



# Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club  
Santa Cruz County,  
California  
June 2024  
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## FLOWER ARRANGING TOGETHER!

Flower arranging as a group, with friends? How much fun will that be? Some of us are skilled and experienced, and some of us don't have a clue. But all of us who have enthusiasm can share the experience of putting together the gifts of our gardens into arrangements and bouquets to enjoy at home, or give to others.



Bring fresh cut plant materials to share. Flowers, grasses, branches, fruiting stems, ferns, budding growth, leaves, pods, nuts, seeds, attractive veggies—sky's the limit. We suggest bringing your materials in buckets in water. Bring scissors or clippers as well, and if you have frogs or florist tape (a lattice of tape makes a fine base for arranging flowers). Bring vases or other **receptacles** for arranging flowers and other garden materials—or, take from our accumulation of vases, free for this event.

Join us! Thursday  
June 13, 7:00 pm  
Aptos Grange Hall  
2555 Mar Vista Dr.

Take your arrangement home in your bucket, or bring a box lined with newspaper to get it home safely. We will have the Plant Table as usual, so bring what you have to share and trade.



# Sierra Azul Nursery and SCULPTURE IS

I'll use any excuse to shop at Sierra Azul Nursery & Gardens in Watsonville. Shopping their incredible selection of plants and pottery, wandering through the planted mounds and permanent art installations, and purchasing incredible bargains in their front parking lot entices me all year, but I don't need any prodding at all to visit during the annual Sculpture Is garden art show.

## Parking Lot Sale 30-60% Off

New varieties every week, fresh from our growing grounds. Many great plants including perennials, grasses, succulents, and shrubs!



## Have you pruned your Leucadendrons yet?

If not, now is the time. See the Sierra Azul video below for details about how and why!



SCULPTURE IS: *In the Garden, 2024*  
June 1 – October 31



2660 East  
Lake Ave.,  
Watsonville



## Big Changes at Love Apple Farms!



to

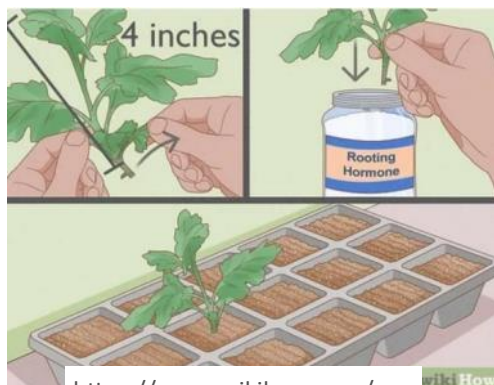
Many of us have bought heirloom tomato plants and taken classes on how to grow tomatoes and other garden

goodies for many years at Love Apple Farms, now in Scotts Valley. But founder and owner Cynthia Sandberg is retiring and handing the business over to her son Zachary Geske. Zack graduated with honors from UC Berkeley. He grew up working on the farm and helping run the family business for more than 15 years, honing his skills at Cabrillo College's Horticulture Department, plus getting on-the-farm experience growing more than 300 varieties of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and edible flowers for Manresa Restaurant for 11 years. He has interacted with thousands of plant sale customers over the years—he loves it and is enthusiastic about continuing to provide top quality plants and gardening advice at the nursery. Geske will teach classes online on YouTube, as well as onsite. Learn more about his plans by reading the excellent article written by Jillian Steinberger-Foster at Edible Monterey Bay at <https://www.ediblemontereybay.com/blog/exciting-changes-underway-at-love-apple-farms/>.

## Things to Do in the June Garden

Chrysanthemums usually bloom in the summer, but they can get leggy. If you pinch them now, they can bloom gloriously during the fall, when the rest of your flowers may be winding down. June up to July 4th is a great time to do this, but doing it much more into July risks your mums from not being able to re-produce blooms by autumn. Pinch or take scissors and trim back your mums until they are about 4-6" high from the ground.

Want to try propagating your cuttings?



