

Cynthia Brian's February Gardening Guide

... continued from Page D12

- Complete pruning of roses, grapes and berry bushes.
- Sanitize tools between use. Alcohol, bleach, or hydrogen peroxide solutions are recommended.
- Cut small branches of peach or crabapple to force the blooms for an indoor arrangement.
- Plan an edible garden. What vegetables and herbs do you love the most? Find out what varieties are best planted from seed (arugula for instance) and what plants are better purchased in six-packs, quarts, or gallons. (tomatoes, in my opinion).
- Dress your garden with fresh mulch or chipped bark to maintain moisture, control temperatures, and minimize weeds.
- Add a rock dry creek to an area with run-off.
- Peruse gardening books and seed catalogs for ideas on what you want to plant. This season I suspect that we will be sowing seeds earlier as the soil warms.
- Repot houseplants. Remove dead leaves, add fresh soil, give them a sunshine retreat outdoors for a few hours.
- Enhance a corner of your exterior with a wall fountain and colorful potted plants.
- Build a path or walkway that will integrate into the landscape and complement your home.
- Get outside to soak up the Vitamin D. Garden, stroll in a park, hike a trail, or walk the reservoir. Pay attention to the natural landscape.
- Check out the FREE Seed Bank at Moraga Library. Free vegetable, herbs, flowers, and milkweed seeds are available thanks to the efforts of the Moraga Garden Club, the high school all-girl Scout Troop 401 and middle school Girl Scout Troop 33778. - www.moragagardenclub.com

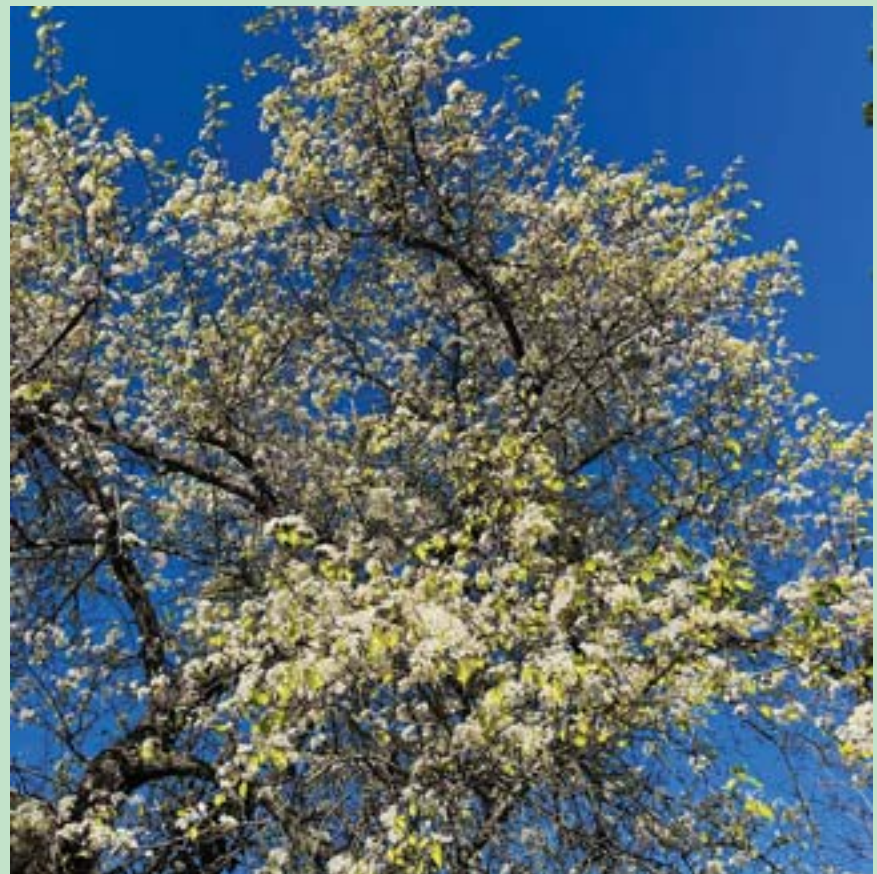
Although California needs increased precipitation, and we must all continue to be diligent in conserving water, I admit that I am enjoying springtime in February immensely. The hills are currently green, cows are munching on the plentiful grass, the air smells fresh, and the creeks are trickling. A bit of the winter bite remains as soon as the sun sets, and the moon rises. It is a lovely time to be outside expressing gratitude for Mother Earth. There is indeed dignity in digging in the dirt, and of course, it is what I write about so that we will prosper and thrive through nature.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Gertrude Jekyll climbing roses blooming.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Ornamental pear tree in full bloom.