

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

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CLEAN patio furniture, if you haven't already. If you've left your lounges outside for the winter, they will need a thorough scrubbing. Check cushions and pillows to either wash or replace.

GOING on vacation and want to make sure that your indoor plants don't die while you are gone? Instead of hiring a person to come water, clip off the ends of a long thick shoelace, place one end deep into the soil and the other end into a tall vase of water. Water will wick up the shoelace keeping your plant hydrated while you are on holiday!

BOOST your creativity quotient by taking a walk outside. A study recently published in the Journal of Experimental Psychology found that your creativity soars 60 percent by walking in nature as opposed to brainstorming at your desk.

PLANT pumpkins now for a Halloween harvest. This is also a perfect opportunity to get your corn, eggplant, beets and cucumbers started.

SUCCESSION plant your greens every three weeks including lettuce and arugula as well as root vegetables like carrots, radishes and turnips.

SOW seeds of basil, cilantro, chives and parsley for a summer season of savory spice.

CHECK your drip irrigation systems as well as any sprinkler heads.

SOAK your big trees, such as magnolias, with a deep soaker hose. If leaves are yellowing and curling, the tree is thirsty and wants a very long, deep drink.



Cumquat trees are the perfect size for picking the small ripe treats.



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Mulching trees and shrubs conserves water

Mulching is important for trees and also shrubs. Besides being attractive, mulch can be used to conserve soil moisture, to buffer soil temperature extremes, to control weeds and competing vegetation and to replenish organic matter and nutrients in the soil.

The majority of landscape trees evolved in a woodland environment with natural mulch around them. Often the practice is to rake up or blow away any natural mulch in a home landscapes.

In a natural environment, trees generally do not grow in lawns or meadows and their root systems do not compete well against lawn grasses. A mulched area around a tree should be provided for the benefit of the tree. The size of the mulched areas around a tree depends on the size of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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SAVE water by watering only once or twice a week, early in the morning when the plants will absorb the most. Watch for runoff.

PROPAGATE azaleas, carnations, fuchsias and hydrangeas by taking cuttings and planting in rich soil.

NET your fruit trees to prevent hungry birds from devouring your summer crops of cherries, peaches, apricots and apples.

DEADHEAD spent rose petals weekly to encourage continuous blooms.

MAINTAIN your weeding schedule. Be vigilant to pull weeds as soon as they appear as they zap nutrients and our precious water from plants that we actually want.

COMPOST all of your scraps except meat products to stimulate microbial activity while limiting nematode invasions.

ATTRACT butterflies and honeybees by planting nectar-rich specimens including zinnias, butterfly bush and scarlet runner beans.

WIN a grant of \$10,000 sponsored by the National Garden Bureau with a therapeutic garden that supports and promotes the health and healing powers between people and plants. For more information, visit www.ngb.org.



Add interest to your trellis with a perfect passion flower.