Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall harvest and bulb buying

“Tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh into a harvest.” ~ English Saying

Every September I think about two major garden projects that transpire throughout the autumn season: harvesting and bulb buying.

Fall boasts a spectacular bounty of pears, Asian pears, grapes, apples, tomatoes, tangerines, blackberries, walnuts, kiwis, and more. The last of the peaches and nectarines are being picked while festivals celebrating the end of the fruit and vegetable collections transpire throughout the next two months across the United States.

We also kick off fall by thinking about what bulbs we’ll want to plant for spring. Alliums, daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinths, iris, snowdrops, muscari, and fritillaria top the lists of many gardeners.

Let’s get started on this month’s workload!

Fruit and Vegetables

What do we do with all the produce that is harvested? Besides eating your fruits and veggies fresh and raw, autumn is a plum time for canning, freezing, pickling, and drying the season’s extra yield to enjoy during the winter months when “fresh-picked” is not possible. Use a dehydrator to dry apples, peaches, tomatoes, and pears. Put grapes into an ice-cube tray, add water, and make grape cubes that are pretty and delicious in drinks. After cooling, freeze batches of various fruit sauces that have simmered in a pot with a dash of salt, sugar, honey, and/or vinegar. For canning and pickling, check online sources for simple recipes and make sure to follow the safety requirements. Making jams, jellies, pies, and chutneys is easy and fun, especially when you involve the kids. Next to Christmas, harvest time was always a favorite family experience when I was growing up.

Although my vegetable garden did not return the abundance I had anticipated for the year, my fruit trees overcompensated. I’ve been slicing crunchy apples into salads, sauces, compotes, soups, and making crumbles, pies, and crisps. Peaches or nectarines with fresh cream is one of my favorite breakfast treats. For a refreshing and invigo-

rating weekend cocktail that I call “Sunday Sensation,” try this beautiful and delicious combination. It can be made with or without alcohol.

Sunday Sensation recipe

In a clear pitcher, muddle cut pieces of peach and nectarine. Add slices of an orange, tangerine, and Meyer lemon. Stir in a shot glass of Campari or Aperol for an alcohol infused drink, add ice cubes, and top with sparkling wine or Champagne. For a virgin sensation, use a cup of orange juice topped with sparkling water or apple cider. Garnish with sprigs of basil and mint leaves. Yummy!

While you are enjoying your Sunday Sensation, it’s time to contemplate the bulbs and rhizomes you’ll plant this fall for a spring showcase. Bulbs can be planted mid to late fall in a sunny location with well-drained soil. Daffodils can be planted anytime and anywhere.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Trees are loaded with apples

By Cynthia Brian

Fresh peaches and nectarines on a hand-woven Masai basket from Kenya.
Lamorinda home sales recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Last reported</th>
<th>Lowest amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>LAFAYETTE</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$680,000</td>
<td>$11,500,000</td>
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<td>MORAGA</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
<td>$2,675,000</td>
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<td>ORINDA</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$518,000</td>
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Home sales are compiled by CalRESource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither CalRESource nor this publication is liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE
3272 Ameno Drive, $1,845,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 07-23-21, Previous Sale: $1,095,000, 11-19-12
1000 Dewing Avenue #304, $680,000, 1 Bdrms, 881 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 07-22-21
1200 Glen Road #200a, $2,725,000, 5 Bdrms, 4336 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-23-21, Previous Sale: $2,025,000, 12-04-17
701 Glenside Circle, $1,875,000, 3 Bdrms, 2507 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 07-20-21, Previous Sale: $1,955,000, 02-25-16
3947 Happy Valley Road, $11,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 5647 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 07-19-21
825 Hidden Pond Court, $1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2784 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 07-23-21, Previous Sale: $1,100,000, 06-06-14
1230 Juanita Drive, $1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 1945 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 07-23-21
720 Moraga Road, $1,188,500, 4 Bdrms, 1955 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-23-21
9 Mountain View Place, $1,918,000, 4 Bdrms, 3481 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 07-23-21, Previous Sale: $1,378,000, 07-29-15
12 Olympic Oaks Drive, $2,081,000, 3 Bdrms, 2330 SqFt, 1995 YrBlt, 07-22-21, Previous Sale: $885,000, 05-16-02
2602 Pebble Beach Loop, $981,000, 4 Bdrms, 1610 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-21-21
1 Reliez Manor Court, $2,242,500, 3 Bdrms, 3358 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 07-22-21, Previous Sale: $280,000, 08-01-91
3256 Sweet Drive, $1,715,000, 3 Bdrms, 1218 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 07-23-21, Previous Sale: $930,000, 07-07-13
1178 Upper Happy Valley Road, $2,845,000, 4 Bdrms, 3864 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 07-23-21, Previous Sale: $2,151,000, 05-08-08
3283 Walnut Lane, $2,215,500, 6 Bdrms, 2529 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 07-23-21, Previous Sale: $1,280,000, 07-25-13
3355 Walnut Lane, $1,380,000, 3 Bdrms, 1574 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 07-23-21

