



The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

JUNE 2019

Writer/Editor: Lise
Bixler (lisebixler@sbcglobal.net)

Great Soil, Great Plants

Due to a family emergency, our April speaker, Terry Lyngso, was not able to attend the meeting. She will instead be our guest for our June meeting. Here's a recap of what she'll cover.

Terry is President of Lyngso Garden Materials, a 64 year old family business. In 2018 Lyngso Garden Materials became an Employee Stock Ownership Plan and will eventually be a 100% employee owned business.

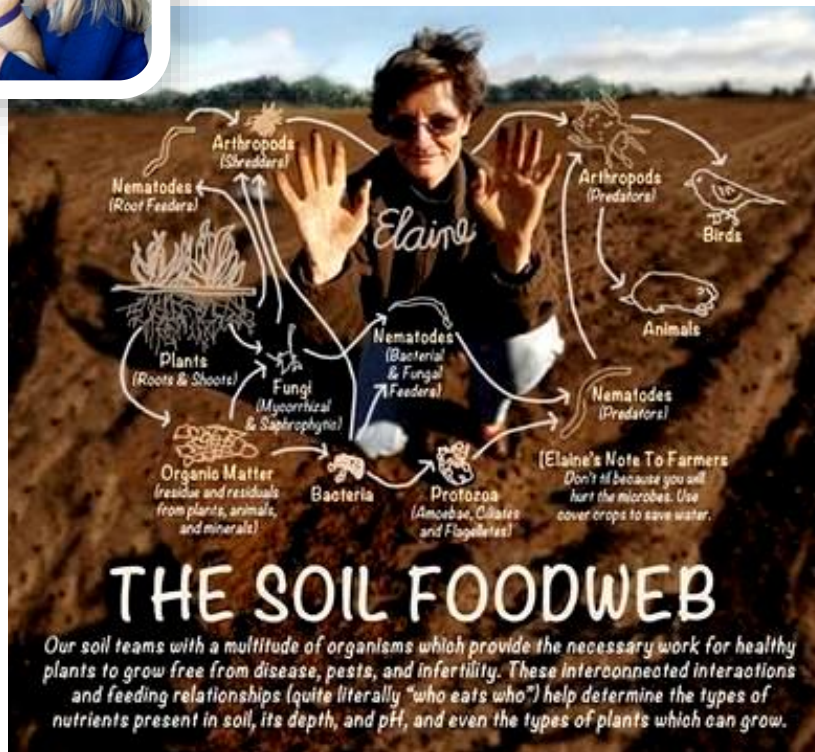
Terry's talk will be about developing a flourishing relationship between plants and the life in the soil. She will talk about ways you can encourage and grow a diversity of beneficial life in your garden soil. She will bring some samples of Lynso's soil mixes to share.



Terry says, "I have always been interested in soil and compost. The big moment in my understanding came when I heard Dr Elaine Ingham speak at UC Santa Cruz in 2001. For those of you who might not be familiar with her, Dr. Ingham is a microbiologist and soil biology researcher. She is known as a leader in soil microbiology and through her

research her name become synonymous with the Soil Food Web.

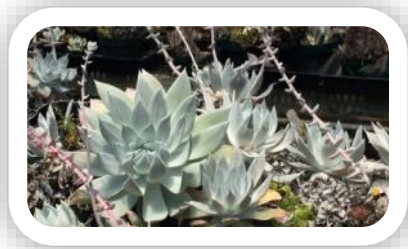
The Lyngso company says "Soil is life! The ideal soil is made up of a balance between clay, sand, loam, organic matter, minerals, water and air...we believe in the soil food web with a healthy balance of microorganisms that help the soil be alive, organic and full of life."



The relationship between plants and soil biology and the water cycle and climate are all linked. Our future depends upon our relationship with the soil and plant community.

Meeting: Thursday, June 13th, 7 p.m., Aptos Grange, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.
Refreshments will be served. Thanks to Evelyn Zhovreboff for snacks, Dorothy Kukla for dessert and Julie Pendergast for beverages.

