

The Gardeners' Club

Santa Cruz County, California

October 2015—Part 2

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Aglioween

Homegrown Vampire Protection:

Plant Your Own Garlic

“Aglío” is the Italian word for garlic. Now is the perfect month to plant your bulbs.

Seattle Tilth says now is the perfect time to plant garlic to ward off the monsters of Halloween. Even if you are not afraid of vampires, home-grown garlic has a more complex flavor than store-bought. Plant it now for a mid-summer harvest, and “you’ll have an abundance of your own crop to ward off anyone whose gone bats”!

Here are Seattle Tilth’s suggestions for growing your own garlic:

Purchase good quality seed garlic from a nursery or mail-order source. You might also find it from the professional local farmers selling at neighborhood farmers markets.

Garlic is grown by planting individual cloves split from a healthy head. Carefully pry the head apart. Plant only the largest cloves, leaving their papery covering intact.

Plant the cloves with the pointed end up, 6 to 8 inches apart, in rows 8 to 12 inches apart.

The tip of the clove should be two inches beneath the soil surface.

Cover the soil with up to four inches of loose mulch, like straw or shredded leaves, to keep the bed warmer and reduce weeds.

Keep the bed well-weeded, as garlic does not compete well with weeds. The first green shoots should appear about mid-winter. They often survive even a harsh cold spell or snow, or send up new shoots if the first ones die back.

In the spring, when the soil warms, pull the mulch away from the shoots. Fertilize by side dressing with a dry, balanced organic fertilizer blend once in early spring, and perhaps a second time in late spring.

Garlic should not need any additional water when planted in our climate, and may not need much throughout the spring, unless the weather is unusually dry. Discontinue supplemental water a month before harvesting, which usually happens in late June. Harvest when the lowest two sets of leaves are brown and dry.



The next Board Meeting will be on Oct. 26th, starting at 6:00 pm, at Lupe Allen’s, 103 Danube Drive, Aptos. Phone 831.247-2705

Best to carpool as parking is limited in the driveway, although there is plenty of parking on the street.

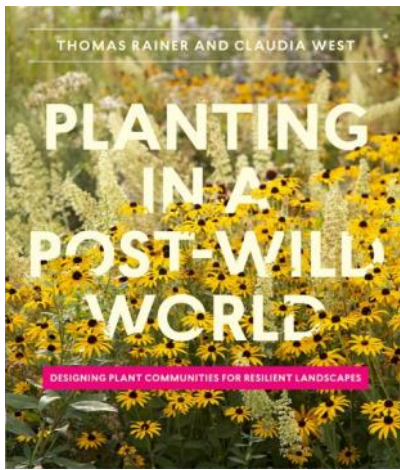
Might be good to bring a flashlight for after the meeting - no street lights.

All are welcome to attend-you don’t have to be a Board member.



<http://www.seattletilth.org/learn/resources-1/almanac/october/garlic>





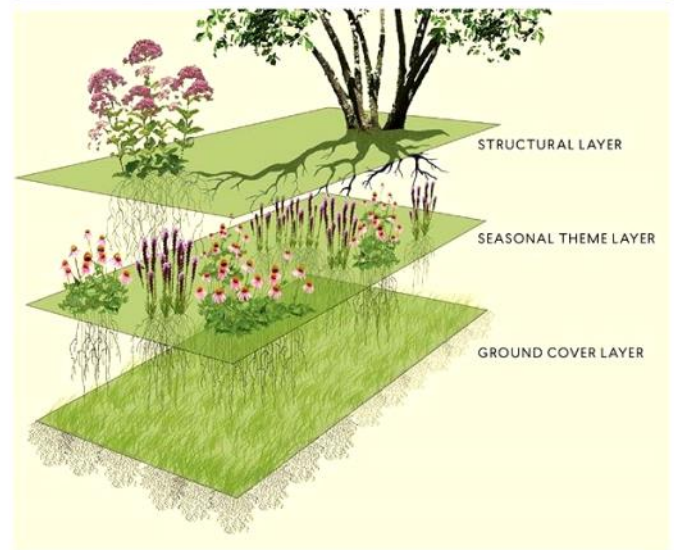
“A real-world guide for creating beautiful, ecologically connected landscapes. There is not a designer or property owner that would not benefit from their approach.”