MORAGA
1997 Ascot Drive #1, $800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1629 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 07-22-21
742 Augusta Drive, $1,011,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-19-21, Previous Sale: $914,000, 11-05-19
7 Carr Drive, $1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 07-23-21, Previous Sale: $1,161,000, 05-08-17
775 Country Club Drive, $1,135,500, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 2020 YrBlt, 07-20-21
777 Country Club Drive, $1,253,000, 4 Bdrms, 2254 SqFt, 2020 YrBlt, 07-20-21
31 Freitas Drive, $1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 1733 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 07-21-21
1 Merrill Drive, $2,360,000, 5 Bdrms, 3052 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 07-19-21, Previous Sale: $1,585,000, 11-19-04
191 Miramonte Drive, $933,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 07-23-21, Previous Sale: $710,000, 11-01-17
23 Sanders Ranch Road, $2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2697 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-20-21, Previous Sale: $1,410,000, 12-06-17
180 Sandringham Drive, $2,675,000, 5 Bdrms, 3371 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 07-20-21, Previous Sale: $1,200,000, 10-25-00
125 Whitethorne Drive, $1,735,000, 3 Bdrms, 1915 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 07-21-21, Previous Sale: $760,000, 03-20-12

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It’s wildfire season: Be prepared beyond a ‘go bag’

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO®,
Certified Professional Organizer

We live in a beautiful community surrounded by a lush landscape of rolling hills and picturesque open spaces, yet rolling blackouts and the threat of wildfires are our reality. This year we are facing an extreme wildfire season. With drier than usual conditions and fires raging in many parts of California, headlines everywhere ask, “Are you prepared?” The question, “Am I prepared?” made me pause ... prepared for what? To lose my entire home? To have all of my belongings destroyed? To live in a hotel or with family while I wait for months or years for the insurance to process my claim? To safely evacuate in 7.5 minutes?

Are you prepared? Are you really prepared?

I attended an emergency disaster planning workshop – hearing first-hand survivor stories from the Santa Rosa and Paradise fires made me aware of how prepared we really need to be. Having a “go bag” (emergency pack), while essential, is not enough.

Think about what to do before it happens

The most important thing you can do right now is block out time in the next two weeks (yes, actually schedule it on your calendar) to think through your disaster plan. Take care of these simple, yet essential, tasks – you'll sleep better at night knowing you are prepared.

Your first task should be to put together a “go bag” with things you would need immediately – important documents, food, medications, phone chargers, extra clothes, pet food, etc. – and keep them together for a quick exit in case of an emergency. Second, attach a list of items you need to grab that are not in your “go bag.” Remember, you will not be thinking straight. You can find a more detailed list of what to pack and how to prepare at redcross.org.

Beyond the ‘Go Bag’ checklist

Identify sentimental items: Think about the meaningful, irreplaceable belongings you would grab in an evacuation if you safely had an extra few minutes.

I challenge you to put on a 30-minute timer and go through your entire house and decide what you could not stand to lose. Is it your wedding album ... your mother's pearls ... pictures of your family ... your computer? The point is, you should know what those items are and where they are. Make a list of them and put it on top of your go bag. During an emergency evacuation is not the time to decide what items are important ... trust me.

You never know how much time you will have to evacuate. Two years ago, I experienced having to evacuate. I was startled awake in the middle of the night with a loud banging at my front door and neighbors yelling, “Fire, fire, you have to evacuate!” Just to add to the chaos, we were having a rolling blackout at the time, so we had no electricity. I can tell you that I was absolutely not thinking straight!

Create a home inventory and make sure you are properly insured: Do you have a home inventory? Are you insured for what you think you are insured for? When would you like to find out? Many survivors found they lost everything but did not have enough insurance coverage. A home inventory will make processing your claim easier and faster. You can review the inventory with your insurance agent to ensure that you have adequate coverage.

One survivor told us, “Our home burned to the ground. That was when I started a heartbreaking list of what I could remember that we owned, and because we did not have any documentation of our belongings it took forever to finish the list and process our claim.”

I receive many calls from clients asking about creating a home inventory. My simple and fast recommendation is that you use your phone to photograph all of your belongings. I partner with Home-Zada, a powerful app that can easily inventory your home's features and personal property. If you don't want to do this yourself, I can create it for you.

... continued on Page D8
Mid-century Modern
WITH MAGNIFICENT VIEWS

116 Scenic Drive, Orinda

Single level living at its finest with spacious living/dining room adjacent to updated kitchen/family with walls of windows and sliding doors to maximize the incredible indoor/outdoor living and sensational views of the rolling hills and Mt. Diablo. This house is all about the indoor/outdoor living with fabulous outdoor entertaining spaces including a new patio with built-in BBQ & bar, cozy built in firepit and seating, level lawn & expansive deck with incredible views all accessible and visible from walls of windows and sliding doors from the family, living and primary bedroom.