Planting and caring for Succulents



Quail Hollow Ranch

Sunday, June 2nd, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Contact: Sue Procter, sprocter@cruzio.com, 831 566-3382

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz

Join UC Master Gardeners Sue Procter and Tina Heitzman for a hands-on class about planting and caring for succulents. You'll learn about the fascinating varieties of succulents, planting techniques, soil selection, propagation by cuttings and divisions and ongoing care including watering, fertilizing and pest management.

Everyone will get hands-on instruction planting succulents in a pot they can take home. Please bring a special container with a drain hole for your planting. You can bring an overgrown or straggly succulent already in a container to learn how to refresh and re-pot it.

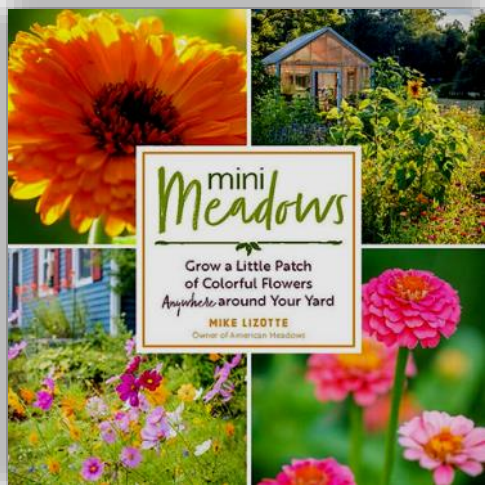
This free class will include a succulent swap at this event so everyone is invited to bring succulent cuttings to share with one another for our plantings and to take home.

Supplies including succulent cuttings, potting soil, top dressings and some extra pots will be available for all to share.

Please arrive 15 min early to register or sign in. Instruction is free but Quail Hollow collects \$3.00 for use of the facilities.

SAVE YOUR SEAT at <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=24859>

Mike Lizotte, aka "the Seed Man," knows that you don't need large tracts of land to have a meadow. With a little inspiration, tips for customization, and basic growing guide-lines, anyone can plant a meadow, in just about any size space. Order your signed copy at <https://www.americanmeadows.com>



Edible Landscaping class



Common Roots Farm, 335 Golf Club Dr, Santa Cruz, 95060, (formerly known as Costanoa Commons).

June 8, 0:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Free class.

Contact: Karen at kacozza@gmail.com.

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz

Interested in adding edibles to your home landscape? It's easy (mostly) and fun. It's also good for the environment, your health and your social life! It's not mysterious or hard to do. Whether you live in an apartment, in a home with a small yard, or a multi acre property, we will share with you ideas for growing food around your home that you and others can enjoy. Designed for beginners and intermediate gardeners, this course will cover such introductory topics as why to do it, why not do it, how to do it and what to plant. We will incorporate this information into small beginnings such as adding a single edible to your existing landscape, container gardening, and creating a 100 sq. ft. edible landscape. Instructors Betsy Allen and Judith Connor are Monterey Bay Master Gardeners who will share their own experiences in creating edible landscapes. In the past two years, Betsy has been gradually converting her urban yard in Santa Cruz from a conventional low maintenance landscape to a bountiful source of fruits and vegetables. Connor lives on several acres in Royals Oaks and for many years has focused on restoration of the 1880s farm buildings and orchard.

Please arrive 15 minutes early for check-in or registration.

The word "meadow" conjures images of wide expanses of land, but a mini meadow — an easy-to-grow, eco-friendly, informal flower garden begun with seed sown directly into the soil — can grow in as little as 50 square feet and for less than \$20!

