



Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California
January, 2021
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Seed Time!

My Hudson Valley seeds arrived in their beautiful art packets. There are no excuses for me now—time to start tomatoes and pepper seedlings, and to winter sow hardy annual flowers.

Not only is the artwork by Cbabi Bayoc on the front of my Paul Robeson Tomato seeds stunningly beautiful, the inside gives not only info about the tomato but about Paul Robeson's legacy of justice. (I am writing this newsletter on the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., coincidentally.) Paul Robeson was a famous African-American opera singer, athlete, linguist, and equal rights champion who nearly had his career destroyed for standing up to the infamous McCarthy committee in the 1950s. Robeson was idolized and well respected in Russia for his courageous activism on behalf of workers' rights, civil rights and economic equality, so they named this tomato in his honor. It is spectacular: richly colored, exquisitely flavored a joy to savor and to share. The gardeners who selected this variety saw potential and nurtured it, with the same reverence that Black artists, activists and gardeners use to build a bridge toward justice that spans generations.

If you are intimidated by starting seeds indoors, consider taking Joe Lamp'l's **FREE** seed starting seminar. Joe Lamp'l (Joe the Gardener) is offering a free webinar on seed starting called "Seed Basics & Beyond". Registration is free, and the webinar will be held on 4 dates: Friday, January 31, 3-4pm Eastern Standard Time; Saturday, February 1, 10-11am Eastern; Sunday, February 2, 2-3pm Eastern; and Monday, February 3, 1-2pm Eastern. **WHAT YOU'LL LEARN**

- How to know when it's too late or too early to get started.
- What special techniques you can apply to increase germination rates.
- The real differences between organic and non-organic seeds and why organic can result in a garden that's more productive and easier to manage.



-Why some seeds don't germinate, and what you can do to prevent this issue.

-All about the fascinating biology of seeds and the seed germination process. Register at <https://joegardener.com/seedbasics/>. Joe has a brief Facebook seed starter episode and podcast links at <https://www.facebook.com/joegardenerTV/videos/295963784421261>.

Last year Joe started the Joe Gardener Online Gardening Academy which offers fee-based more extensive classes. I enrolled in Master Seed Starting and it was quite a detailed and informative class. You get to keep all of the videos and materials, so I am taking it again this year. Enrollment is limited, and the next class is coming up soon; go to <https://organicgardeningacademy.com/> to be notified when enrollment opens.



There are more seed-starting classes and lessons coming up in February—see them later in this newsletter.



<https://www.redbubble.com/i/mask/Romaine-Calm-by-bcv122/53933946.9GoD8?asc=u#&gid=1&pid=2C>

When thinking about when to sow annual poppy seeds, remember that timing is everything. Too soon and all may be lost to incorrect moisture levels if not to hungry wild life as small as the seed may be. Too late a poppies may not bloom until the following year. For our zone, this month and next seem to best for overall germination rate. They like a period of cold (stratification).

You can rake the top 1.5" of top soil is to a fine tilth. To thin seeds before sowing, mix with sand and broadcast. Depending on bed or area size, firm by hand, with backside of rake or walk over to firm seeds—not too deep, they need light to germinate—but you want to have good soil to seed contact. If you have problems with wildlife like cats disrupting seeding, place a piece of wire mesh over the area and rock it down. Besides possibly some hand thinning, it is sow and forget. You can also wintersow snapdragons, sweetpeas, calendula, stock, nigella and more. Poppy seedlings that can be seen as too crowded will grow to be small & weak so must be thinned out. Yes, pricked seedlings during thinning can be transplanted if the utmost care is taken not to disturb the tap root. Space 8-10" apart.

Pruning Tips for Roses



'Distant Thunder' in the Bixler garden.

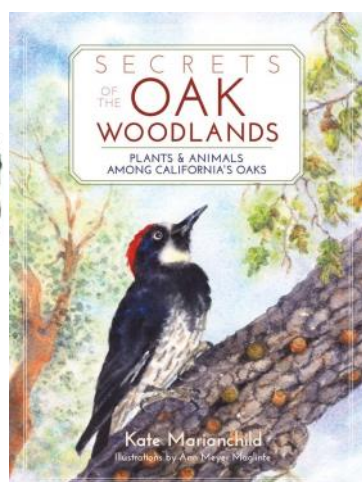
My garden is quite confused by all of the variable weather, and most of my roses are still blooming away. But for their own good, I know it is time to prune them and strip off the leaves to prevent fungal disease and rose worm. Unfortunately, there won't be workshops on rose pruning locally this year because of Covid, but last year Jan

Nelson wrote a wonderful article in her blog that will tell you most of what you need to know (<http://www.jannelsonlandscapedesign.com/wordpress/category/roses/>). Thanks, Jan!