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Visit 116ScenicDr.com

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bed</td>
<td>Bath</td>
<td>Acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>±2,146 Sq ft</td>
<td>A+ Location</td>
<td>100% Views</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New patio with built-in BBQ & bar
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BEVERLY ARNOLD
EMILY BAHN
MARAM BATA
VLATKA BATHGATE
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TONY CONTE
KELLY CRAWFORD
COLIN ELBASANI
JOANNE FISHMAN
LANA FITZPATRICK
SUZANNE GEOFRRION
JEFFREY GILLET
SORAYA GOLESORKHI
HANK HAGMAN
ANDREA HARRIS
MARGARET HARTWELL
PETER HATTERSLEY
YAN HEIM
MICHELLE HOLCENBERG
WENDY HOLCENBERG
DICK HOLT
COOKIE JAVINSKY
SHELLIE KIRBY
SHERYL KORTRIGHT
MEREDITH LINAMEN
MARY BETH MACLENNAN
CHRISTINA MCGORMICK
MARSHA MCCRAE
MICHELE MCKAY
CHAD MORRISON
PEYMAN MOSREF
AUDREY NEALE
BRUCE NEWMAN
DIANE PETER
MARGARET PRICE
SUSAN SCHLICHER
CATHY SCHULTHEIS
AUBREY SAW
JOEL SHEIMAN
MELANIE SNOW
TOM STACK
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NORLA TORRES-TURNER
LINDA VAN DREN
GREG WATKINS
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JUNE YOUNG
ANA ZIMMANK

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It’s wildfire season: Be prepared beyond a ‘go bag’

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Make an emergency plan for leaving your home: Where will you go? Where will you meet if you are separated? Are there family members who should be contacted? Do you have leashes and carriers for pets easily reachable? Do you have access to emergency information such as Nixle or your Nextdoor app? Make sure to sign up for community warning system alerts at cwsalerts.com. Do you have all of your contact information for your family? I recommend that you write this up and share it with your family – then include a copy in the “go bag.”

Microchipping your pets could help you find them after a disaster.

Microchip Your Pets: Are your pets microchipped? This could help you find them after a disaster.

One survivor told a story of how her dog panicked and ran away from her while she was scrambling to evacuate. It took months to track him down, by then he had been adopted by a young family with children who had already fallen in love with him. She was heartbroken but decided to leave him with his new family. Lesson learned ... make sure all your pets have microchips.

No one thinks they will actually be in a disaster. You could have only minutes to evacuate your home. Preparing ahead for an emergency could make all the difference.

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals.

She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com
Lamorinda home sales recorded
... continued from Page D2

ORINDA

73 Brookwood Road #44, $518,000, 1 Bdrms, 673 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-20-21,
Previous Sale: $355,000, 09-29-05
68 Camino Sobrante, $1,705,000, 3 Bdrms, 1680 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 07-23-21,
Previous Sale: $890,000, 11-24-14
192 Crestview Drive, $2,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2522 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-22-21,
Previous Sale: $1,250,000, 09-07-16
551 Miner Road, $2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2673 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 07-19-21,
Previous Sale: $1,750,000, 05-08-13
186 Moraga Way, $1,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 2467 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 07-22-21,
Previous Sale: $279,500, 03-01-88
9 Oak Arbor Road, $6,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 4817 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 07-22-21,
Previous Sale: $2,200,000, 06-11-19
429 Ridge Gate Road, $2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2684 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 07-22-21,
Previous Sale: $1,100,000, 02-04-11
10 South Trail, $925,000, 2 Bdrms, 1034 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-19-21
85 Underhill Road, $1,830,000, 3 Bdrms, 2978 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 07-20-21,
Previous Sale: $1,300,000, 11-24-15
69 Windy Creek Way, $2,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-22-21,
Previous Sale: $2,061,500, 06-06-19

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall harvest and bulb buying

They are especially great in areas when deer roam as the deer are repelled by them. There are so many varieties of tulips for early, mid-season, and late blooming that it may be best to peruse bulb catalogs to get an idea of the specimens that speak to you. All tulips will need six weeks of refrigeration before planting so it is doubly critical that you decide on what to buy now. For rock gardens and borders, you may be thrilled by Water Lily tulips that naturalize when left undisturbed. When you want exotic-looking tulips, consider the flamboyant Parrot or Peony flowering tulips. If you want to force flowering, single or double early tulips are the most well-known as well as Species and Triumph tulips.