Larry Weaner, APLD,
founder of New Directions in
the American Landscape

This groundbreaking guide presents a powerful

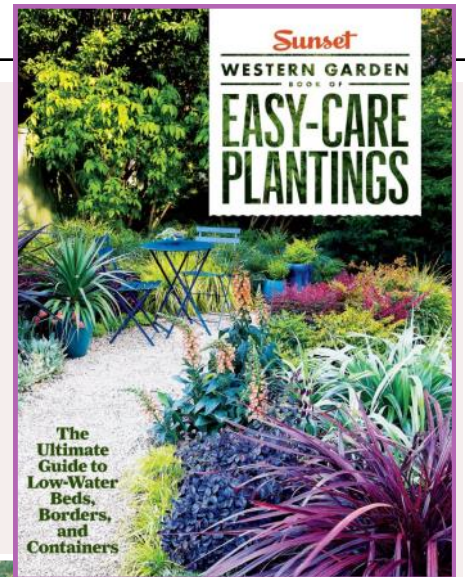
alternative to traditional horticulture—designed plantings that function like naturally occurring plant communities. Thomas Rainer and Claudia West, two leading voices in ecological landscape design, reveal how plants fit together in nature and how to use this knowledge to create landscapes that are resilient, beautiful, and diverse. As practical as it is inspiring, Planting in a Post-Wild World is an optimistic manifesto pointing the way to the future of planting design.

LAYERS OF A DESIGNED PLANT COMMUNITY



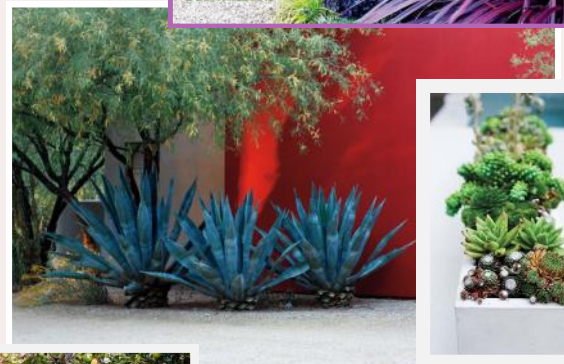
Sunset Western Garden Book of Easy-care Plantings: The Ultimate Guide to Low-Water Beds, Borders, and Containers

If I could only buy one new gardening book for the entire year, it would be this one. At the Succulent Extravaganza last month, Sunset presented a workshop on plants that combine well with succulents. This book takes that concept so much further—it contains magnificent and inspiring example of gardens that are exciting, dramatic, practical, textured, peaceful, water-wise, elegantly simple, artful, unique—and, like the title says, easy-care. Is it really possible to fill your garden with gorgeous, no-fuss plantings that don’t make huge demands on your time? Absolutely. This book illustrates that intricate, fragrant, and well-designed gardens don’t need to be time-consuming to tend. Gardeners of all levels will learn about the types of plants that make their gardens as easy to care for as they



are easy on the eyes. This book is about smart plants, and smart ways to combine them, focusing on specific plant groups that are especially easy, that belong together, and that take the same conditions. Featuring chapters full of plant charts with photos, brief descriptions,

and care advice, you’ll glean inspiration, design ideas and enough tips and tricks help your own garden radiate both ease and beauty. Who said gardening in a drought couldn’t be fun?





Here, on the other hand, is a real possibility if you want to do a simple dress-up for Halloween, and be one with nature at the same time. Member Marcia Meyer shared a NY Times article (<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/08/world/asia/china-hair-trend-sprout-plant.html>) which says the new hot thing in China is to turn your hair into a magical garden. Sprout-shaped hairpins (which make it appear as though there's a bean sprout growing out of your head) are all the rage.

