

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Tips

DIAL 811 at least two working days before digging a hole for a tree, irrigation, systems, installing a fence or other structure to prevent hitting underground utility lines.

- **SCATTER** snail and slug bait throughout your garden to protect your plants from getting munched.
- **FLOAT** camellias in a bowl as a table arrangement.
- **PRUNE** shrub roses back one third to two thirds; hybrid teas and floribunda two thirds to three fourths. Cut out the old woody stems of climbers and cut previous year's flowering shoots down to 3-4 inches. Let ramblers ramble!
- **SNIP** and steep lemon verbena, rose petals, calendula, and mint in hot water for a light, fragrant winter tea that will warm you.
- **TRIM** crape myrtle shrubs and trees. If you want your shrubs to remain small, prune the branches to about 18 inches.
- **ENLIVEN** a dreary winter with exotic floral arrangements that include anthurium, Oriental lilies, or orchids.
- **FERTILIZE** when it rains for maximum effectiveness.
- **PLAN** for spring planting and make sure to include succulents and drought resistant plants.
- **SOAK** your feet in a bowl with marigold and chrysanthemum petals to prevent winter chapping. You can add honey as an emollient.



Heavy prune crape myrtles that you wish to form into a bush or prune gently to shape your trees.



A foot bowl of marigold and chrysanthemum petals offers healing and soothing properties.



Camellias are in full bloom. Float them in a bowl or cut stems as flowers.