

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Prescription to Plant

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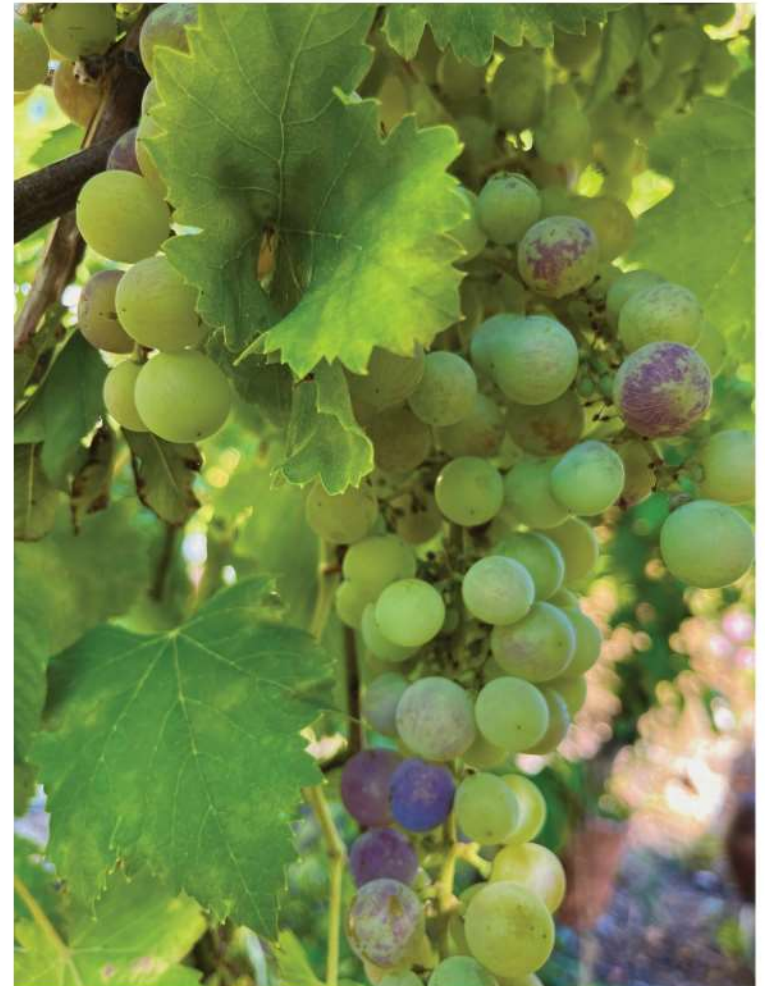
What's happening in my garden? My Naked Ladies are fading, but still showstoppers. I have been creating glorious arrangements with them and adding various foliage, including stems from crocosmia, fern, guava, and palm. The crape myrtles were especially gorgeous this year, especially my watermelon pink and purple varieties. I'm betting that their autumn leaves will be spectacularly colorful as well. (For more information on the benefits of growing Naked Ladies and crape myrtles, read the Aug. 28 column.)

Grapes are ripening and vining into my crabapple tree. The Cabernet Sauvignon will be harvested soon in our family Napa vineyards. My red abutilon, *Callianthe picta* 'Nabob', known as Chinese lantern, has reached new heights since I've been carefully cutting its canopy. It is a member of the mallow family, which also includes hollyhock and hibiscus. The red pendent, bell-shaped flowers attract bees and butterflies, while hummingbirds reach between the sepals and petals to seek out the nectar. The flowers are heralded as edible, although I have never eaten one. A big plus of planting this perennial is that it loves a sunny location and requires very little water, preferring dry soil.

If you'd like to pick up free seeds and potpourri, visit me at the 2024 Nonprofit of the Year's Be the Star You Are!® booth on Sept. 28 at the Pear



Purple muscari blooming in September.



Sweetwater table grapes ripening in Cynthia Brian's Garden.

Photos Cynthia Brian

and Wine Festival.

Do your homework and make a list of what you'd like to grow. Prepare and loosen your soil, add organic matter, and smooth the soil surface. Wait until the weather is cooler and then implement your prescription to plant. Goddess Gardener orders! Believe in tomorrow!