

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

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- Looking for an easy-care container garden? Consider the Deckorations Collection from JBerry Nursery. Combinations of the highest quality plants paired with stylish, functional containers make for turnkey patio prettiness. I have the lantana, azaleas and hibiscus. www.jberrynursery.com
- Have you ever grown okra? Experiment with seeds from Botanical Interests (www.BotanicalInterests.com) These spineless productive plants boast flowers that resemble hollyhocks with pods that are full bodied and delectable, especially in a gumbo.
- None of the marauding animals seem to be interested in nasturtiums, making them an excellent choice when you are looking for a creeping specimen with edible leaves and flowers. Seeds from Rene's Garden (www.RenesGarden.com) are strong and sturdy. I use the big lily pad-looking leaves as wraps instead of bread and the flowers embellish my salads and plates. In the heat of summer, nasturtiums die back. Collect the seeds to plant in other areas or give away to friends. Seeds self-sow where they drop, offering you another delicious and pretty crop.
- Sunflowers make me happy. Their big bright cheery faces stand tall at the back of a garden reminding us that summer is in full swing. When dry, eat the seeds or share them with the birds. Combine hydrangeas with sunflowers for a spectacular cut-flower arrangement.



Prickly Sea holly thistles look ominous, yet are great cut flowers. Photos Cynthia Brian

- If you want to plant a native tree that will thrive in our area with no care and even less water while flowering for a couple of months with fronds of creamy crape myrtle like flowers, try a California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*). Buckeyes are endemic to California hillsides, creeks and canyons. Add one or three to spice up your yard.
- Roses are a must for every garden. I am particularly fond of David Austin Roses and have planted an additional dozen this past spring. Although bare-root arrives in January or February, a rooted rose in a gallon container will thrive when planted correctly in summer. Water deeply until established and dead head the blooms regularly for a display of beauty through winter. When you buy a quality rose, it requires little care while bolstering the drama of your garden all year. www.DavidAustinRoses.com



Buckeye Trees are native and endemic to California



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ASSESSMENT OF RISK

The benefits trees provide to those living and working in the urban environment increase as the size of the trees increases. As a tree gets older and larger, however, it is also more likely to shed branches or develop decay or other conditions that predisposes the tree to failure. In assessing and managing trees, we at Advance Tree Service strive to strike a balance between the risk that a tree poses and the benefits that a tree provides by assessing its health and keeping it healthy with the proper care it needs.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service to help you assess your risk today.

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