

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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Feng Shui

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## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

By Cynthia Brian

*"It is Nature that causes all movement." – Veda Vyasa, The Bhagavadgita*



Fuchsia colored cyclamen mixed with sky blue pansies adds cheer to a window box. Pansy flowers are edible, too. Photos Cynthia Brian

The creeks are rushing, hillsides are saturated, lawns are green, and rain is in the forecast for the month. Our H2O dances and prayers resulted in an El Nino winter, much to our delight. People with swimming pools find themselves draining the overflows. If only we as individuals could save all this extra water! I no longer have buckets in my shower nor am I dumping dishwashing water in my potted plants. We are not wasting water in our household, but there is no need to collect every droplet as there was this past autumn as I have nowhere to toss the excess. In fact, I am diligent about making sure my outside container plants are not drowning. What a difference a month makes!

Narcissus, bergenia and daffodils are already spreading their sweet joy in our slumbering gardens. The cold of this winter will help trigger flower formation in peonies. If you are lucky enough to have a home in the snow country, peonies benefit from a thick blanket of snow. Camellias are blooming and rhododendrons are budding. Loquat and pear trees boast blossoms. Begonias, pansies and cyclamens add color and texture to our beds. Nature is on the move and we are the beneficiaries.

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A field of narcissi sweeten the air with their fragrance.