



Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

JULY 2023

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Ice Cream Social



The Gardeners' Club annual Ice Cream Social is unique. As gardeners, we are perennially creative, and this creativity is in full bloom as we create gorgeous sundaes and contribute ice cream toppings made from bounty from our gardens or a farmers market, or find on the aisle labeled "decadent" at a grocery store.

We'll provide various flavors of ice cream (including one non-dairy), chocolate sauce, Maraschino cherries and whipped cream. You bring toppings—fresh from the garden, or cooked, or baked, or crumbled. Sauces, home-made or store-bought, cookie wafers, fresh fruit, herbs or herbal syrups, marshmallow fluff, nuts, candies, sprinkles, gummies, etc.—bring it on!

We all know how hard it has become to step out and socialize again. What a wonderful excuse to test the waters and join us to resurrect your skills. Dust off your "glad rags" and join us. You are welcome to bring family members, or bring a friend to help our membership grow!

Per our tradition, there will be Succulent Sundaes to bring home. Everyone who brings a topping will be entered in a drawing—the Board has been creating treasures! Please label your topping so people with allergies will know the ingredients, and include your name!



THURSDAY, JULY 13, 7-9 PM

APTOS GRANGE, 2555 MAR VISTA DR.

10+ Seeds to Sow in Midsummer



NASTURTIUM

Edible flowers in pretty jewel tones!



CARROTS

Sweet, crunchy, long-storing roots!



BEETS

Roast, pickle, or juice these nutritious roots.



SCALLIONS

Sow now for fresh-picked stalks in fall!



BROCCOLI

Start indoors now for fall crops.



CALENDULA

A fast-growing beauty that pollinators love!



CUCUMBERS

Sow another round of crisp, refreshing cukes!



SUMMER SQUASH

Harvest an abundance of mild, nutty fruits.



BASIL

Enjoy this kitchen essential up until frost!



KALE

Enjoy continuous harvests into late fall.

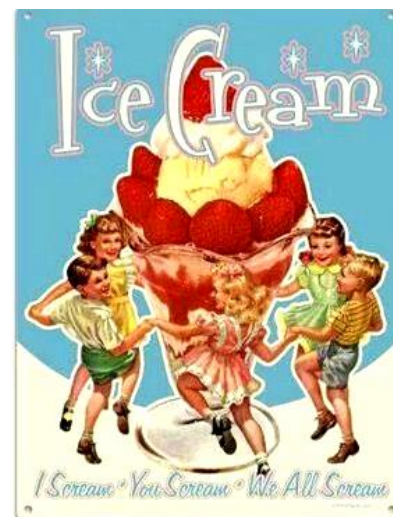


I always eagerly open e-mail messages from Hudson Valley Seed Co. Their artist-designed seed packets often tempt me, but I also appreciate the abundant garden advice they send. On their website they have many other resources, such as this art poster by Cynthia Cliff.

Perfect for gardeners and educators, the Late Season Planting guide reminds us to keep on growing! This aesthetically pleasing and informative chart outlines direct-sowing and transplanting opportunities from late summer to late fall.

The Late Season Planting Guide is a companion piece to their Spring Planting Guide, part of their range of utilitarian artworks centered around seasonal gardening activities. Instead of focusing on a specific area or region,

the first frost determines the schedule of plantings, making it a nearly "universal" gardening calendar. Price is \$16.99. Check it out at <https://hudsonvalleyseed.com/collections/planting-guide-posters>.



And you can sign up for their informative newsletter here: <https://hudsonvalleyseed.us3.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?>

Intermediate Pruning for Ornamental Plants: Making Sense of Form and Growth

UCCE Demonstration Garden

1432 Freedom Blvd

Watsonville, CA 95076

Contact: Anastatia Foster, abfoster@comcast.net

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz

Details:



Looking at a plant's overall form, we can readily see if the form has structural imbalances or if its appearance is not as pleasing as we might like, but we often have difficulty identifying those specific stems and branches within the plant that are responsible for off-kilter growth patterns.

Join Carol Nickbarg, UC Master Gardener, pruner and landscape consultant, to learn how to look at plants in a methodical way to set pruning goals and develop a pruning plan that will guide growth, maintain health and highlight your plants' inherent beauty.