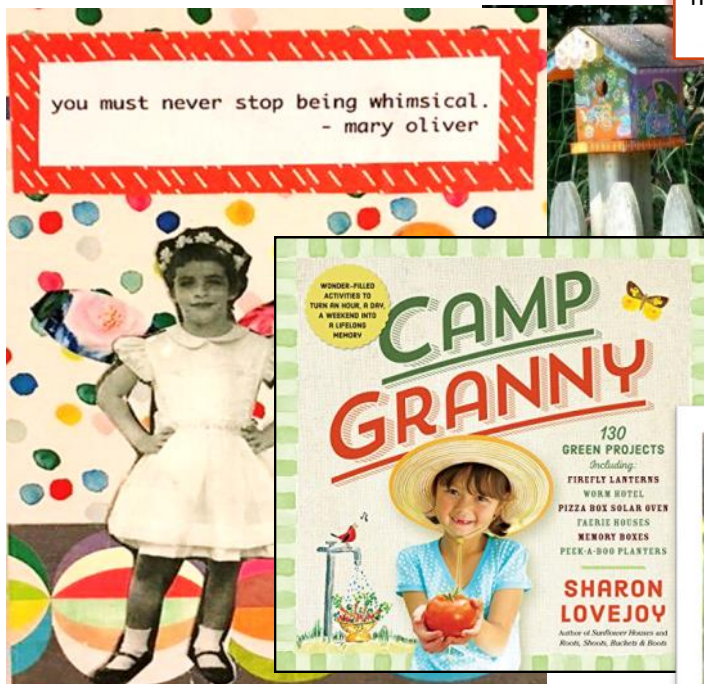
From choosing the right variety of seeds, preparing the soil, sowing evenly, and watering well, author Mike Lizotte guides readers through the process of successfully creating a miniature meadow that suits their climate, soil, and growing goals, whether planting to beautify a hellstrip, halt erosion, fill a boggy spot, or establish a nesting area for bees and butterflies. Mini Meadows offers gardeners of all levels the keys to creating, caring for, and reaping the rewards of thriving meadows through the seasons, year after year.

Sculpture IS 2019 In the Garden



Sculpture Is 2019: In the Garden" is the 13th annual sculpture exhibit put on by Pajaro Valley Arts and Sierra Azul. Opening June 1st, it runs through Oct. 31 at the nursery, located at 2660 East Lake Ave. in Watsonville. Sculptures of all shapes, sizes, media and colors intertwine with the various plants at Sierra Azul Nursery and Gardens.

GRANDPARENT CAMP IN THE GARDEN



Marcia Meyer shared a great link with many ideas for having a camp for your grandchildren in your garden (<http://www.fleamarketgardening.org/2015/06/06/grandma-camp-in-the-garden/>). I used to have "Bixlerville" at our place every summer when our first grandchildren were younger, creating fond memories for all of us (I hope.) The grandma camp article warns about not having too much or too long planned because you will be exhausted; my problem was I had so

A Garden of POETRY & MUSIC



Saturday, June 8, 12 noon – 2:30 pm

Join us for an afternoon of poetry and music in the beautiful setting of the Alan Chadwick Garden at UC Santa Cruz. Featured this year are readings by poets Charles Atkinson, Danush Laméris, Maggie Paul, Robert Pesich, David Robles, and Pireeni Sundaralingam. Music by singer-songwriter Nick Gallant

This year's event will also feature a silent auction. Free admission, free parking available at Merrill College. Call 459-3240 for more information.

much planned I exhausted the kiddos.

Even more inspiring is this book Camp Granny by gardener Sharon Lovejoy, which is an absolute encyclopedia of ideas. It has so many wonder-filled activities, including 130 green projects to connect grandparents and grandchildren through nature—in the kitchen, the garden, and the art room.

Having a grandparent camp in your garden is about being adventurous, about being curious, about noticing and really seeing things—about instilling a lifelong sense of wonder.



Hopping logs—easy!



BOUQUETS TO ART

June 4–9. One week only.

Discover a new palette of summer blooms at Bouquets to Art, a weeklong display of floral designs that takes inspiration from the works of art in the de Young's galleries—now in its 35th year.

While the galleries are blooming, the museum will host a series of lectures and demonstrations featuring renowned guest speakers. Lose yourself in Alethea Haramopolis' wild and unruly floral designs, or watch as Max Gill produces dramatic arrangements using materials foraged from the San Francisco Botanical Garden. For more information and to buy tickets go to https://deyoung.famsf.org/bouquets-to-art?utm_source=FAMSF&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=bta2019&utm_content=mktg_ann_cta&mc_cid=930ca610b6&mc_eid=21491e81d7.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting will be on June 24th. The meeting will be held at 6pm at the home of Anita McCreery 5029 Winkle Ave, in Santa Cruz. All are welcome to attend.

