

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for August

CONTACT Vector Control for Contra Costa County at (925) 685-9301 for assistance with mosquitoes, rats, skunks and yellowjackets.

PROTECT yourself with permethrin-treated clothing and bug repellents. I have found relief with Insect Shield. www.insectshield.com.

PLAN a trip to a national park. Upcoming days for free admittance are Aug. 25 and Sept. 28. <https://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm>. Seniors can buy a lifetime entry pass for \$80.

TAKE advantage of a 20% discount on new introductions from Renee's Garden Seeds through Aug. 18 with checkout code NEW20. <http://ow.ly/eYZE50uBDE5>.

MARK your calendar for The National Heirloom Exposition happening at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds Sept. 10-12. <http://www.TheHeirloomExpo.com>.

FILL a saucer with water to set in your garden for the butterflies, bees, lizards and other small creatures. In the hot weather, they need to hydrate and a shallow saucer will allow them to drink without drowning.

PRUNE low hanging branches on redwoods, pines, cedars, and other trees as fire protection maintenance.

CUT a branch with a magnolia bloom for a vase. The huge white blossoms are spectacular and last several days while the leaves stay green for two weeks.

CAUTION when walking or playing on lawns planted with clover. Honeybees may be feeding.

CELEBRATE the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival with Be the Star You Are!@ nonprofit and Lamorinda Weekly on Saturday, Sept. 28. Details at <https://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events>

CONTINUE deadheading spent blossoms on roses and other perennials.

EAT fresh fruit as it ripens and pick up any fruit that falls on the ground to discourage a scourge of rodents.

RELAX on your patio to savor the summer sky.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Summer!



Relax on a patio with comfortable seating to savor the summer sky.



A lush swath of oleanders, hydrangeas, and agapanthus.



A colander filled with delicious mulberries.



Soak your tired feet a bath of marigolds and chrysanthemums.