

Ask Cynthia Brian – How Much Light

Reader's Request

Dear Cynthia:

As I sit here planning my spring edible garden, I'm wondering if all vegetables need lots of sunshine to bear fruit. I have sun and shade but probably not enough sunshine for everything I want to grow. Any suggestions?



Radishes do not need as much sunlight to produce great crops.

Photo Cynthia Brian

Dana, Orinda

Dear Dana:

This is a great question and one that every gardener grapples with during the planning stages. Here's my unscientific rule of thumb that seems to work well. When determining where to position a plant, ask yourself what part of the plant you will eventually eat.

If you are eating the fruit such as tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, cucumbers, zucchinis, beans, apples, corn, etc., you will want to plant these specimens in an area that receives a minimum of eight hours of bright sunlight. Root vegetables like carrots, beets, potatoes, and radishes can be planted in shadier areas or as understory plants because they don't need as much light as the plants that bear fruit on the branch. If what you eat is the leaf or stem such as Swiss chard, lettuce, kale, sorrel, arugula, spinach, you can plant in semi-shade with dappled sunlight. Any fruiting vegetable planted in shade can survive but usually bears smaller fruit because these plants need sunlight to create the energy to thrive.

Keep in mind, anything planted in shade will be less colorful, but you may enjoy a longer growing season and slower bolting. Experiment with your site and the answers will be obvious.

Happy Gardening to you!

Cynthia Brian

©2015, Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

www.GoddessGardener.com

I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

Cynthia will answer one or more questions every other issue as space allows. Email your comments or questions to

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

Get Out & Stay Out!

In Your New Outdoor Room

Let Garden Lights Landscape Development give you good reason to "Get Out and Stay Out" this summer.



Enlarge your living area with an outdoor kitchen or entertainment space complete with a built in barbecue and the warm glow of a stone or masonry fireplace.

Garden Lights Landscape Development, Inc. is a full service landscape & pool design build firm.

We design & install with just one call 925-254-4797 • www.gardenlightslandscape.com

Celebrating over 20 years of service in Lamorinda. Bonded – Licensed & Insured License# 702845 C27 & C53

DESIGN
INSTALLATION
IRRIGATION
DRAINAGE
STONEMWORK
CONCRETE WORK
DECKS
FENCES
PATIOS
LAWNS
PONDS
CLEANUP &
HAULING

BLUE RIDGE



925-258-9233

CELL: 510-847-6160

LANDSCAPE COMPANY INC.

BLUE JAY FELDMAN

OWNER/OPERATOR

WWW.BLUERIDGE.LC.COM



LICENSED

INSURED

Lic# 818633

McDonnell Nursery

shop now to receive McDonnell bucks

family owned since 1933

Trees • Shrubs • Vines • Annuals • Perennials
Vegetables • Containers • Statuary & Fountains
Indoor Plants • Decorative Items

www.mcdonnellnursery.com

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily