



The Gardeners' Club  
Santa Cruz County,  
California

**MARCH 2023**

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## **WATER NEUTRAL GARDENS**

### **Featuring Golden Love**

Many Club members have asked for a meeting to answer questions about irrigating our gardens. One member asked, "How do we water a garden that combines plants like natives that don't need water with plants that do need some?" There are various ways to irrigate and manage water—there is much to learn.

Golden Love will be at our March meeting to answer some of our many questions. He is a trained horticulturalist, certified and consulting arborist, a licensed landscape contractor and a permaculture designer. In the midst of climate change and drought, and now the unusual challenge of dealing with so much rain, he is excited about helping us maintain the vibrancy of our gardens in environmentally sustainable and cost-effective methods. He is the owner of Love's Gardens specializing in rainwater harvesting, greywater, drought tolerant gardens and edible landscaping.

We often need help dealing with extreme dry conditions and drought issues, but this winter—yikes! Golden Love reports that people need help right now dealing with too much water, flooding of their gardens and how to remedy it. Super saturation can cause root damage to plants, and drainage is a big issue to avoid causing damage to homes and accessory structures.

Bring your questions, your success stories and less-than-successful stories, for a lively exchange of ideas.

**Thursday, March 9th, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Aptos Grange Hall, 2555 Mar Vista Dr.**

More on  
water  
neutral  
gardens on  
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## BLUEBERRIES FOR THE HOME GARDEN AND SMALL FARM

**MARCH 11, 2023  
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**Hay Barn, 1008 Ranch View Road  
Santa Cruz**



Contact: [agroecology@ucsc.edu](mailto:agroecology@ucsc.edu), 831-459-3240. Sponsor: UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology

<https://calendar.ucsc.edu/event/blueberries-for-the-home-garden-and-small-farm-4658#.YA0nbMLD6>

Cost: \$50; Pre-registration is required.

varietal selection, site selection, planting, pruning, and general care of blueberries in the home garden. Join us in the Hay Barn or watch online for \$5.

Join UCSC Farm Garden Manager Christof Bernau as he covers the fundamental information you need to know to successfully grow and harvest blueberries in the home garden. Beginning in the UCSC Hay Barn, Christof will discuss a brief history and origin of these crops, their primary cultural requirements, site selection and soil preparation, trellising systems, varietal selection and sourcing.

The group will then walk up to the farm and look at each of these crops in three dimensions, using the living plants to illustrate key terminology and plant physiology and discuss seasonal care requirements and the specifics of winter pruning.

Things to bring: Layered clothing and walking shoes, rain gear depending on the weather. This event takes place rain or shine.



## START SUMMER GARDEN SEEDS WITH RENEE'S GARDEN SEEDS—FELTON

Hosted by Santa Cruz Public Libraries, join Renee Shepherd of Renee's Garden Seeds at 10 a.m. March 18 in the Felton Library Community Room at Felton Branch Library, 6299 Gushee St., Felton. Participants will learn how to start a summer garden indoors and grow tomatoes, peppers and eggplants.

Shepherd will give a demonstration on how to start these summer garden stars from seed indoors and how to grow them successfully outdoors in our climate for a bountiful harvest. Participants will receive a packet of Shepherd's Garden seeds.

Registration is required. <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/10403585?fbclid=IwAR0laabEk9dT5RVnHe2IZOVfZVfQ8vNL6XfOsXc9gTyQ8PMYCpG7YjCAfQ4>



[8vNL6XfOsXc9gTyQ8PMYCpG7YjCAfQ4](https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/10403585?fbclid=IwAR0laabEk9dT5RVnHe2IZOVfZVfQ8vNL6XfOsXc9gTyQ8PMYCpG7YjCAfQ4)