Book Recommendation by Sirleen Ghileri

For those of you that live near oak trees - I just finished a lovely book I got from the library called Secrets of the Oak Woodlands - Plants & Animals Among California's Oaks by Kate Marianchild. There are chapters on many familiar plants and animals and it was an enjoyable read that I recommend.

While common, oak woodlands are anything but ordinary. In a book rich in illustration and suffused with wonder, author Kate Marianchild combines extensive research and years of personal experience to explore some of the marvelous plants and animals that the oak woodlands nurture. Acorn woodpeckers unite in marriages of up to ten mates and raise their young cooperatively. Ground squirrels roll in rattlesnake skins to hide their scent from hungry snakes. Manzanita's rust-colored, paper-thin bark peels away in time for the summer solstice, exposing sinuous contours that are cool to the touch even on the hottest day. Conveying up-to-the-minute scientific findings with a storyteller's skill, Marianchild introduces us to a host of remarkable creatures in a world close by, a world that "rustles, hums, and sings with the sounds of wild things."



<https://www.californiarepublicclothes.com/products/california-republic-poppies-premium-flat-face-mask-black>

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Virtual garden visits **FREE**

Since the early 1990's The National Gardening Scheme has given visitors unique access to over 3,500 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales, and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities. Core beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute. They are also passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens too, supporting charities doing amazing work in gardens and health and grant bursaries to help community gardening projects. Funding also supports the training of gardeners and offers respite to horticultural workers who have fallen on difficult times

During the lockdown of 2020 ever resourceful garden owners created films of their gardens so they could keep the garden gates open online. This year you will find over 180 gardens to visit virtually, which we they will continue to add to so that whatever the time of year you can go on a virtual garden visit. All of this is entirely free, although you can donate if you wish.

There are such a variety of gardens to see! I've traveled to many countries in my life, but I've never seen an English garden. What wonders await!

<https://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/>

Register for free!



Designers' Gardens

Go on a virtual visit to gardens designed by the most distinguished current designers - two of which are their own.

[Watch now](#)

VIP Supporters

Get an exclusive look at the garden Alan Titchmarsh has cultivated, view a message of support from our President, Mary Berry, and our patron HRH Prince of Wales, and view the childhood garden of Miranda Hart

[Watch now](#)

Cotswolds Gardens

The rolling hills and golden stone of the Cotswolds offer a breathtaking backdrop to these glorious gardens.

[Watch now](#)

Cottage Gardens

These romantic cottage gardens are quintessentially British. Prepare to be inspired by these virtual garden visits.

[Watch now](#)

Country Gardens

Nestled across the English countryside, these expansive estates masterfully bring together formality with domesticity.

[Watch now](#)

Gardens in Wales

Set within the diverse Welsh landscape, these glorious gardens often include stunning countryside views and imaginative planting.

[Watch now](#)

Group Gardens

From seaside villages to historic hillside, our portfolio of group gardens showcases the power of communities coming together.

[Watch now](#)

Historic Gardens

Take a virtual visit to these historic gardens, and walk in the footsteps of Jane Austen, or visit the childhood home of Anne Boleyn.

[Watch now](#)

Plantsmen & Plantswomen's Paradises

The National Garden Scheme has long been loved for its rich and diverse portfolio of gardens that represent a true passion for gardening. This collection of gardens typifies this passion.

[Watch now](#)

Small or Suburban Gardens

There is plenty of inspiration to be found within these small or suburban gardens, where our Garden Owners have used their knowledge and wit to create



Transformations

With transformations spanning decades, prepare to be inspired by these gardeners' untiring passion to create the garden of their dreams...



Tulips & more

From formal structures to meadow style planting, there is a tulip garden for every taste in this collection of virtual garden visits.



Urban Retreats

These urban gardens exemplify what can be achieved in the most surprising of places.

Online UCSC Farm Class

**Beginning Seed Starting
Monday, February 22 at
5:00pm to 6:30pm**

A seed is a powerful resource. In this workshop we'll discuss best practices for sowing, cultivating seedlings and transplanting. We will also explore strategies for planning and timing a successful warm-season garden in this region. Whether this is your first time to sow seeds or you have been stewarding your garden for years this will be a great way to spring into the growing season.

Instructor: Kellee Matsushita-Tseng, Farm Garden assistant manager at the UCSC Farm

Please register for this free online event.

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/9456284848>

Video Project to Bring CASFS Farm & Garden Teaching Online

In 2021 CASFS has a unique opportunity to greatly increase the reach and impact of our educational programming by expanding remote and online instruction through video production. With the CASFS Farm and Chadwick Garden closed to students, faculty and staff, and to the general public due to COVID-19 restrictions, we plan to film the core farming and gardening instruction that typically would be presented to in-person audiences and make the footage available to our audiences.

Videographers are working with the instructors to document techniques for specific skills like planting and pruning fruit trees, sowing seeds and transplanting seedlings, irrigation set up, tillage equipment use, and much more. As the year progresses, new demonstrations will be filmed along with seasonal footage to show progress of plants or fields. Some videos will be short how-to videos and others will follow a specific crop through the season from seed to harvest.

Here is one you can watch now to help with fruit tree pruning:

Pruning Deciduous Fruit Trees

Pome and Stone fruits will be featured in this online presentation on pruning and shaping fruit trees with Orin Martin.

Watch the recording at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jl_8zlgzOZQ

Backyard Orchard Trees—News from Dave Wilson Nursery

If circumstances permit, the time to plant fruit trees is now. This is the heart of the fall-to-spring orchard planting season. The sooner plants are in the ground the more time they will have to grow strong root systems and become established before the first potentially damaging heat spikes of late spring and early summer.

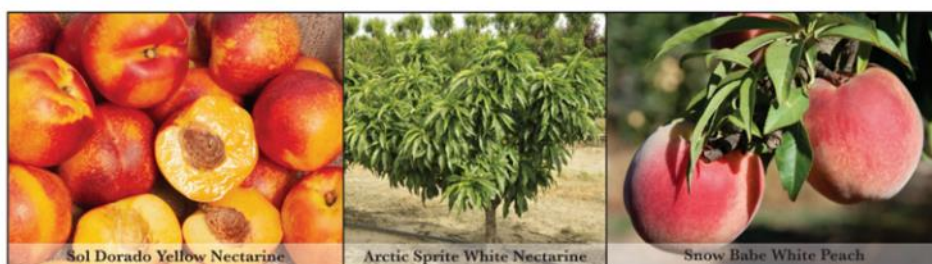
If you have a yard, whether you have fifty-plus or no fruit trees, there's almost always room to plant one (or four!) new ones — all you need is a small sunny spot. Tree size can be controlled by summer pruning as described in Backyard Orchard Culture" (<https://www.davewilson.com/home-gardens/backyard-orchard-culture>). The objective of backyard orchard

culture is a prolonged harvest of tree-ripe fruit from a small space in the yard. This is accomplished by planting an assortment of fruit trees close together and keeping them small by summer pruning.

If you are planting home fruit trees this year for the first time, you can look forward to picking and savoring perfectly tree-ripened fruit — perfectly meaning harvested to your liking for each variety with regard to texture, acidity/sweetness and flavor as the fruit advances from early to late ripeness.

In the world of home fruit growing, there is nothing like the Zaiger naturally dwarfed miniature peaches and nectarines for an easy-to-grow tree form - and spectacular spring bloom - and delicious tree-ripe peaches and nectarines! For the 2021 delivery season, three new miniatures, all bearing especially tasty, top quality fruit, will be available in limited quantities: Sol Dorado miniature yellow nectarine, Snow Babe miniature white peach (a peach-plum hybrid, actually), and Arctic Sprite miniature white nectarine. Harvest times at Hickman, CA, are early July, late July, and early August respectively - an ideal successive ripening sequence.

The Year of the Miniature Fruit Tree



Dave Wilson Nursery is proud to announce the introduction of three new Zaiger miniatures, Arctic Sprite White Nectarine, Snow Babe White Peach and Sol Dorado Yellow Nectarine. With the dramatic increase in small space and container gardening, these three new introductions will become increasingly important to the home fruit grower. Selected for flavor, quality and beauty of flower, all three are stand alone selections. As with all Dave Wilson nursery stock, these are non GMO plants. Available in limited quantities.



Farmers' Market Favorites™ Bushel and Berry® Program

A unique collection of compact, ornamental and self-fruitful berry plants for the home garden. The Bushel and Berry® varieties are all naturally compact making them great for landscape use, growing in a container, and great to eat.

The Passing of Pam Mohle'

Don and Pam Mohle' were enthusiastic and active members of The Gardeners' Club way back when I first joined the Club, and I remember them fondly. They kept in touch after they moved to Lake County. We received this sad letter from Don a couple of weeks ago:

Dear friends and family,

I am very sorry to tell you that my beloved wife Pamela Avery Mohle' passed away in her sleep on December 18th after her protracted battle with Lyme disease. She was 74, and suffered greatly from the resulting arthritis and other complications, and had been bedridden for several years. I have cared for all her needs to the best of my ability and loved her with all my heart.

Send her your good thoughts, wherever she has gone. She was deeply committed to combatting climate change, the organic food movement, and preservation of wilderness, and would have asked you to make some small contribution to these causes in her remembrance.

She composed a statement to send to everyone, which is attached. You can contact me at Don Mohle' <donmohle@att.net> or (831) 588-1134 . Sadly, Don

I can't end this goodbye to Pam without adding this story.

At a meeting, there were three gourd plants leftover, and Pam urged me to take them home. I had no interest in growing gourds, but she was so encouraging that I did take them. They produced a bumper crop of tiny gourds for crafting that have lasted me for many years.

The picture below features one of the gourds which I used as the head of a spirit doll I made. So now I will always look as this doll as an embodiment of Pam's spirit. May she rest in beauty.



Dear Family and Friends – BEST BELOVEDS -

It seems that I have painted myself into a corner. I nearly died in 2007, and I should have, because I don't think that I have contributed much in the 13 years since.

However, the time seems to have come; my pain is too great to continue, and there is not much to look forward to, even if I was able to. I do not want to be left to the good intentions of a hospital, where I cannot eat the food I want to eat, can't take the supplements I want to take, die in familiar surroundings, or be given drugs that I don't believe in taking.

I thank every one of you for keeping my spirits up, and for keeping me going long enough to see my personal beliefs begin to become widespread public knowledge and accepted.

It is a brave new world, the entry to which has opened up like a chasm, with our own personal experiences of fire and flood and pandemic. Please appreciate these as signposts towards change to come, that will be profound and difficult, and protect and prepare yourselves.

For centuries, human beings have thought that salvation would come from something celestial above them. Whereas this may be true in some metaphoric hereafter, the salvation of the only reality we know –the here and now– is literally under our feet.

We have disrespected our closest life source since the first plow broke the first soil, and began to destroy our most important ally: the civilization of microscopic life that naturally inhabits living soil. Until we learn how to give it the respect it's due and work with it, we are doomed to global extinction, just as the ancient civilizations before us became extinct and turned to dust.

The slower human beings are to make this realization and implement appropriate change, the greater will be the terrible large scale suffering that we have just begun to witness.

Those of us who have crossed over will be watching and hoping.

With love,

Pamela Mohle'

Pam





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Please remember none of us were meant to stay the same forever. Life is about learning and expanding but also reminder there are sometimes periods of quiet growing and recharging before a rebirth. If you're in full fruition or safely tucked underneath the earth just remember both seasons are equally as important even if one doesn't look as beautiful as the other.

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7,664 likes
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Comments on this post have been limited.

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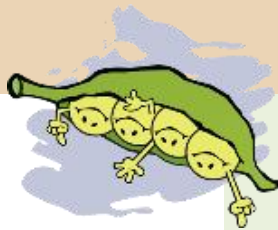
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www.thegardenersclub.org

each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos

Dues are \$15 per calendar year. Make check to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond, CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of

It's easy-peasy to join our club!



Our front page logo is graciously shared with us by artist Lisa Zador. Order a print or see more of her work at her Etsy shop

www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern.