

**COVER** an unsightly fence with clematis. Read the tags to learn the correct sun exposure, then let the explosion of blooms blow your mind. Clematis make great cut flowers, too.

**TUCK** succulents in between other plantings. Most succulents shoot up spires of blooms as an added bonus. Of course, succulents are very drought tolerant and an excellent choice for our gardens. To get a better idea of the variety of succulents that fare well in our area, visit The Ruth Bancroft Gardens in Walnut Creek. [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)

**GRILL** vegetables (as well as stone fruit) on the barbecue. A variety of zucchini, peppers, and corn are always excellent choices. Don't shuck the husks on the corn to keep the nutrients and flavor inside. Slip basil or cilantro inside for added flavor.

**THINK** about what bulbs and rhizomes you will want to buy to plant in the fall. Do you want more daffodils, tulips, Dutch iris, anemones or something more exotic? Catalogues are a great way to get your lists started.

**THANKS** to everyone who has emailed me with positive notes about these columns. I do appreciate all of my readers and want you to be the best gardeners ever!

**CELEBRATE** the Fourth of July by dressing up in your sparkly red, white, and blue to hang out in your personal paradise.



Snakes are ubiquitous this season. This king snake wound up the abelia.



Love in a Mist and California poppies are a beautiful mix.



Sweet potato vine and lavender trumpet vine attract the hummingbirds and butterflies.

Let the fireworks fly!  
Happy 240th Independence Day.

Happy gardening. Happy growing!



Happy Independence Day from Cynthia Brian as she sparkles in the garden.

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