<https://www.wikihow.com/Root-Chrysanthemum-Cuttings>

Pinching or pruning back can be done with MANY other perennials. Some favorites to use this technique are: asters, perennial sunflowers, ironweed (Vernonia), turtlehead (Chelone), Rudbeckia, Eupatoriums (Joe Pye weed), boneset, and many more.

You can also pinch your herbs. Basil, tarragon, thyme, sage, scented geraniums and marigolds respond well to pinching. Oregano and thyme do best when pinched or cut back to about half their length. Frequent pinching can keep rosemary and lavender to a manageable size during their growth spurt and supply you with lots of herbs.

Landscape designer and consultant writer Jan Nelson has a terrific blog to explore at <https://jannelsonlandscape.com/wordpress/author/jnelson/>. I am quoting from several various posts of hers. She writes, "If you grow Japanese maples now is the time to remove dead branches and train your tree to look like one of those specimens you see in the magazines. Thinning cuts build your ideal tree limb structure. If yours is a young tree, though, don't be tempted to head back long branches too soon. As these mature they give your tree that desirable horizontal branching.

This principle is important to keep in mind when you train any young ornamental tree. Lateral buds grow along the sides of a shoot and give rise to sideways growth that makes a plant bushy."

Summer pruning of fruit trees can start now. Remove leafy upper branches that excessively shade fruit on the lower branches. Summer pruning uses thinning cuts, where the branch is cut off at its point of attachment instead of part way along the branch, and these cuts do not encourage new growth but control the size of your tree making fruit harvest easier.

Summer pruning also can control pests like codling moths, mites or aphids. Just be sure to dispose of these trimmings and don't compost them.

If you have apricots and cherries, summer pruning only is now advised as these trees are susceptible to a branch killing disease if pruned during rainy weather. Prune stone fruits like peaches and nectarines after harvest by 50%. They grow quite rapidly. Apricots and plums need to have only 20% of their new growth pruned away.

Thin the fruit on your trees. That is another good reason to keep them smaller so you can more easily reach the branches. The best time to do this is when the fruit is still small. Thinning fruit discourages early fruit drop and improves the quality of the remaining fruit. It helps to avoid limb damage from a heavy fruit load. Also it stimulates next year's crop and helps to avoid biennial bearing. Left to their own devices, a fruit tree may bear heavily one year and then light or not at all the next year."



<https://www.mygardengeek.com/thinning-fruit-trees-when-less-is-more/>

Now is a good time to add mulch to areas that need it, at least 2-6 inches.

This month you can radically cut back wisteria vines so they don't get out of control. And when the last flowers of your rhododendron, azalea, camellia, weigela and spirea have finished, prune to the next whorl or set of leaves. To increase rhododendron bloom next year, break off any faded flower trusses just above the growth buds. Be careful not to damage the new buds.

Fertilizer your citrus and fruit trees. Apply the fertilizer to the soil around the drip line of the tree where feeder roots are located and scratch into the surface. Water **before** you fertilize, and water in well after.

