

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

Petal power

"Blossom by blossom the spring begins." – AC Shinburne



Rosemary in bloom cascades from a border.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

Even on the darkest, dreariest, rainiest day, looking out my dining room window to my ever-blooming hillside garden gives me great joy. For the past two months, the daffodils and cyclamen have been in full bloom, now joined by the radiant pink blossoms of the Italian white peach tree, the purple fronds of lavender, and the delicate periwinkle flowers of vinca minor. My Meyer lemon tree is bursting with bright yellow fruit complementing the happy throats of the narcissi. Shamrocks are preparing their performance for St. Patrick's Day while the crocus and hyacinths are already popping. The petals are powered!

Spring is just around the corner, making this a great time to start thinking about sprucing up your garden. With just a little effort, you can make your entire property bloom! Even if you think you don't have a green thumb, try these quick and affordable gardening tips with easy ideas to suit every budget.

- Continue to pull weeds as they sprout. If you have a steep hillside, it is probably best to leave the weeds in place until the rains have halted to prevent erosion and mudslides.

... continued on Page D16



Purple spires of Pride of Madeira.



A simple birdbath accents a winter garden.