Since the start of the craze, the variety of decorations have grown and now not only include the humble bean sprout, but also various types of flowers, fruits, vegetables, and even little mini trees. You don't have to travel to China to get yours—try Amazon.



No, the woman above is not wearing a Halloween costume. The photo is titled "Earth Mother Overdrive" and was taken at Le Jardin Botanique Montréal by Canadian blogger Tony Spencer. Tony authors the blog The New Perennialist: Explorations in Naturalistic Plant Design, which recently won the Gold Award For "Best Overall Electronic Media" in the 2015 Garden Writers Association Media Awards. You can read Tony's musings and subscribe to his blog at <http://www.the.newperennialist.com/>.

Photographing Fall Color

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. – Albert Camus

I have Roger's Red Grape growing rampantly in my garden (yes, I'll bring plants to share to a meeting), and the fallen leaves, an incomparable red, carpet the floor of my yard. Not all of the leaves have fallen yet, though, creating a mosaic of color. This reminded me to revisit a post in Genevieve Schmidt's North Coast Gardening (<http://northcoastgardening.com/2015/09/garden-photography-autumn-leaves/>) in which garden photographer Saxon Holt shares his photos and suggestions for photographing autumn leaves. Saxon says, " ...in the transitional stages of leaves changing from green to the multi-hues of fall, I find it a wonderful time to be a color photographer. Some of my very favorite photos were taken when the leaves were partly changed, when the brushstrokes of color they represent can be controlled by your camera frame to compose interesting images". He suggests looking at fall color patterns and letting



your eyes lock into a balance of shapes and color. You can use the four edges of your camera frame as a canvas and control exactly where you put the shapes – the brushstrokes.

In the next photo by Saxon, of a Tupelo tree, he illustrates "the stained glass effect" using backlight.

Use backlight for working in the bright, on overcast days or being in shade looking out to the light. Here he shot upwards from UNDER the Tupelo, where the backlight glows through colors.



Remember to visit Saxon's site PhotoBotanic.com to find his garden photography workshop series, which won the Garden Writers Association Best Book Gold Medal. For the month of October, any of the three Workshop e-books is 50% off with coupon code: gold50 at checkout.

1. If your summer veggie garden is done, clean it up now. Any dead or spent veggie plants can go straight to the compost, if they aren't diseased.
2. Remove summer flowers and prepare the beds for cool season color with the addition of compost or an organic soil amendment. Plant cool season annuals such as pansies, snapdragons, stocks, Iceland poppies, dianthus, calendulas, primrose and ornamental kale and cabbage.
3. Plant bulbs such as daffodils, anemones, ranunculus, bearded iris, Dutch iris, lilies and more. Purchase tulip, hyacinth and crocus bulbs and place them in the vegetable drawer of the refrigerator for 6-8 weeks to prepare them for later planting.
4. Scatter wildflower seeds, such as California poppies and others. Fall and winter rains (we hope, we hope) will help them germinate for a lavish spring flower show. These are perfect additions for wilder, less cultivated areas of the garden, such as slopes.
5. Elizabeth Licata says (<http://gardenrant.com/2015/10/end-of-season-stars.html>) that much as she likes the "prettyboy" plants that provide brief thrills in the spring in summer, now's the time to "take a good, hard look around and pay homage to those stalwarts that are still going strong in early fall". She says, "It's also when I make decisions about which perennials no longer deserve the many, many chances I've given them."
6. Plant cool season vegetables such as root crops, leafy vegetables, peas, broccoli and cauliflower.
7. If you planted your sweet peas last month, thin them out and pinch them back to force branching; there is still time to plant them by seed or starts, also.
8. Divide clumping plants that are overgrown such as ginger, clivia, agapanthus, daylily, dietes and bird of paradise. Divide perennials such as Shasta daisy, aster, chrysanthemum, rudbeckia and many others, if needed. Most perennials should be divided every 3-5 years.
9. Divide naturalized bulbs, if needed, such as belladonna lilies, daffodils, paper white narcissus and Dutch iris. If the bulbs are crowded and the bloom was sparse the previous spring, they probably should be divided.
10. Treat blue hydrangeas with aluminum sulfate to keep them blue (otherwise they will be pink next year).
11. Apply one last round of fertilizer to roses early this month.



