomers are set to offer a big show in late summer or early fall.

In the 2015 Garden Trends Report, a new phenomenon in gardening was reported that I found intriguing. It's called the "bed head" garden. President of Garden Media Group, Susan McCoy commented, "Purposefully un-styled outdoor spaces are the result of intentionally working within the natural landscape. This casual landscape style expresses an effortless personality with an 'anything goes' attitude." ... continued on next page