Participants will be guided through hands-on exercises during the first hour, followed by the opportunity to work in small groups to practice class concepts and pruning in our Watsonville Demonstration Garden. All attendees will receive handouts to provide guidance at home.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/6e65b574-750b-4b7c-96b3-fa903a94c619>



The class is limited to 20 participants so grab your seat today!

Gardening in July

We've been complaining about the cold spring we had, and now the heat has arrived. Remember to drink lots of water, stay cool, and take breaks in the shade often.

Make time to harvest those vigorously-growing summer vegetables that are actually fruit. Summer squash, cucumbers and beans will produce more if they are picked two to three times a week. If they get too large the plants begin to die back and yields are reduced.

It is tempting to eat that first ripening tomato, but is it really ripe enough—slightly soft? If you wait until it is really ripe it will not only taste better but will release a gas that speeds the ripening of other fruit on the vine. Remember to prune tomato plants and pinch off the suckers. Cynthia at Love Apple Farms recommends spraying or feeding the plants with worm casting tea.

This is a good time to plant fast-growing herbs like cilantro, basil, parsley, oregano, rosemary, chives, dill, sage and thyme. Start them from seeds or buy young plants. If you want to bring them indoors to overwinter, pot them up in containers and keep them in a bright window.

This is the middle of the growing season, time to attend to the health of our soil. Side dress existing plants with compost, mulch, or foliar feed to help the crops and soil beat the stress of heat. Mulch bare patches or sow a cover crop of buckwheat or clover to build healthier soil.

If you've been pinching back your garden mums to encourage a more compact shape, it's time to stop and allow them to set flower buds.

Classes at Cabrillo Extension



**How To Bee
- So You**

Want to Start Keeping Honey Bees?



**Backyard Chicken
Keeping 101**

Class info at

https://cabrillo.augusoft.net/index.cfm?method=ClassListing.ClassListingDisplay&int_category_id=3&int_sub_category_id=133&int_catalog_id=



FLOWER ARRANGING TOGETHER!

THE JUNE MEETING WAS SPECTACULAR! A WONDERLAND OF FLOWERS AND FUN.



Getting Started with Vegetables

- A Virtual Support Series

Are you new to vegetable gardening? Have you started some plants this year and have lots of questions? Where to plant? Best soil? How much water? Pests? Fertilizer?

Come join UC Master Gardeners Harry Lee and Bridget Ballatore in a virtual support series for new vegetable growers. Their first session in July will cover the basics and address some of your initial questions. The following two sessions in August and September will focus on any problems and questions you've encountered as your plants have grown.

Each session will be recorded so you can access it anytime but we recommend attending the sessions live so you can get your specific questions answered.

Thursdays, July 20, August 17 and September 14 5:00 - 6:30 PM



FREE TALK!
SATURDAY, JULY 15TH • 10AM - NOON

Summer Fruit Tree Care

Join Matthew Sutton of Orchard Keepers for a talk on the summer care of deciduous fruit trees such as apples, pears, peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums, etc.

He will cover topics such as summer pruning, fertility, irrigation, best pest control practices for this time of year and preparation for new plantings.

He will also touch on growing tips for avocados and citrus in our area.

Bring your questions and stories of success or failures!

San Lorenzo
GARDEN CENTER

235 River Street • Santa Cruz | 831-423-0223
Visit us at SanLorenzoLumber.com/Garden-Center
Store Hours: Monday - Saturday, 8am to 6pm
Sunday, 8:30am to 6pm



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August Meeting— Collecting Ideas

We haven't planned the August meeting yet, and we'd like to make it "Members' Choice." What would you like to learn about? Speakers or demos you'd like? Email ideas to lisebixler@sbcglobal.net.

from "Bloom" by Emily Dickinson

... To be a Flower,
is profound
Responsibility –



Has a bee ever landed on you, and instead of getting scared, you appreciate the possibility that you got confused for a flower

To hear the full poem, beautifully animated and set to music, courtesy of The Marginalian, go to <https://www.themarginalian.org/2022/02/04/universe-in-verse-bloom/>.

www.thegardenersclub.org

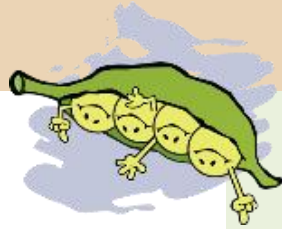
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P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

The Gardeners' Club

It's easy-peasy to join our club!
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 each month at the Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos



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.