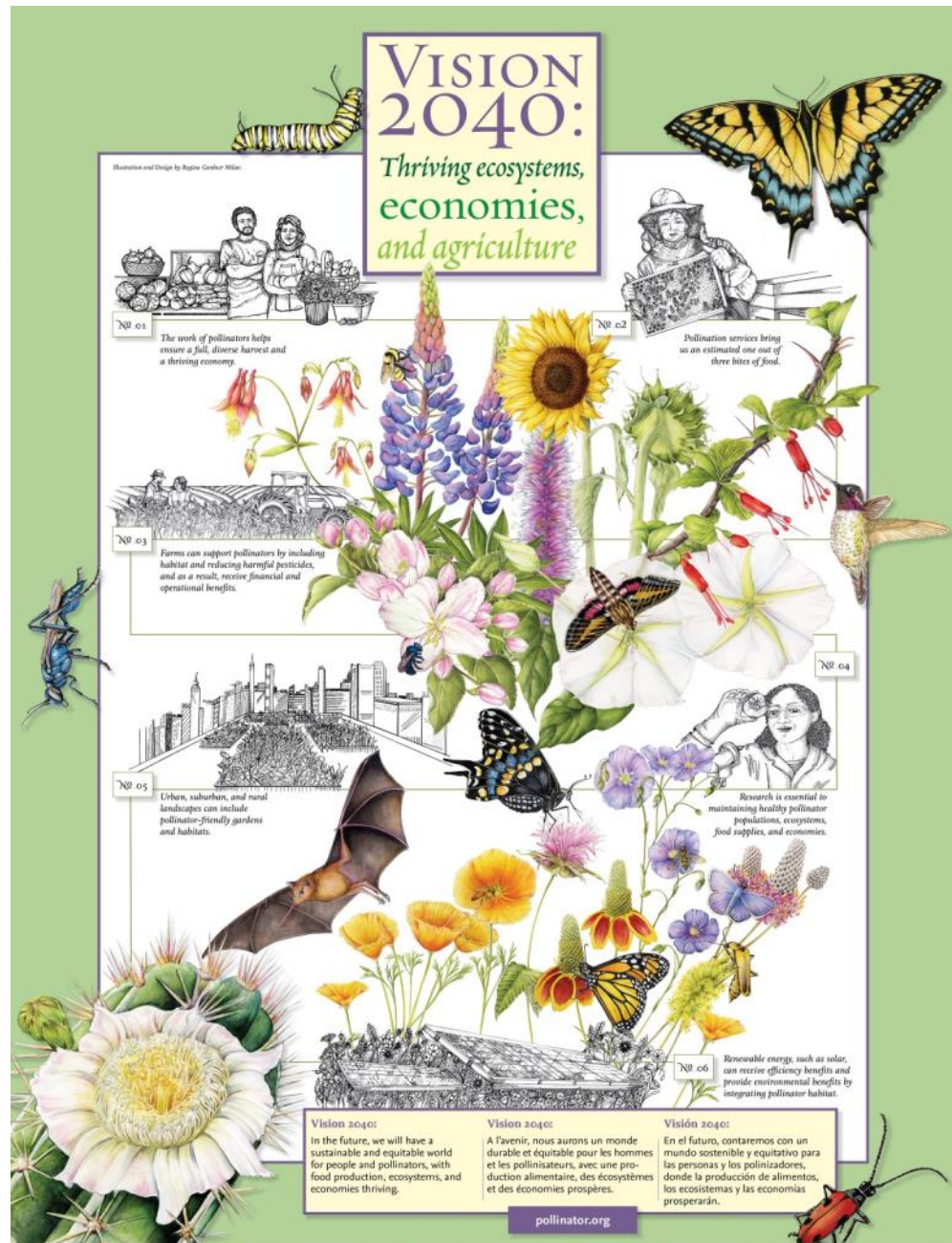




# Ways to celebrate Pollinators

We missed World Bee Day (it is May 20th every year), but this website (<https://www.thereisadayforthat.com/holidays/united-nations/world-bee-day>) has a wealth of resources and information, just in time for Pollinator Week. There you can find the following suggestions:

- ⊗ Plant nectar-bearing flowers for decorative purposes on balconies, terraces, and gardens.
- ⊗ Buy honey and other hive products from your nearest local beekeeper.
- ⊗ Raise awareness among children and adolescents on the importance of bees and express your support for beekeepers.\*
- ⊗ Set up a pollinator farm on your balcony, terrace, or garden; you can either make it yourself or buy one.
- ⊗ Preserve old meadows – which feature a more diverse array of flowers – and sow nectar-bearing plants.
- ⊗ Cut grass on meadows only after the nectar-bearing plants have finished blooming.
- ⊗ Offer suitable farming locations for the temporary or permanent settlement of bees so that they have suitable pasture; as a



The 2024 Pollinator Poster is now available to order, from the Pollinator Partnership. Created by artist Regina Milan, this poster depicts a vision for where humans and pollinators will be in 2040, with ecosystems, economies, and agriculture thriving. Order at <https://www.pollinator.org/shop/posters/poster-2024>.

consequence, they will pollinate our plants, which will thereby bear more fruit.