Build Your Own Compost Bin

Date: June 15, 2019

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Contact: Karen Cozza kacozza@gmail.com 408-375-4985

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz

Location: [Common Roots Farm](#)

Event Details

Anyone can learn to build a simple, versatile, stacking compost bin and we will show you how! In this hands-on demo we will be using wood from an old deck and saving it from the landfill by repurposing it into a handsome container suitable for composting.

[Save your seat](#) <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?>

Class: Summer Fruit Tree Care

Sat., June 1, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, UCSC Farm

Summer fruit tree care is more than about pruning: proper irrigation, feeding, and pest control, combined with a summer pruning plan, are the best ways to ensure the health and productivity of your fruit trees. Learn about summer fruit tree care from Orin Martin, manager of the Alan Chadwick Garden at UC Santa Cruz. Please pre-register using this link: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4196655>



Fairy/Miniature Garden Workshop

June 1, 11 am– 1 pm.

Go to Alladin's Nursery, t2905 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville, to create

your very own fairy/miniature garden!. Your instructor will be Tamara Cucchiara, better known as "The Succulent Diva." An expert in succulent designing and miniature gardening, demonstrations, teaching, care and propagation. Her love for gardening and succulents shows in her amazing work!

Cost: \$20 per person Includes: Terra cotta pot, soil, moss, decorative rock, (2) 2" succulents, and (1) 3" accent plant.

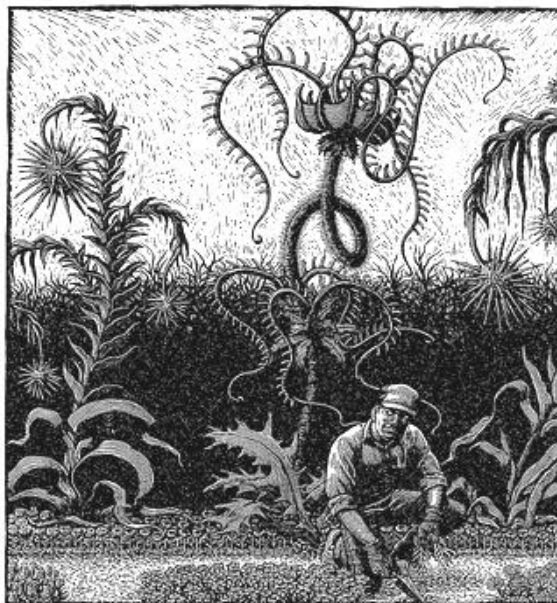
Fairy garden figures not included, but we carry a large selection available for sale, so you can select the pieces you would like to use for your miniature masterpiece. Space is limited! For more information, or to RSVP, please call: 831 724 7517

Weeds. What is a weed? I think the classic definition is a plant that's growing where you don't want it to grow, but I doubt that this would apply to most self-sown flowers like the cosmos or love-in-a-mist that come up year after year, often in inappropriate places. But I do know that many people think of nasturtiums as weeds, probably because they're so hardy and will spread over a large area. Not me though!! I love nasturtiums. According to Ralph Waldo Emerson, a weed is a plant whose virtues have yet to be discovered.

I spend a lot of time pulling weeds but over the years have grown to appreciate their hardiness and perseverance. Have you noticed as I have that some flowering weeds will set flowers when they're very very small and it's near the end of the flowering season? They want to sow their seeds so badly that they'll try blooming when they're much too small. And then there are the sneaky weeds that grow very close or even in the midst of a desired plant so you won't

Weeds

by Sirleen Ghileri



hoe in established beds because it's too easy to hoe out something you want to keep.

I planted and maintain a long strip of garden by Trout Gulch Road and as soon as I got most of the ivy and grass pulled out I planted an aggressive ground cover that serves to keep many weeds from germinating and provides a bonus as it flowers aggressively too. I wish I knew the name of this ground cover but I don't. It gets no water except from rain and starts to look exhausted by the end of summer but it perks right up when the rains start.

Then there are the plants that are weeds to some but not to others. I actually like the yellow oxalis that blooms so readily all over the county in wild places and in gardens. I love the way it looks at the edges of roads and in orchards, but probably don't want to get it

started in my flower beds. I imagine that if the yellow oxalis was difficult to grow we'd be buying it at garden centers and bragging when it bloomed!

