

HOME & GARDEN

Spring forward into seasonal planting

By **Elisabeth Laurence**
Special to *The Examiner*

Janet Moyer knows how to make spring bloom.

Moyer, principal of Janet Moyer Landscaping, is the featured landscape designer on the San Francisco Botanical Gardens "Glorious Tour of Gardens in the Heart of San Francisco" on May 22. Four of her gardens, mostly in the Forest Hill neighborhood, are highlighted.

Moyer, who focuses on beauty and sustainability, enjoys sharing ways to rev up the bloom-power of home gardens.

"Spring is tulips and daffodils," Moyer says. "We chose the bulbs we wanted back in the fall and then refrigerated them for eight weeks. It's delayed gratification. Now they're popping up."

Pastel plant colors work well for spring, she says. "The light is so soft other colors tend to be bold."

Some stellar spring plants are the fragrant "fragrantissima" rhododendron.

"I have a vase full right now and it's a wonderful vanilla," Moyer says.

She also recommends Clematis armandie, a vine with white flowers. And she loves lilacs.

"They say they don't bloom here, but we plant them in the shade," she says. "We can get a good three or four weeks out of them."

Hellebore, another favorite, is only a foot tall with tiny pink or white flowers that keeps blossoms for a month.

"It's a very well-behaved plant," Moyer says. "There's really no maintenance to it. It's definitely a front-row plant because it's so neat and orderly. The flowers fade to four little seeds."

Camellias bloom profusely now as well. And Moyer is quick to point out the benefits of blossoming fruit trees, including apple, cherry and plum, which are just starting to flower.

Purple-flowered Lantana, "for the butterflies," blooms almost all year.

All this flower-power is framed by



COURTESY PHOTO

IF YOU GO SF Botanical Garden Tour

Where: Forest Hill area, San Francisco

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 22

Tickets: \$60

Contact:
(415) 661-1316, ext. 400
www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

Hottest "It Plant":

Phormium, with smaller varieties and brighter colors. "They're very drought-tolerant," Moyer says. "Some are growing in the middle of Market Street."

Spring training: Pastels and fragrant flowers are perfect for early season Bay Area gardens.

new, light green plant growth in the tour's garden "rooms."

"They've had their leaves washed

off for three good months — it's gotten city soot off the plants."

Moyer says spring is also a time

to focus on planting edibles in gardens. Some, like strawberries, will bloom with tiny flowers.