

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

It's all happening at the zoo



The bright orange of birds-of-paradise.



A garden of frilly kale plants.



The fern forest.

Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D1

All will be moved to their forever homes as soon as the thermometer allows.

If you have shrubs, trees, bushes, or other plants in need of transplanting, my suggestion is to be patient and wait until heat waves have passed and rain is on the horizon. After three years of record-breaking drought, California is bracing for a fourth year without adequate snow or rain. If we transplant too early in the fall, our plants may not survive.

When the time is right for transplanting, here's what you need to do:

1. Gather the materials needed: gloves, shovel, wheelbarrow, tarp, enriched soil, mulch and your plants.
2. Pre-dig a hole before you take the plant out of the pot or move a plant from another location. The hole needs to be at least 1.5 times the size of the root ball.
3. If the shrub is large, cut it back by 1/3 before transplanting to save energy for growing.
4. Whether digging up a plant or removing it from a container, keep as much soil around the roots as possible.
5. If moving an existing bush, place it in a tarp or wheelbarrow to keep the root ball intact.
6. In the new location, double-check that the hole is the correct size. If it is too small, dig it deeper. If it is too large, refill it with soil.
7. Add a small amount of the new soil to the hole. Position the plant

upright and straight and fill the hole with good soil, tapping down as you go to eliminate air pockets.

8. When the new soil is level with the ground, add two or three inches of mulch.

9. Water slowly and thoroughly.

10. Keep an eye on your new transplant to make sure the soil never dries out yet is not too wet or soggy.

Now, back to the zoo. When you have a free day, consider a fine and fancy ramble to the zoo. The zoo offers a day of respite from the noise, congestion, and distractions of the concrete jungle. Visit an oasis of serenity and marvel at nature's magnificence.



The sunshine yellow hibiscus hedges welcome zoo-goers.