Another weed I often appreciate is a solitary plantain that gets enough water that it produces tall spiky flower spikes above its rosette of leaves. I don't have a lawn so don't mind the odd dandelion or two. The bees love the flowers and the grandchildren love the seed heads. I don't like bindweed at all, but really it's not much different from a morning glory... I wonder what a garden of cossetted 'weeds' would look like???

There are reasons to like weeds. When soil is disturbed by tilling, fire or floods weeds are the pioneers. They move in to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion, feed the insects and ultimately become compost to restore the soil. Miner's Lettuce is a weed that grows in late winter for the first salad green of the year. Weeds produce flowers for insects, leaves for caterpillars and forage for deer.

I'll leave you with this quote that I like.



"People who spend a great deal of time in their gardens attest to the natural mindfulness that gardening requires. What could be more naturally mindful than weeding? It requires a great deal of sustained attention. Weeds need to be taken up with care: Pull too hard, and the weed breaks in your fingers, leaving the root to grow and spread. Different weeds need different techniques and, sometimes, tools. When we weed our gardens, we have to pay attention to where and how we walk and bend. Move too far in one direction or another, and we'll squash growing things."

- Sura Lama Das, Awakening to the Sacred



notice them until they get big or flower.

I rarely go into a garden bed thinking I'll pull all the weeds there. Instead I prioritize. If a weed is setting buds or flowering that's the first one out so I won't have to pull its offspring later this year or next year. Remember the old saying "One year's seed is seven years weed"! Next is anything that's prickly like blackberry vines or thistles or have horrid seeds like Goat's Head or Burr Clover. One thing that makes this work is the weeds just keep growing, so if I skip them one day they'll keep growing and I'll notice them in the future when they're bigger. I do most of my weeding in the winter when the rains have softened the soil and they're ever so easy to pull. I don't



You are invited to the Homeless Garden Project Farm for a gourmet, 4-course dinner prepared by exceptional, local chefs featuring fresh food grown on the farm. Enjoy a farm tour, drinks - including special wine pairings - live music and engaging talks by speakers focusing on sustainability. Early Bird price is. \$125. More info: <http://www.homelessgardenproject.org/>.

Gardeners' Club Open Garden, June 8, 11-2:

Dena Gonsalves, 3145 Salisbury Drive, Santa Cruz

All About ROSES Workshop with Lunch

Friday, June 7, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Location: Birdsong Orchards, an organic farm located in Watsonville (613 Lakewood Rd.). This workshop will start with a brief overview discussing sourcing and growing roses in your own home garden. Next, we will take you on a tour of roses growing in our field to see different varieties in their full glory and different stages of plant maturity. Finally, we will gather round to create gorgeous bouquets to take home. All of the roses, filler foliage and vases are provided as part of the workshop as well as a light lunch and beverages. Cost: \$45. More info at <https://www.birdsongorchards.com/>

Workshop cost is \$45 to learn all about buying, planting & growing roses organically as well as arranging rose bouquets. All guests will have the opportunity to make and take home their own rose bouquet.

Reuse Your Potting Soil: A Money Saving Option

Potting soil is expensive and having to constantly purchase more is a drain on our budgets. We want to practice sustainable gardening, and we'd much rather be spending our money on new, exciting plants for our gardens. The dirt you used last season can indeed be recycled provided it is disease and bug free.



The main problem with potting soil after it has been used is that it doesn't have a lot of nutrients left. This is especially true if it has been used for high energy vegetables such as tomatoes. Boosting the nutrient levels is necessary. Used potting soil tends to get particularly dense, and needs amendments to become more friable.

Excellent amendments for adding volume and helping drainage include perlite, sand, rice hulls and compost. Perlite increases the surface area for friendly bacteria particularly well. Coir can be used as filler as an alternative to peat moss.

Choices for adding nutrients: Add compost, worm castings, blood and bone meal, bat guano, kelp meal,

alfalfa meal, fish meal, organic slow-release fertilizer, etc.

Add crushed rock dust, dolomite, epsom salts, and molasses to provide a range of vitamins and minerals.

Adding a splash of microorganisms to any soil mix is beneficial. Burgeoning colonies of beneficial root bacteria make plants hardy in the face of weather and disease, pests and poor pH.

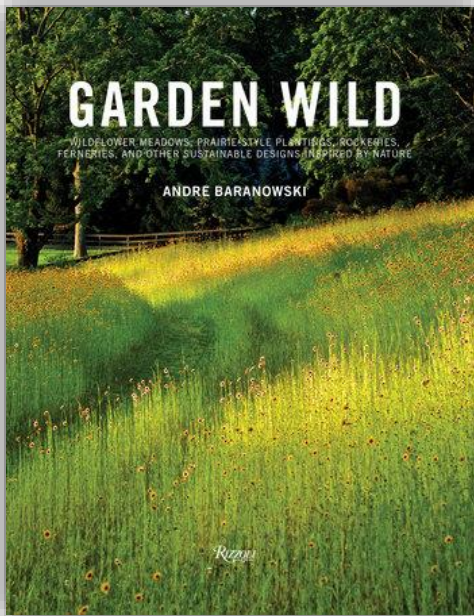
If all of this sounds daunting, there are some commercial products available to recharge your container potting soil. Gardener's Supply Company has organic Container Booster Compost Mix. One 6-quart bag (\$9.95) is enough to revitalize 96 dry quarts of

soil. This potent, all-organic formula includes a complete diet of nutrients and trace elements to keep plants lush and healthy. Just 4 to 8 tablespoons recharges a quart of soil. Made in Vermont. Contains concentrated plant and manure compost, washed granite, Chilean nitrate, black rock phosphate, and seven other natural ingredients. <https://www.gardeners.com/buy/organic-compost-for-containers/31-571.html>



**Garden Wild: Wildflower Meadows,
Prairie-Style Plantings, Rockeries,
Ferneries, and other Sustainable Designs
Inspired by Nature**

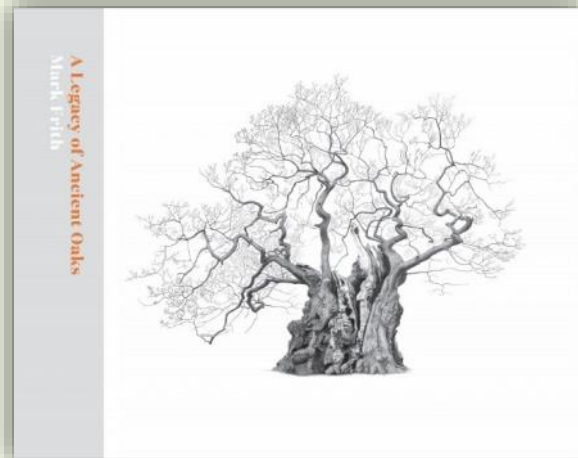
Written by Andre Baranowski, Foreword by
Dorothy Kalins



This book is a survey of 12 breathtakingly beautiful gardens by award-winning photographer Andre Baranowski, whose eye for beauty will embolden readers the world over to embrace their inner instincts and create their own garden wild.

The new movement in contemporary gardening is about going back to the wilderness, creatively landscaping with native plants to enrich their environments and seamlessly merge with their natural surroundings. Politely rejecting traditional manicured, hedged and pruned gardening aesthetics to invite an alternative kind of beauty: wildly bursting with indigenous plants, old-growth trees, vibrant patches of wildflowers and perennials, succulents, un-pruned bushes and ornamental grasses. New York City's Highline is a famous example and this landscaping approach is becoming increasingly popular for private homeowners. This book surveys twelve such breathtaking gardens captured by award winning photographer Andre Baranowski. The featured gardens range from small private residences to large properties, by renowned landscapers such as Oehme van Sweden, Fernando Caruncho, Jorge Sanchez, and Piet Oudolf. The texts detail each project's approach and the hurdles presented by its landscape, providing the reader with an array of instructional ideas from an insider's mindset. Guaranteed to be a boundless source of inspiration and treasured by lovers of gardens worldwide.

