

Tip of the Month

December *In the Garden*

To the novice gardener, or those new to California, Spring may look like the time for gardening. In the Bay Area, the time is now!

Pull Weeds

Repeatedly cutting or pulling oxalis greens will weaken the plants

It's possible in November and December to remove Oxalis before it forms next year's bulbs. For the greatest impact, dig out last year's brown bulbs



Later in the winter, the plants develop tiny bulbs that will grow into next year's plants

Last summer's bulb (brown)

In spring, fleshy contractile roots pull bulbs deep into the ground

Prune

woody plants back to new green buds to rejuvenate them and improve fire safety.



Artemisia, monkey flower and coyote mint are some of our natives that thrive when cut back hard. Prune manzanita and ceanothus with caution.

Turn off irrigation

Except during long dry spells, your plants won't need water for a few months.

Sow Wildflowers

They'll germinate with the rain, bloom and go to seed without you having to lift a finger. Poppies, clarkia and Chinese Houses are resistant to deer and slugs.



Poppy seedling

gopher mounds are a great place to plant seeds so they get a head start on the competition.