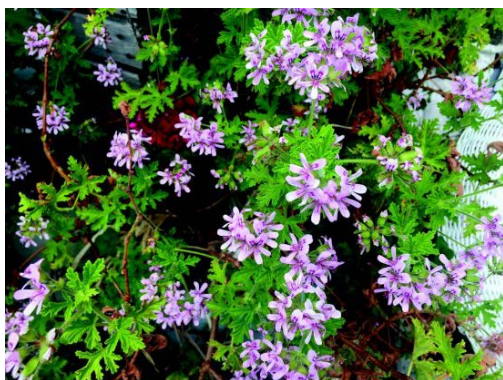


Published June 27th, 2018

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

By Cynthia Brian



Pelargonium citrosum, also known as the mosquito plant, doesn't keep the mosquitoes away. Photos Cynthia Brian

produce harvested fresh that morning followed. A bounty of salads of tender greens, juicy tomatoes, crunchy beans, and tangy cucumbers flavored with garlic, olive oil and wine vinegar remain in my memory. But it was the first bite of roasted white sweet corn slathered with butter and basil for the pre-fireworks barbecue that still to this day makes my mouth water.

The sound of weed whackers, lawn mowers, chain saws, blowers, and giggling children indicates that summer has arrived. In the heat of the day, swimming pools become our refuge while our patios are the place to kick back after a long day at work. Our gardens are resplendent with the colors of the rainbow as nature's annuals and perennials burst into bloom. Hydrangeas, Oriental lilies, daylilies, roses, gladioli, kalanchoe, clematis - and my favorite for this season, godetia. Godetia is not only brilliantly beautiful but also deer resistant. Swallowtails are fluttering throughout the landscape and finches have taken up residence in my favorite birdhouse perch. My garden is a living, breathing firecracker!

We must temper this marvelous warm weather excitement with our distressing recollections of the recent destructive wildfires. Heed the checklist from our local fire departments to create a defensible space around your home. To reiterate fire district recommendations:

Prevent embers from igniting your home by clearing leaves, needles, and debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.

Trim grasses and weeds.

Prune tree limbs to keep the lowest branches 6-10 feet from the ground.

Reduce "fire fuel laddering" by not allowing bushes or trees to touch one another.

Keep combustible materials 15 feet away from structures.

Maintain your property and be alert for any fire danger.

For further safety tips visit <http://www.mofd.org/fire-prevention/abatement>.

Whether you march in a parade, hike, bike, eat pancakes, picnic, barbecue or dance to your favorite beats, may you make your own memories this Independence Day while watching fireworks sponsored by our localities. Let freedom ring!

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

FIGHT fleas and ticks organically with DEET-free Yard Guard Cedar spray. These blood-sucking pests carry multiple diseases for humans and pets. Use coupon code SUMMER18 and save 10 percent off your order at www.NaturesLawn.com!

BE SAFE on the Fourth of July. Only 295 communities throughout California allow for the "safe and sane" use of individual fireworks. For more information visit: <http://ca-fireworks.presskit247.com/>.

WATER your orchids with an ice cube weekly. This is a simple way to monitor the moisture and keep your orchids hydrated and healthy.

BUY-A-ROCKET to support the Fourth of July fireworks in Moraga:

<https://secure.rec1.com/CA/moraga-parks-recreation/catalog/index?search=rocket>.

MOW lawns more frequently, cutting no more than one-third of the grass height at each mowing to keep your lawns healthy. Water deeply and infrequently!

HARVEST plums and apricots. Pick up fallen fruit to prevent disease to the trees.

FIRE up the barbecue to grill your favorite veggies and sweet stone fruits.

PLANT squash now to use their blossoms for cooking in 30 to 40 days. Sowing okra, dill and cilantro will add to your garden's bounty later in the summer.

ENJOY containers or pathways of citronella geraniums, also called the Mosquito Plant or *Pelargonium citrosum*, in areas where you walk. The citrusy scent is pleasant when brushed up against, however, despite mass perception, my experience informs me that this plant, which does not contain citronella, does not deter the pesky biters. Empty all vessels with standing water daily to avoid an aquatic mosquito-breeding field. Turn on a fan and light a citronella candle.

Be grateful that we live in this beautiful land of spacious skies, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. Proud to be an American!

Celebrate with glee our Independence this Fourth of July. Hurray, it is summer!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



A delicate swallowtail butterfly feeds on a pink geranium.



Armenian cucumbers are delicious sliced for snacks or salads. Photos Cynthia Brian



A field of corn will be ready for the 4th.



Fresh greens tossed with oil and vinegar.



Cynthia Brian's new favorite deer resistant annual, Godetia sits amongst the carpet roses.



Cynthia Brian is proud to be an American.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are^{1(r)} 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy a copy of the new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Available for hire for projects and lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
www.GoddessGardener.com

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

[back](#)

Copyright © Lamorinda Weekly, Moraga CA