Learn about



## WORKSHOPS

<https://diggardens.com/product-category/workshops/>



ORCHID 101: REPOTTING AND  
REBLOOMING | MARCH 4TH @ 3PM  
\$45.00



GRAPEVINE SUCCULENT ARRANGEMENT  
| MARCH 11TH & 12TH @ 3PM  
\$100.00



LIVING SUCCULENT FRAME | MARCH  
18TH & 19TH @ 3PM  
\$145.00



STAGHORN FERN MOUNTING  
WORKSHOP | MARCH 25TH & 26TH @  
3PM  
\$85.00



## WHAT IS WITH THE MAGENTA MADNESS?

Magenta is a dynamic color that pushes for attention, so no doubt you've noticed its abundance in this newsletter. Viva Magenta has been named the Pantone Color Institute's 2023 Color of the Year while being fittingly proclaimed "an unconventional shade for an unconventional time." It offers a burst of energy and optimism. Magenta pairs well with all sorts of greens—a blue-ish grey-ish green provides a soothing balance.

## PRIMROSES!

Consider primroses. They come in many colors. Digging Dog offered some pinky-purple choices.

### *Pretty Primulas...*

*Derived from the Italian word, primavera, the name of this beloved genus pays homage to the way its early blossoms welcome spring. Adorning a handsome rosette of often textural foliage, the petite circular flowers present an array of colors and shapes, including funnels, drumsticks, candelabras and pincushion styles. Many boast a delightful scent as an added bonus. Indigenous to the Himalayas plus the cooler zones of Europe and Southeast Asia, most Primulas prefer a well-drained site with bright dappled shade, adequate moisture and good air circulation. Perfect for patio containers and jewel-box-like plantings, they also look lovely when massed near water's edge or in a woodland setting.*



One of the loveliest primroses, 'Primula rosea' 'Gigas' pretties up the garden in early spring with carmine-pink flowers. Adorning stout stems,

numerous brightly colored blooms gather in good-sized umbels before the rosettes of notched green leaves fully develop. Tuck this small-scale performer into the front row amid Luzula 'Solar Flair' and Pulmonaria 'Little Star'. Blooms March–April.

<https://www.diggingdog.com/category/perennials/8>



## MORE! MORE!



Garden phlox is a classic perennial adding splashes of color. It can reach heights of 2 to 4 feet. Phlox is a tall, clump-forming plant that produces large, showy flower displays in the summer. Flowers in white, pink, red, blue, and purple are readily found in gardening stores. It blooms from summer to late October.

Oh, lilies—let us count the ways! Lily Stargazer is a flamboyant, fuchsia pink flower with dark spots and white edges. This Oriental Lily is especially suited to containers, producing an unforgettable fragrance making an excellent fresh cut flower. Also beloved by bees and butterflies!



Creeping thyme, most fragrant ground cover! Thyme is much more than an herb to season food. In ancient times it was brewed by Egyptians for mummification, bathed in by Greek soldiers for courage in battle and used by the Sumerians as an antiseptic

and antifungal. For a surprise, check out the active ingredient list on a bottle of Listerine mouthwash. In your own garden it can be used for culinary purposes or as a purely ornamental landscape feature. It grows best in well-drained soil and sunshine, although it will tolerate some shade. It is quite drought tolerant once established.

Information on seed packets [6] will also help you to figure out which seeds





# Viva Magenta Veggies!

## CELERY, CHINESE PINK

From **Rare Seeds** (Baker Seeds) <https://www.rareseeds.com/celery-chinese-pink>



Stunning bright pink celery from China. This easy-to-

grow variety completes the nutritional rainbow! Pink celery is popular in northern China, especially Beijing, where the attractive pink stalks are served in high-end restaurants. This tasty Asian type celery is a great choice for beginner gardeners, as it is much easier to grow than European-type celery. Flavor is yummy and lightly sweet, the texture is light and crunchy, and its eye appeal is unstoppable. Its brilliant bubblegum pink color makes it a truly delightful addition to the veggie patch and market display. This vibrantly colored veggie is sure to be a hit in kids' gardens, as well as at farmers markets. Sure to be the next exciting colorful crop for fresh vegetable marketing. We are excited about the culinary potential of this nutritious and fun variety. It is quite easy to grow, and even the baby plants are stunning neon pink. We love this!