- ⊗ Use pesticides that do not harm bees, and spray them in windless weather, either early in the morning or late at night, when bees withdraw from blossoms.
- ⊗ Mulch blooming plants in orchards and garden before spraying them with pesticides so that they do not attract bees after being sprayed.



\*Santa Cruz Bee Co. offers 1-on-1 and small group hive tours at the Homeless Garden Project Farm. They are also available

for school and summer camps to engage our youth. <https://santacruzbeecompany.com/>

# Cabrillo College Extension Classes

## GROWING GREAT DAHLIAS

SAT., JUNE 15, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

LOCATION: APTOS MAIN CAMPUS

ROOM: HORT 5010

FEE: \$58.00 & MATERIALS FEE: \$38.00

Available Discounts: Early Bird (\$3 off until May 31); Bring a Friend (\$10 off per person— \$48 each for 2 or more)



Dahlias are one of the most generous and rewarding flowers in the garden. Join Jill at Cabrillo's Horticulture Center to learn about the different types of dahlias, how to grow them in the ground or in pots, how to select tubers, how to plant, feed, and care for your dahlias. Jill will cover sustainable pest and disease control, seed saving, companion planting, multiplying your plants through tuber division and cuttings, and advice on breeding. Last but not least, learn the best way to cut and care for dahlias in your home and enjoy these luscious, colorful blooms. The materials fee covers a seed-grown 4" dahlia plant, a booklet with the class materials, and a journal for note-taking. This is an all-levels workshop and no prior experience is required.

**Please read:** For maps and detailed information about parking on campus, please visit the [Maps and Parking webpage](#). Parking is enforced 7 days a week on the Cabrillo Campus. Please carefully read the signage in areas where you park. Daily parking permits are \$4.00 and can be purchased in any of the student parking lots from parking permit dispensers. Daily permits are only good for the date of purchase. Permit dispensers only accept credit and debit cards, no cash.

## GROWING GORGEOUS ROSES

SAT., JUNE 15, 1:30-3:30 PM

LOCATION: APTOS MAIN CAMPUS

ROOM: HORT 5010

FEE: \$58.00 & MATERIALS FEE: \$38.00

Available Discounts: Early Bird (\$3 off until May 31); Bring a Friend (\$10 off per person— \$48 each for 2 or more)



Roses are some of the most beautiful and long-lasting garden plants. Join Jill at Cabrillo's Horticulture Center to learn the secrets of growing gorgeous roses. Whether you are planting new roses or rehabilitating a long-lived garden dweller, a little seasonal care will reward you with armfuls of flowers. Jill will offer a brief review of different classes of roses, how to select and plant specimens in pots or the ground, seasonal care, pruning, feeding, and sustainable pest and disease control. You will also learn how to best cut and condition flowers to have the longest vase-life indoors. The materials fee covers a class booklet, a journal for note-taking, and a small bag of Jill's favorite soil amendment for your roses!

## BACKYARD CHICKEN

### KEEPING 101

SAT., JUNE 15, 1:30-3:30 PM

LOCATION: FOUR ACORNS FARM, 5752

FREEDOM BLVD., APTOS

FEE: \$92.00

Available Discounts: Early Bird (\$4 off until May 31); Bring a Friend (\$7 off per person— \$85 each for 2 or more)



Thinking about raising your own chickens, or want proven tips about care and how to add

to your current backyard flock? Want the convenience of home grown organic eggs and wish you had a rainbow in your egg basket? Want to supplement your compost and garden? Then come spend the morning with Laura at Four Acorns Farm to learn about: The best breeds for a backyard coop, including information on egg color and production, bird temperament, and meat vs. egg chickens; Which breeds are heat/cold hearty, and which are free range vs. coop/run suitable; Chicken housing, including coop and run, needs and options, predator proofing, and more; General zoning and code regulations regarding chicken keeping; Various feed options including organic feeds, treats, and supplements; The basics of general chicken care and health from a proactive perspective; Chick care (brooders, feed, handling, etc) to point of lay and coop transition

You will leave with a better understanding of chickens and the commitment that goes into keeping them, as well as a resource packet. Please be sure to wear comfortable, closed toe shoes and dress for the weather. You will be standing and moving around the farm for most of the class time, and walking on unpaved paths. For more information about the class location, directions, and parking please see the special notice sent after registration.