Scarlet O'Scara
Scarecrow



Howard Garrett, "The Dirt Doctor", says, "Never under any circumstances should the leaves be removed from the site. They should either be mulched or composted. All cities should outlaw the city service of picking up leaves and grass clippings. If home and business owners have to recycle the organic matter on their property, then the landscapes are healthier, water runoff is reduced, and less tax money has to be allocated to picking up and managing leaves and other organic matter. Everybody wins! "



Chicken-wire lawn ghosts

Rain
will move
event
indoors

Children's
rock painting
art project

Third Annual Fall Plant Exchange

Create a drought-tolerant garden with free plants and cuttings

**11-12 WORKSHOP: DEER AND DROUGHT
IN THE HOME GARDEN AND COTTAGE FARM**

Saturday October 17

10 AM to 2 PM

\$5 FAMILY DONATION

CORRALITOS CULTURAL CENTER • 127 HAMES RD, CORRALITOS

ACTIVITIES

WORKSHOP

Presented by Roy Leporini—farmer turned plantsman and gardening consultant—Bonnie Pond and Cynthia Jordan, certified UCCE Master Gardeners and greenhouse growers. Roy will provide excellent insight into CA natives, drought and deer tolerant plants and the practice of eco-friendly growing habits in the garden.

PLANT EXCHANGE

An opportunity for gardeners to come together and share plants from their own gardens. Bring your starts, seedlings, divisions, rooted cuttings, bulbs, corms or seeds, and leave with new plant varieties. If you don't have anything to share, come anyway and get started!

PROPAGATION

Certified UCCE Master Gardeners demo how to start new plants from cuttings.

MARKETPLACE

GARDEN ART

Garden Whimsy

Repurposed garden art. Follow us on Facebook at [Easy Street Gardens](https://www.facebook.com/EasyStreetGardens)

Flower Me Pretty

Succulent floral designs and demo
www.pinterest.com/tamaracucchiara

FOOD ARTISANS Cat's Organic Bakery



The Plant Exchange is the opportunity for you to bring excess plants from your garden to share with the community and to take home free plants from other gardeners. Fall is the best time of the year to plant in your garden. The coming rains will provide much needed root moisture for newly planted ornamentals and edibles. The event is free, although a \$5 family donation to the nonprofit is welcomed.

From 11-12 there will be a workshop "Deer and Drought in the Home Garden and Cottage Farm". The event also includes children's rock-painting art project, garden art for sale, and creative ideas for using succulents in the home and garden. Master Gardeners will be available to educate and discuss gardening, propagation and organic gardening.....and much more. Drought loving plants propagated by the Monterey Bay Plant Propagators will be sold at extremely reasonable prices. This is a wonderful opportunity to re-

populate your garden with deer resistant and drought loving plants.



www.corralitoscultural.org • For more info: 818.4763



"These plants are not just physical objects, as we tend to think in our objectifying habits of thought. No, they are spiritual presences, honored by the religions and spiritual traditions, having more depth of meaning and importance than we might ever know." —Thomas Moore

In a recent post at Spirituality and Health (<http://spiritualityhealth.com/articles/care-soul-veggie-soul>), Thomas Moore offers his appreciation that part of his soul shares something with that of plants and flowers and vegetables. It is an interesting article, as he offers examples of vegetables and flowers being everywhere in the founding stories of the diverse spiritual traditions. He also suggests that this leads to embracing sustainability and concern for the environment: "It's a short step to an ethical position associated with the vegetative soul: a desire to protect and help flourish this green world of plants and the colorful realm of blossoming flowers".

