

## Gardening Guide

# March is a Time for Picking, Planting and Looking for Butterflies

By Cynthia Brian

*"That which surrounds you is within you." ~ Karl Schmidt*



*Hillside of daffodils with peach tree in bloom.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

After visiting the Yucatan Peninsula for a week at the end of February where I snorkeled and swam in underground cenotes (rivers) as well as the aqua waters of the Caribbean, I returned to a garden exploding in blooms. Bearded iris, tulips, anemones, freesia, cyclamen, calla lilies, oxalis, Chinese fringe, rosemary, ranunculus, cineraria, gladioli, periwinkle, plus hillsides of daffodils as well as fruit trees of Asian pear, peach, apricot, prune and crabapple. As the wind blew, the air rained pear blossoms. The soothing smell of springtime permeated my nostrils. How lovely to come home to beauty.

The recent insert in our water bill made me laugh with ways to use only 35 gallons a day. Besides the fact that they failed to recognize that most households contain more than one individual, they also completely overlooked water for gardens, indoor plants and pets. Although my water conservation efforts have placed me in the top 20 percent of savers, the water company also recognized that 68 percent of my water usage is for landscaping. If only we had access to the water of those 6,000 cenotes



*Can St. Patrick's Day be far behind when the shamrocks (oxalis) are blooming?*

from the Yucatan we wouldn't be worrying about irrigating our gardens.

Many emails have arrived asking about more information on the Pearl's Premium lawn seed. Since the ground is warming, yet the heavens still shower us with rainfall, March is an opportune time to seed and reseed your lawns. Since my Nov. 4 article ([www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0918/Digging-Deep-Gardening-with-Cynthia-Brian.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0918/Digging-Deep-Gardening-with-Cynthia-Brian.html)) about this award-winning lawn seed, I have learned about new research indicating that the roots grow to 20 inches, making the grass, once established, very drought resistant. The one drawback that I have discovered from my personal experience is that in our area, the birds do indeed like the seeds. Make sure to roll the seeds for good soil contact and water deeply. Water daily until sprouting occurs. You may have to over seed a few times to get the lush green thickness you desire.

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*Iris are already in bloom.*