Photo by Catalina Castillo



## CHARD, MAGENTA SUNSET

Annie's Annuals, 6-pack

[https://www.anniesannuals.com/signs/b%20-%20c/images//chard\\_magenta\\_02.jpg](https://www.anniesannuals.com/signs/b%20-%20c/images//chard_magenta_02.jpg)

Chard is one of the most productive and reliable of garden greens and the magnificent magenta coloration of this variety makes it a brilliant "cut and come again" addition to salads! If you grow it to full size (2') you can harvest leaves as you need them. It is best to pull the stems off without leaving stubs, or you can cut the whole plant down and it will quickly grow back. Steam or saute the leaves and use as you would Spinach. Chard is not fussy about soil but does appreciate organic matter and fertilizer. Plant 8" apart in sun or part shade. Chard planted in Fall will bolt in the Spring and should be replaced at that time – or allow to go to seed for future freebies!



Heirloom Viking



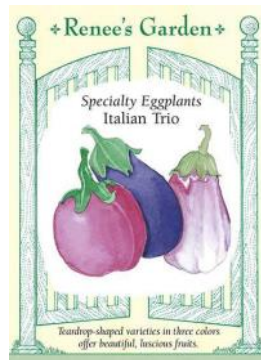
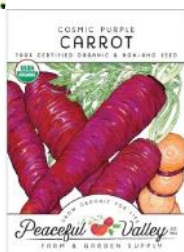
Huckleberry Gold: The First Low Glycemic Potato!



Terra Rosa

This is the time of year to plant potatoes, and go no further than our very own Renee's Garden to find the best! [https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0844/5779/products/FrenchFingerling\\_Available\\_1024x1024.jpg?v=1574889019](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0844/5779/products/FrenchFingerling_Available_1024x1024.jpg?v=1574889019).

Homegrown potatoes are delicious, easy to grow, nutrition-packed and high in fiber. Best of all, a medium potato has no more calories than an apple. Renee's offers a big selection of exceptionally healthy, disease-free, non-GMO potatoes with outstanding flavor and vigor. They will be shipped in time for spring planting. Read Renee's guide to growing seed potatoes at <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0844/5779/files/potato-growing-guide.pdf?v=1673753720>.



# The Gardeners' Club Membership

Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are still only \$15.00. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2023. 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 news-



letter 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.

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.

## YOUR 2023 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### newsletter preference (check one):

☐ Full color PDF via e-mail

☐ Paper copy (B&W) via snail mail

Enclose check for \$15 per member, plus any additional contribution to our scholarship fund, made out to The Gardeners' Club. Mail to:

**The Gardeners' Club % Suzanne Caron**  
**P.O. Box 3025**  
**Ben Lomond CA 95005**

**Membership Dues:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift Membership(s):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra Contribution for Scholarships, etc.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_



*In our hearts  
those of us who  
know anything  
worth knowing  
know that in  
March a new year  
begins.*

**JOSEPH WOOD  
KRUTCH The  
Twelve Seasons**

#### Plant Propagation Part 1 - VIRTUAL

March 16, 2023 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

zoom

Salinas, CA

Contact: Trink Praxel [trinkpraxel@gmail.com](mailto:trinkpraxel@gmail.com)

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz

Details:

The Propagation Team of the UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay grows hundreds of plants every year for their bi-annual plant sales. Now, team leads, Charlene McKowen and Dyan Apostolos will share their techniques to create new healthy plants from seeds, cuttings, and division.

This first free class will cover the easier forms of propagation for those who are new to it, or who want to review their techniques for better results.

If you can attend, be sure to register for a companion hands-on workshop the following Saturday at the UC Master Gardener propagation site in Salinas. March 18, 10:00 am-noon.

[Register Now](#)



"Spring comes in several different ways for the gardener. There is the official season, of course, the one that starts with the equinox but for most of us who watch plants grow, spring has been under way for some time by then...

Did it start when the snowdrops hopefully declared the hostilities of owinter to be over?"

JOHN KELLY The Garden in Flower Month-by-Month (1994)

# HAPPY SPRING!

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

**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



**The Gardeners' Club**

P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

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