A Legacy of Ancient Oaks



MARK FRITH AND EMMA CRICHTON-MILLER
Distributed for Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

"I hope that in some modest way these drawings express man's profound relationship with the natural world, and, if it has one, something of the soul of the ancient oak tree."—Mark Frith

Mighty oak trees are a symbol of strength and resilience, thanks to their longevity and immense size. Some of the oldest of these trees are nearly a thousand years old. They have stood watch as empires rose and fall. But they also mark the passage of time on a smaller scale. Many who grow up near a favorite oak see it as an enduring presence in their lives—a magnificent constant in their changing lives.

Artist Mark Frith grew up near ones of these oaks and developed a closeness to one local character—the Great Oak at Nibley Green. It was this oak that inspired Frith to put graphite to paper and begin a remarkable series of large-scale oak drawings. Now, twenty-two of his works are collected here for the first time in *A Legacy of Ancient Oaks*.

Each drawing shows an English oak in its entirety, with exceptional detail conveyed in these intricate graphite works. The ancient features of these trees come to life in these pages. Each oak is shown in full along with detailed close-ups of the drawings. A directory details where to find each tree, so that readers can experience these majestic individuals themselves. This stunning book is the ideal gift for art and tree lovers alike, and a fitting dedication to these ancient "I hope that in some modest way these drawings express man's profound relationship with the natural world, and, if it has one, something of the soul of the ancient oak tree."—Mark Frith

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Botanical INTERESTS®

Let us inspire and educate the gardener in you!™

<https://www.botanicalinterests.com/category/Zinnias>



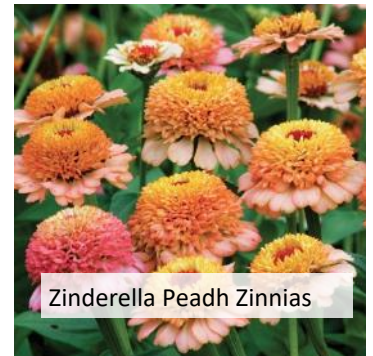
You don't have to be a strong and hardy person to grow zinnias, but this poet suggests zinnias *DO* have those qualities.

Zinnias

by Valerie Worth

Zinnias, stout and stiff,
Stand no nonsense: their colors
Stare, their leaves
Grow straight out, their petals
Jut like clipped cardboard,
Round, in neat flat rings.

Even cut and bunched
Arranged to please us
In the house, in the water, they
Will hardly wilt— I know
Someone like zinnias: I wish
I were like zinnias.



Zinderella Peadh Zinnias

Grow the Best Zinnias

Do you have a zeal for zinnias? You aren't alone—we all do! If you are new to zinnias be prepared for endless blooms in bold, pastel, spotted, striped, and streaked colors this summer, and lots of butterflies visiting your garden. Zinnias are easy to grow and make excellent, long-lasting cutting flowers for bouquets.

Here are our best tips for zinnias:

