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All Photos by Cynthia Brian



Happy Gardening to You!  
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The Goddess Gardener  
www.GoddessGardener.com  
Cynthia@gardeningwithcynthia.com  
Cynthia Brian is available for presentations and consultations by calling 925-377-STAR.



### Cynthia's Digging Deep Gardening Guide for January

*"One of the tragic things I know about human nature is that all of us tend to put off living. We are all dreaming of some magical rose garden over the horizon - instead of enjoying the roses that are blooming outside our windows today."*  
Dale Carnegie

Wet and cold, that is what the month of January brings to mind. Although it may be gray and dismal outside, we still have a few errands in our gardens. The dormant season is nearing its end, but freezes and frost can still do damage. Give your houseplants a treat and take them outside for a shower. Plan for spring by looking through mail order catalogs. And don't forget to prune to encourage spring growth.

- CARE for the potted plants you received as gifts of the holiday. Remove wrapping to allow for good drainage. Trim spent blossoms, water and fertilize regularly.
- LIVING Christmas tree, need to be moved outdoors. Keep them in a large container or transplant into your landscape remembering to determine the placement carefully as they will grow into very large trees.
- BARE ROOT roses are readily available in garden centers now. Soak in water for a day before planting. Make sure to cut off broken roots. Plant the bud union 3 inches above the ground. It is best to buy your roses at your favorite local nursery for better quality while establishing valuable relationships.
- PLANT all bare root fruit trees, perennials, berries and vines. They cost less and will adapt quickly to their new home.
- PRUNE your beds of roses now to ensure healthy bigger blooms. Remove any diseased parts which would infect the new growth and do not put in the compost pile.
- SHARE rose canes with friends and neighbors. By dipping the stems into a growth solution, you can grow new rose bushes at no cost to you. Experiment. It's fun to share.
- MULCH your beds with three inches of organic matter to protect from freezes, provide better drainage while amending the soil.
- DECIDUOUS fruit trees, bushes, flowering shrubs, and cane berries need pruning now. Make sure you are not cutting off the buds for the new fruit.
- SPRAY your second application of a dormant spray to kill the many overwintering insects and diseases after you have pruned.
- BRIGHTEN your landscape by planting primroses, snapdragon, stock, sweet peas, violas, cineraria and pansies which bring exciting color to the grey landscape. Add shimmer to home environment your home by planting in pots for the porch.
- CUT budding branches from fruit trees to place in a vase to watch the petals open. Add a few drops of bleach to the water to prolong the blooms. A few sprigs of narcissus provide perfume an entire room.
- PROTECT LAWNS Rake leaves and litter to prevent grass from smothering.
- FEED the birds! With winter rains and cold, the birds need human help to maintain their body weight.
- TRANSPLANT all those plants and shrubs that you want moved somewhere else safely.
- REPAIR irrigation systems and add drip to your spring schedule.
- REST. Winter is the time of hibernation and sleep. Just as our plants go dormant, we need to give ourselves a break to rejuvenate.

Our gardens can probably expect another season of drought so use the downtime of January to prepare. **Happy New Year!**

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### Garden Club Meetings

**Bonnie Brusseau from Orchard Nursery** will speak on "Pruning Simplified for Roses and Fruit Trees." Moraga Garden Club on Thursday, January 15, 9:30 am at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. For membership call Pat 925-376-4675.

**Gary Bogue, author and columnist** will speak about wildlife and the environment at the Montelindo Garden Club Meeting on Friday, January 16th, 9:30am at the Orinda Community Church, #10 Irwin Way in Orinda. Speaker at 10:30. The free meeting welcomes guests. www.montelindogarden.com or email montelindogarden@aol.com.

**Please submit events to:**  
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com