

# Cynthia Brian's Goddess Gardener Tips for May

**DIVIDE** perennials, especially those that will bloom in autumn such as sedum and chrysanthemum. Dig up the clumps, pull apart and replant in other areas.

**TRANSPLANT** shrubs, trees and other plants that you want in other places in your garden. Make sure to get as much of the root ball as possible when digging, replant immediately. Water thoroughly.

**PLANT** okra, beans, watermelon, cucumbers, corn, amaranth, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, pumpkin and whatever you love to eat.

**REMOVE** the bulbs from the potted gifts of narcissus, tulip, hyacinth or Easter lilies that you received in April after the blooms and foliage die back and plant in your garden. You'll be thrilled next year when the blooms and the reminiscences of the giver rekindle joy in your heart.

**ADD** nitrogen and organic matter while building the quality of the soil with a cover crop leaving no bare soil. Radish, cowpea, sunflower, oats and flax will provide lovely cut flowers, and prevent erosion until you are ready to plant something else for the summer.

**USE** the best tools possible for your gardening chores to save time and labor. A strong and well made hoe, spade, shovel, pick, pruning saw, pruning shears, hand trowel and rake are essentials that when maintained properly will last for many years. I recommend buying construction-grade tools instead of just garden tools.

**PRE-ORDER** my forthcoming garden book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," Book I in the Garden Shorts Series. Publishing was delayed in April but will be ready for May. All pre-orders will receive extra goodies such as heirloom seeds, bookmarks, and more. Email me for details, [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com). Twenty-five percent of the proceeds benefit the 501c3 Be the Star You Are! charity. <http://goddessgardener.com/books>

**Win \$50,000** for your Garden: As a judge in America's Best Gardener Contest. I encourage you to enter to win \$50,000. Show the world that your thumb is the greenest by showing the world pictures of your garden today! [www.americasbestgardener.com](http://www.americasbestgardener.com)

**PLAN** to attend the Orinda Garden Club Tour on May 11 where five Orinda and Lafayette gardens will showcase their spectacular outdoor living settings. Get inspired for spring. [www.orindagc.org/tour2017](http://www.orindagc.org/tour2017).

**PAY** your water bill with your credit card and accumulate those airline and hotel miles. EB-MUD only charges an additional \$1.99. Best deal!

**EMPTY** all outdoor vessels of standing water. Even a teacup saucer will breed mosquitoes.

**VISIT** the Be the Star You Are! booth at the Moraga Faire on Saturday, May 13 between 11 a.m.-4 p.m. to get a bag of complimentary spring potpourri. Bring your gardening questions and I'll be there to answer them. [www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events](http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events)

**INVITE** your mother for a day of garden strolling. Visit the Botanical Gardens in San Francisco ([www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)) or go on a hike on your favorite trail.

Looking forward to seeing you at the 11th Annual Moraga Faire. Let's talk about play in May. My sincerest wishes for a Happy Mother's Day to every Mom in our community. You are love and are loved.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



*Tulips, pink osteospermum, and yellow daisies are happy companions.*



*After pots of bulbs die back, replant your Easter lilies and hyacinth bulbs.*