

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for March

... continued from page D8

- **CHECK** out Renee's Garden online catalogue for the best seeds from their trial gardens. I'm experimenting with their Scatter Garden Canisters and will plant the cover crop mix this summer. Visit www.reneesgarden.com.
- **SAVE** rain water by positioning wine barrels or garbage cans under drain spouts. Use a hose to water garden. Don't use roof water for edibles.
- **ENRICH** your soil by making your own compost utilizing kitchen scraps, lawn clippings, shredded leaves, coffee grinds, and other plant matter. Spread a layer of two inches to improve your soil, maintain moisture, deter weeds, and feed your plants.
- **LOOK** for bird nests in low hedges and under shrubs before pruning or trimming. Most nests are hidden and this is the time that moms are laying eggs.
- **BUY** in bloom cool-growing cymbidium orchids native to the subtropical highlands of Southeast Asia. After the last flower dies, cut the spike to the base. Cymbidiums will re-bloom the following year when kept in cool temperatures with bright light.
- **SOW** a number of diverse species of nectar rich plants that will bloom at different times of the year to attract bees to work and pollinate. Suggestions include aster,

cosmos, gilia, linaria, nepeta, tithonia, monarda, coreopsis, lantana, and lavender.

- **EXPERIMENT** with growing your own gourmet mushrooms at home. Check out the five-pound bag selections priced at \$29.95 each at www.sowtrueseed.com and start enjoying ready-to-fruit inoculated varieties of pearl oyster, lion's mane, red reishi, and shitake.

- **WARD** off cancer by planting and consuming parsley, artichokes, blueberries, bok choy, broccoli, kale, lemons, strawberries, red grapes, and tomatoes.

- **AERATE** lawns and leave the plugs on the grass to feed the soil. It's best to do this when nights are still dewy as warmer climate dehydrates the plugs.

- **SPRINKLE** laundry detergent on mushrooms to eliminate the fungi.
- **WANT** instant no fuss made raised beds? Buy galvanized steel tubs meant as horse or cow troughs. Add rocks as drainage, good potting soil, plant. Voila! You won't have to worry about gopher invasions and these troughs will save on water.
- **PICK** up a pot of shamrocks, also known as oxalis, and get your Irish on. Oxalis blooms in yellow, pink, and white and can be invasive if let loose in the landscape.
- **PLANT** sweet peas, flowering shrubs, dianthus, pansies, and leafy greens.
- **RECYCLE** bricks, rocks, and pavers to keep your landscaping budget in check.



Don't forage for mushrooms unless you are an expert! Buy. Photos Cynthia Brian



A bright, colorful bloomer is the purple lilac vine (Hardenbergia violaceae) which is great on fences.

**ADVANCE
TREE SERVICE**

Lic.: #611120

& Landscaping

Family owned in Moraga since 1987



Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

IT'S TIME TO PRUNE YOUR PINE TREES

With current winter drought conditions home owners need to make sure to water their trees too. Lack of water brings bugs and diseases. Proper pruning is also essential this time of year for your Pine trees. Bark Beetles can infest your tree when it is weak from lack of water or due to sap that comes from pruning in the spring and summer; these beetles are dormant during the fall and winter months. Beetles also can carry diseases from tree to tree, and the only way to stop them is to prevent them by having a healthy tree in the first place. So don't wait until it's too late have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service

Advance Tree Service

Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.

925-376-6528

advancetree@sbcglobal.net www.advancetree.com

*Follow us on Twitter ([advancetree](https://twitter.com/advancetree)) and like us on Face Book
(ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.)*

