

CYNTHIA BRIAN'S GARDENING GUIDE FOR JULY

"I don't know whether nice people tend to grow roses or growing roses makes people nice." Roland A. Browne

- **HANG** canisters to trap yellow jackets only when entertaining outdoors. Look for holes in the ground where they make their nests and call Vector Control to spray when you find them. If you buy a commercial product at your local hard ware store, read directions carefully.
- **EMPTY** standing water from all containers on your property to deter the breeding of mosquitoes.
- **CONTROL** whiteflies with yellow sticky traps.
- **MULCH** with at least three inches of shredded bark, wood chips, or rich compost to keep weeds down and valuable moisture in.
- **PINCH** herbs before they bolt to keep them producing nutrient rich flavors!
- **DEADHEAD** roses when they are spent. Cut back to a stem with five leaves for continuous flowering through January.
- **JOIN** a garden club if you want to commune with other dirt diggers.
- **DETER** the slugs, snails, and cutworms by sprinkling eggshells around your vegetables. As a bonus, they provide rich organic fertilizer.
- **PHOTOGRAPH** your garden every month so you'll have a visual map of what blooms and ripens. Photos help with planning, planting, and partying.
- **GET** a tetanus shot if you have not had one within the last ten years. Tetanus loiters in the dirt.
- **WEAR** boots and gloves in the garden as well as long pants and long sleeves when mowing lawns or using any pest control, even if it is organic.
- **ELIMINATE** ants by spreading bay leaves from our numerous California Bays and mint leaves at their point of entry. Adding rosemary or sage to the barbecue while grilling will also keep the crawlies away.
- **DEDUCT** \$1.50 from your garbage bill by composting as I've been encouraging for years. Go to <http://www.wasstefiversion.org/certification>, answer a few questions, submit a photo, and keep the change. I am a fan of the Smith & Hawken Biostack. Purchase it at a deep discount from your waste management company. It keeps the critters out and the worms in resulting in rich, loamy compost in three or four months.
- **CLEAR** brush from the perimeter of your home. Weeds and dead limbs pose a fire danger.
- **THIN** fruit trees for a larger and tastier crop.
- **CLEAN** and fill bird feeders to keep a gardener's best friend at home. Babies are hatching this month. Help the mothers feed their young.
- **ADD** pesticide and insecticide free rose petals to salads, sauces, and soups to spark the flavor and color quotient of your outdoor meals. Enjoy a red, white, and blue July, go

into your garden and pontificate like a poet, philosopher, or politician. Your roses are waiting to greet you.

Happy Gardening to You!
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My virtual door is always open. I am available as a speaker and consultant. Feel free to contact me.



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