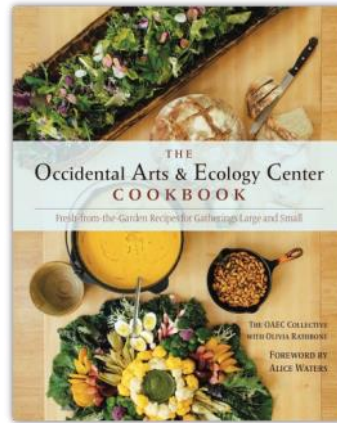
Moore has been a monk, a musician, a professor, and, for the past 30 years, a psychotherapist practicing archetypal therapy with a spiritual perspective. His latest book is [A Religion of One's Own: A Guide to Creating a Personal Spirituality in a Secular World](#).

Park Seeds suggests thinking ahead to the holidays. Autumn is seed-saving time in the garden. To gather seeds from your blooming plants, simply tie a paper bag around the flower heads, give it a shake every few day, and when you hear the rattling sound of loose seeds, you will know the harvest is in! These seeds can then be labeled, packaged attractively in holiday wrap, and given to gardening friends with simple instructions for sowing. If you buy seed, house or shade plants such as coleus are easy to start from seed. Or make cuttings from your own plants. Geraniums, begonias and impatiens are very easy to root from cuttings—wrap the small lovely flowering houseplants in colored gift foil. For more information on living gifts, visit parkseed.com.

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center Cookbook Fresh-from-the-Garden Recipes for Gatherings Large and Small

by The OAEC Collective with Olivia Rathbone

More than anything, food brings us together—as families and as communities. So there is no better place to begin creating a healthier and sustainable community than around a shared table. This cookbook is a beautifully illustrated collection of 200 unique and delicious vegetarian recipes from the renowned California-based farm, educational retreat center, and eco-thinktank. OAEC has a passionate ethos about eating seasonally, and this book shows readers how to cook based on what is available in the garden. This unique cookbook incorporates ingredients from all seasons, including weeds, flowers, herbs, nuts, fruits, mushrooms, and other forages. The recipes also include the quantities and measurements necessary to cook for a crowd—making each dish perfect to cook at home, or to share at parties, potlucks, and community events. With sample seasonal menus to inspire cooks throughout the year, The OAEC Cookbook offers a wide range of recipes such as: Carrot and Chamomile Soup, Summer Squash Ribbons with Purple Shiso, Roasted Asparagus and Nettle Risotto with Pea Tendrils, and Pepita-Encrusted Squash Blossoms Stuffed with Goat Cheese and Mint. There are cold vegetable plates for warm summer picnics, and readers will learn how to create delicious salad dressing recipes for garden-fresh greens, including Loquat Ginger, Golden Tomato Cumin, and Preserved Lemon Brine. There are comfort foods like pots of savory Biodiversity Beans and Winter Sourdough Pizza, and warming snacks like Toasted Hazelnuts with Thyme. Readers can top a plate of veggie sides with a generous dollop of one of OAEC's famous sauces and pestos, and



learn how to infuse their own Honey Syrups for homemade cocktails. Last but not least, delicious standout desserts like Fresh Fruit Fools, a Dark Roast Winter Squash Tart with Hazelnut Crust, or the Cardamom-Rose-Plum Bars. This informative cookbook will help gardeners find new ways to cook with their vegetables, farmers' market

shoppers looking to expand their repertoire, home cooks who want to cook healthy for their family or host a big dinner party, chefs looking for inspired recipes using weeds and perennial fruits and vegetables, and community-based organizations who cook for crowds on a regular basis.

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center's 80-acre site in Sonoma County California serves as a model of sustainability for the greater San Francisco Bay Area and an inspiring meeting place for social changemakers from around the world. Affectionately referred to as the "Mother Garden," OAEC curates a collection of over three-thousand rare food crop varieties and multiuse plants, and through this open-air classroom of gardens and wildlands, has provided training, inspiration, and support for thousands of individuals and "daughter gardens" since its inception in 1994. OAEC's diverse suite of interwoven programs—restorative agriculture and heirloom seed saving, watershed health, traditional ecological knowledge, permaculture, community resilience design, democratic self-governance, and multicultural organizing methods, to name a few—combine research, demonstration, education, and policy advocacy to develop community-based strategies and regional scale solutions to the pressing environmental and economic crises of our time. OAEC is well respected in the nonprofit world for its dedication to participatory decision making, so in true collaborative fashion, this book is written with input from many voices including current and former residents, cooks, artists, gardeners, educators, and visionaries.

