

## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

**APPLY** snail bait around plants susceptible to snail and slug damage.

**TREAT** for aphids as needed.

**MAKE** homemade fungal spray to ward off powdery mildew which weakens and can kill plants. Mix four teaspoons of baking soda with one teaspoon of dishwashing liquid per gallon of water. Spray the entire plant, not just the leaves. Crape myrtles and viburnum are susceptible. This spray works well for black spot which afflicts roses.

**COLLECT** seeds from sunflowers to feed the birds as well as save to plant next season.

**MAINTAIN** your bird feeders as an invitation to refuel in your backyard. Hang feeders in trees, away from the house to deter rodents from establishing residence in your home.

**MONITOR** the water needs of your plants as you wave goodbye to the summer sun.

**FERTILIZE** trees, shrubs, and ground covers as the weather cools.

**PICK** your remaining peppers, tomatoes, tomatillos, and eggplant as needed. According to the USDA, there are over 25,000 varieties of tomatoes.

**CONSIDER** adding clover to your lawn. Clover is a legume that takes nitrogen from the air and transfers it to the soil, improving the soil quality. Clover maintains its green color and attracts beneficial insects while requiring less water and mowing.

**STAND** under a tree canopy to listen to the birdsong.

**REPLACE** your lawn with a gorgeous succulent sanctuary.

**BEAUTIFY** your porch with pots of Calibrachoa, known as seaside petunia, or Butterfly Stonecrop, in full bloom now.

**REFRIGERATE** tulips, hyacinths, and crocus for four weeks before planting. Select your bulbs now.

**DETER** skunks, rats, and other rodents from your property. As the weather turns inclement, they will be looking for shelter.

**MAKE** applesauce or apple butter with the apples that fall from your trees. This year boasts a big crop of apples. You don't need to peel the apples. Wash, slice away any brown spots, cut into chunks, and add to a pot filled with a small amount of boiling water. Squeeze fresh lemon juice on the apples. Sprinkle cinnamon and nutmeg for a delicious, healthy treat.

**PREPARE** for fires and emergency evacuations. Have a Go-Bag ready.

**MARK** your calendars for the Sept. 30 Pear and Wine Festival in Moraga. Stop by the Be the Star You Are! booth to plant seeds, buy books, and enjoy other giveaways. Visit <https://www.bethestaryouare.org/events-1/2023-pear-and-wine-festival> for more information.

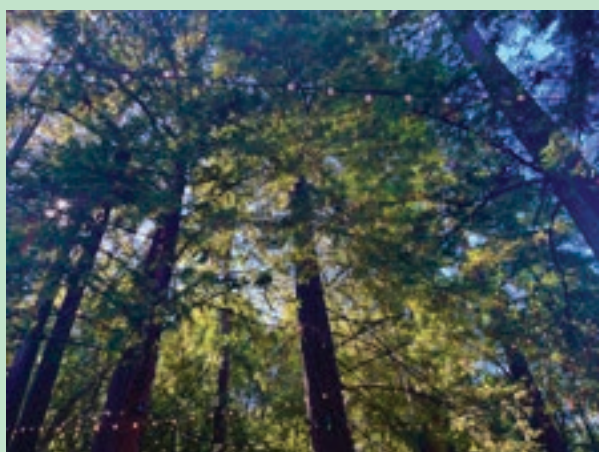
Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Fall Flying!



Trees are filled with apples this year. Make pies, crumbles, sauces, salads, or munch straight off the branch.



A birdhouse provides a warm stop-over place.



Stand under a redwood canopy and look up.

Photos Cynthia Brian