## WHATS EATING MY FOOD? GARDEN PEST MANAGEMENT

WITH JESSICA GREEN

Jun 11, 2024 12:00 PM in Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Gardeners love sharing their harvest—with other humans, not bugs. But an integral part of sustainable gardening is limiting the use of pesticides, since overuse can lead to and speed up resistance. So how can you safely protect your produce from plundering pests? Entomologist Jessica Green will show you responsible ways to defend your

[https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hdOtm35IT3SfQuBVa63Wkw#/registration](https://oregonstate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hdOtm35IT3SfQuBVa63Wkw#/registration)

This webinar will be recorded and have live captioning available (auto-generated).



online class

## growing avocados on the Central Coast

**WHEN:**  
Monday, June 24, 5-6:30 pm

**COST:**  
Free. Donations appreciated.

[mbmg.ucanr.edu](http://mbmg.ucanr.edu)



SANTA CRUZ  
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

## Earth-Friendly Gardening: Designing Your Garden

**When:** Saturday, June 29, 10 am - noon

**Where:** Branciforte Branch, 230 Gault Street, Santa Cruz - Community Room

**Cost:** Free

Earth-friendly Gardening is Master Gardeners' advice for creating sustainable landscapes that benefit the broader environment and make things easier for the gardener. By adopting these practices, you can grow a healthy garden that is beautiful, in sync with nature, and less prone to problems.

The first step is getting to know your garden site. During the workshop we will perform a site analysis of the library's surroundings using tools and techniques that you can use in your own garden. How much sunlight do you get? How does that change throughout the year? What's your microclimate? What type of soil do you have? What other plants grow in your area?

You'll leave with resources that will help you decide what plants to plant

Space is limited. Registration is required.

## SUMMER SOLSTICE SUN TEA

Pour this sun tea over ice with a little honey for sweetness and you'll have the perfect drink for celebrating the longest day of the year.

Ingredients: 1 quart-sized Mason jar;  
1 cup red clover blossoms; 1 cup red raspberry leaves; 1/2 cup rose hips or hibiscus flowers; 3 1/2 cup dried orange peel, or fresh orange slices.

Directions—Mix the herbs in an airtight container. Take 1/2-1 cup of the blend and add it to a mason jar. Fill your jar to the top with water. Cover with cheesecloth or other lid material and let it sit in the sun all day, or at least 3 hours.

Strain, add honey to taste, add ice if you wish. Carry it as you take a stroll in the garden and give thanks to the sun!

Will keep for  
2-3 days in  
the fridge.

# SUN TEA



This is the solstice,  
the still point of the sun,  
its cusp and midnight,  
the year's threshold and unlocking,  
where the past lets go of  
and becomes the future:  
the place of caught breath.

Margaret Atwood



## Gift Suggestions



A Little Book of Hummingbirds is a treasure for birdwatchers, gardeners, and anyone who is intrigued by these little birds. This small-format hardcover book includes: 45 lifelike ink-and-watercolor drawings showcasing all the species commonly found in the US and Canada, as well as the most frequent visitors—often depicted with their favorite flowers—including all males and many females; facts on cultural history, folklore, migration patterns, habitat, lifecycle, biology, and anatomy; information on creating your own hummingbird haven using feeders, flowers, water, and shelter; birdwatching tips and best places to visit to see hummingbirds

This book is part of the collectible mini book series Little Book of Natural Wonders, and makes a gorgeous gift (or irresistible treat for yourself) for all hummingbird lovers! If you are looking for a Father's Day or graduation gift, consider this.