Forcing how-to:

Plant bulbs in well-draining pots in October, place them in the dark for 12-14 weeks while chilling at 35-45 degrees Fahrenheit. Gradually move pots to filtered sunlight to allow sprouting and acclimation. Water as needed.

Ponder the pollinators:

Happy bees stay in our gardens helping nature thrive. By planting bulbs in colors most attractive to the bees – blue, purple, white, and yellow – fresh food is provided for them after winter when they need it most. The best bulbs for bees are allium anemone, camassia, corydalis, crocus, fritillaria, Galanthus, hyacinths, muscari, tulips, and scilla.

Best way to plant large quantities:

Most people plant bulbs in groups of five to seven spaced six inches apart and buried four to five inches deep. However, if you want to create a bold and beautiful impact with large swatches of color, try trenching. You can mix bulbs or use one variety or one species.

Dig a long five-inch deep (or whatever depth the bulb packaging indicates) trench wherever you want to make your floral statement. It can be straight or made into a circle or pattern. Add soil amendments if your ground is clay and hard. Arrange a minimum of a hundred bulbs with the pointy side up. Cover area with soil and mulch. Water, wait, and WOW!

After blooms fade in the spring, cut the flower stalks to allow the bulbs to conserve energy for the next year while the foliage continues to flourish.

... continued on Page D11
Hose repair:
Every time I or my siblings telephoned my mom during a summer or fall day, the first words out of her mouth were “I’m busy. I’m pulling hoses.” That line became a code sentence for us whenever we were doing manual labor that others may not think was important, but what was critical to us. This past summer, to save water by not turning on my irrigation system, I found myself pulling actual hoses daily. By spot watering, I was able to water deeply and accurately, but it was arduous work pulling those heavy hoses. Several tore or broke during the process and I mended them, giving them new life. I have always repaired frayed or cut hoses and figured everyone repaired theirs when necessary. But then I saw a couple of hoses in the recycle bin area of a client’s yard with new hoses sitting next to the front faucets. They didn’t realize that hoses are easily repaired with inexpensive parts. If your hose is damaged, head to the hardware store to buy either a female or male coupling. If your hose is broken in the middle, you can buy a connector. Cut off the damaged hose part with a shear or sharp knife. Use a Philipps screwdriver to open the connector. Push the new female or male plug into the hose and tighten the connector with the screwdriver. Test the hose. It will be good as new. I tend to use more female couplings than males, so I always buy extras.
Tickle your garden with a hoe and you’ll have a great harvest. Come visit me at the Pear and Wine Festival in Moraga at the Be the Star You Are!® charity booth on Sept. 25 and pick up some free goodies. Laugh on!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Saturday, Sept. 25, Be the Star You Are!® will participate in the first live event at the Pear and Wine Festival with a booth sponsored by the Lamorinda Weekly (www.Lamorindaweekly.com) and MB Jessee painting (www.MBJessee.com). Wear your mask and visit us! Details at https://www.bethestaryouare.org/copy-of-events Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.
26 La Cuesta Road
Mid-century modern 4 bed/3 bath home overlooking Lake Cascade in one of Orinda’s most coveted neighborhoods.

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46 Ivy Drive
Updated Ranch style 3 bed/2 bath home w/full ADU unit + 2 additional buildings for office/exercise/storage.

$1,599,000

172 Lombardy Lane
Single level 3 bed/2 bath Sleepy Hollow rancher on .36 acres w/office, outdoor studio, patio & level lawn.

$1,395,000

35 Underhill Road
Close to downtown Orinda, this 3 bed/3.5 bath 2354 sqft home offers views, a 2 car garage & a separate office.

$1,095,000

23 Kittiwake Road
Private residential .43 acre lot in one of Bay Area’s most sought after neighborhoods. Close to Highway 24 & downtown.

$575,000

8 Via San Inigo
Beautiful 4 bed/3 bath home w/2 spacious family rooms & amazing views! Close to BART & Orinda Park Pool.

$6,000/Monthly

4090 Happy Valley Road
Luxurious 4 bed/5.5 bath home on 2.64 acre estate w/ adjoining lovely guest house, a huge lawn & bocce ball court.

$14,950,000

9 Mountain View Lane
Custom 4 bed/3.5 bath home on 9.93 private acres w/ views of the Lafayette Reservoir, pool, & surrounding hills.

$6,990,000

60 San Pablo Court
Charming traditional 4 bed/2.5 bath home beautifully updated w/attention to detail & .36 acre yard, w/sport court & private patio.

Price TBD

59 Miramonte Drive
Renovated single level end unit 2 bed/2 bath townhome in prime location in sought after Miramonte Gardens.

$675,000

2664 West Newell Avenue
Charming 4 bed/2 bath, single story ranch style home on coveted West Newell Ave in Saranap w/Lafayette Schools!

$1,495,000

859 Grayson Road
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$1,095,000

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Linda Friedman
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