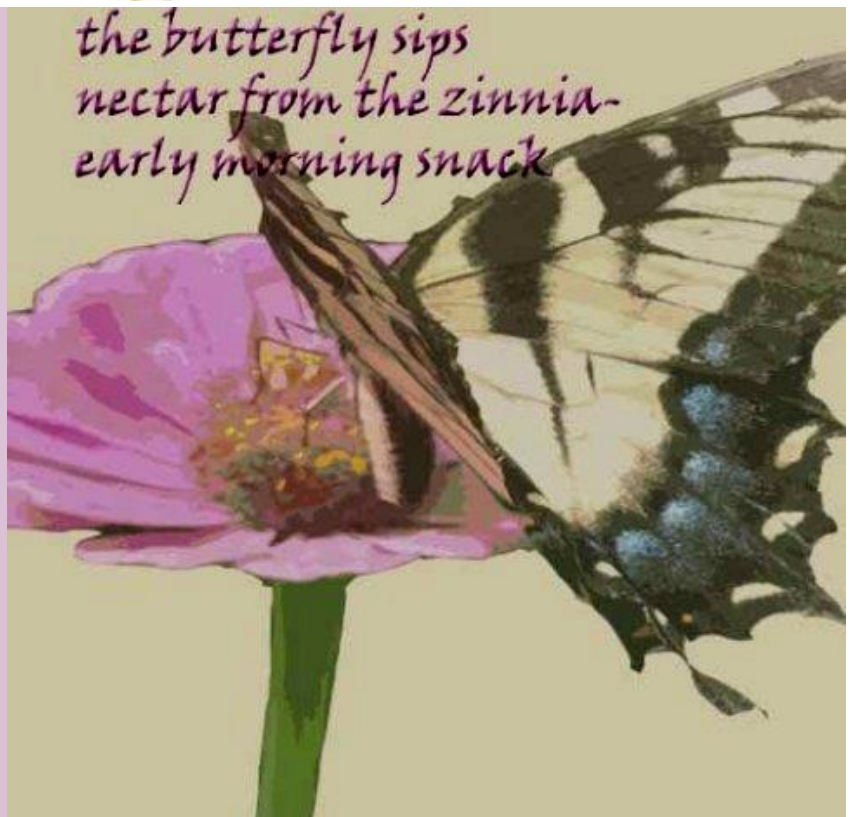
1. **Zinnias can be direct sown.** Warm soil (70°–80°F) is best, which is usually a couple of weeks after your average last frost date.
2. **Prevent powdery mildew** by thinning/spacing plants properly and watering only the soil, not the foliage.
3. **Want more flowers? Encourage branching** by pinching the top growth off once seedlings have 4 or more sets of leaves.
4. **Blooms will last longest** in a vase if they are harvested before the small, yellow, flowers emerge from between the petals. It is always a good idea to harvest in the morning and place stems into water right as they are cut.
5. **Encourage blooming** by deadheading frequently, redirecting energy to flower production rather than seed production.



Botanical Interests suggests using these chartreuse blooms to decorate a platter of sliced red tomatoes or watermelon! That'll make us green with envy.

Haiku

the butterfly sips
nectar from the zinnia-
early morning snack



Summer Solstice June 21st

Summer Solstice is the height of Summer, it is the day when the Sun is at its most powerful. It is the longest day of the year. After the Solstice the Sun will start to loose power and the days will start to get shorter. It is a reminder that we are in Mid-Summer and there are only about 2 months of Summer left so enjoy them.



WHAT TO DO WITH BOLTED LETTUCE

Fry 'em. Treat bolted lettuce like oriental greens that are slightly strong tasting. Add the torn up leaves into any stir fry and add some flavouring of chilli, ginger, soy sauce etc. as you wilt them down.



Side Dish. Try frying the bolted lettuce on its own and serve it as a green side dish, just like some pubs and restaurants serve wilted spinach as an optional side dish instead of salad or chips. Fry them in some butter or oil in a pan and serve alongside any meal that takes your fancy.

JUNE GARDENING TIPS

After your roses have finished their first show of the year, give them some fertilizer. Don't let them set hips if you want to keep them blooming. Feed your camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons with an acid fertilizer after they finish blooming. This is also time to prune them back if you want to.

Do not fertilize herbs. Fertilized herbs grow lush and green at the expense of flavor—grow them scrawnier for more intensity.

Try using strawberries to edge your flowerbeds. I planted yellow alpine strawberries last year and they are flourishing.

Be vigilant about emptying standing water to prevent mosquitos. Store trugs, pots and watering cans upside down.

Looking through the newsletter archives, I found this great tip from Sharon Hull in our year 2000 newsletter:

"A customer at San Lorenzo told me she had solved the eternal problem of cats using her garden for a litter box by spreading Cocoa Mulch—that they don't like it and won't dig in it. I tried it and she's right! Don't know if it is the strong smell of chocolate or the feel of the hulls on their paws, but I now use it on all newly dug and planted areas. It looks nice and woodsy, smells heavenly and, for several months now, has solved my cat problem."



Remembering all the dads in our lives

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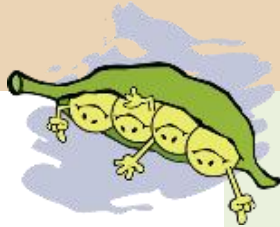
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It's easy-peasy to join our club!

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.