The Gardeners' Club Membership

The time has come for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$12.00, due by January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2016. Dues entitle members to all club educational programs, our special events, plant trades and our awesome monthly newsletter. The "green" option is to receive an electronic PDF **FULL-COLOR** version of the newsletter by checking the



Come grow with us!

newsletter e-mail option below.

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. Renew your membership now so you won't miss a thing...you'll be glad you did.

And...with gift-giving season almost here, consider sharing your passion for gardening, and supporting our club, by giving your favorite gardening enthusiast an opportunity to connect, share and learn with us. A gift membership is a gift nobody will want to return!

Your Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

Newsletter Preference (check one): ☐ Full color PDF via e-mail ☐ Paper copy (B&W) via snail mail

Gift Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Newsletter Preference (check one): ☐ Full color PDF via e-mail ☐ Paper copy (B&W) via snail mail

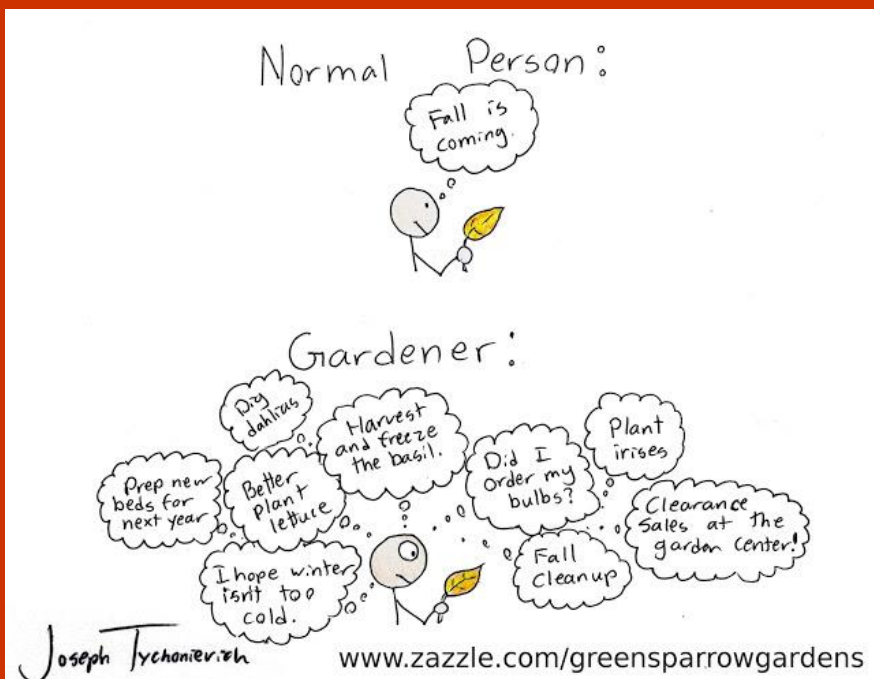
Enclose check for \$12 per member made out to *The Gardeners' Club*. Mail to

The Gardeners' Club c/o Suzanne Mercado, P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

THE PERFECT CALENDAR FOR 2016...I'M ORDERING MINE NOW.



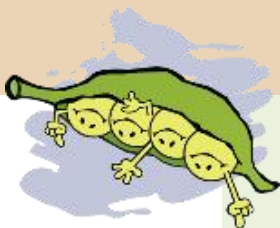
Interested in making Day of the Dead planters? Go to <http://www.instructables.com/id/Day-of-the-Dead-Planters/>.



Printed on 100% recycled paper



It's easy-peasy to join our club!
Dues are \$12 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



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