The author, Tara Austen Weaver, is author of The Butcher & The Vegetarian and Orchard House: How a Neglected Garden Taught One Family to Grow, a memoir that chronicles how she and her family attempted to revive a long neglected Seattle garden and orchard. . She is a trained Master Gardener, Permaculture Designer, and Master Composter/Soil Builder.



## New Release!

Coming out this month, you should be able to get this in time for Father's Day. With bees, butterflies and other pollinators threatened by climate change and habit loss, it's now more important than ever to support and nurture pollinators in your garden. In this practical and beautiful guide, expert horticulturalist and regular Gardener's World presenter Rachel de Thame shows you how to create a garden that provides an abundant resource of plants rich in nectar and pollen. Arranged by season and illustrated with exquisite hand-painted watercolours and glorious photography, this book provides a captivating look at

supporting nature. Whether you have a courtyard garden or a large country garden, A Flower Garden for Pollinators will tell you what to plant and when in order to attract and sustain a host of pollinators all year round.

Rachel de Thame is a horticulturalist, broadcaster, designer and writer. Her passion for plants and gardening began in childhood and she prioritizes the needs of wildlife. A familiar face on our screens since 1999, Rachel is perhaps best known for presenting on BBC2's flagship series Gardeners' World and is a long-term member of the BBC team covering the Chelsea Flower Show.

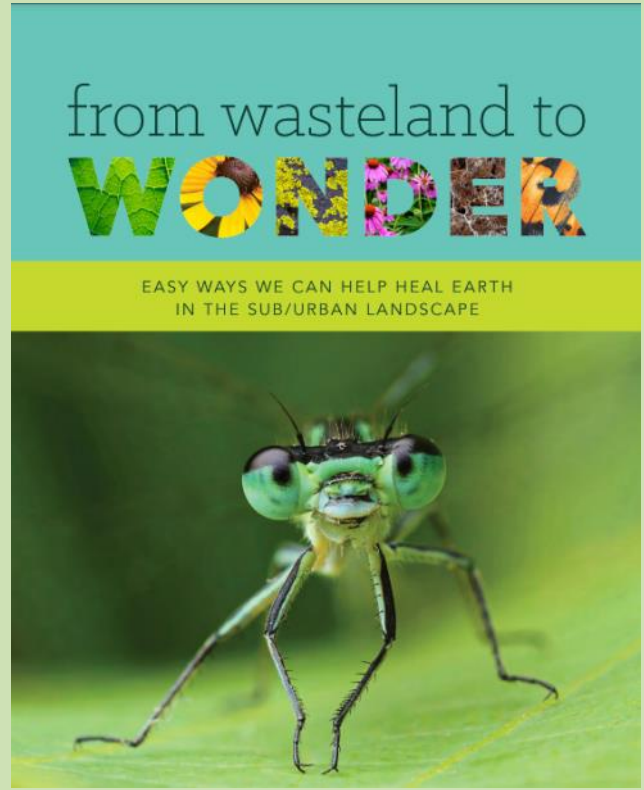
# Free eBook!

Basil Camu is co-founder of Leaf & Limb tree care company in Raleigh, N.C., and author of the new book, From Wasteland to Wonder: Easy Ways We Can Help Heal Earth in the Sub/Urban Landscape.

Basil also runs a tree-focused nonprofit that emphasize other services instead of removals, advocating for the planting of young trees, for caring for our trees with smart structural pruning, and regular inspections to get to know them better and stay ahead of any problems, and for thoughtful support of dead and dying trees

Basiil encourages us to be “foerever members of our ecosystems.” What a wonderful book—so much content, so much encouragement. You can buy a hard cover, or get a free ebook copy and read all of it right this minute!

“The way we currently manage the suburban and urban landscape is creating a wasteland and harming the well-being of Earth. Fortunately, we have an alternative path: We can work with natural systems instead of working against them. By doing so, we can help heal Earth. We also save time and money because we perform fewer tasks and use fewer products. Best of all, these are simple things that anyone can do regardless of their knowledge or experience. “



Get the free ebook at <https://www.leaflimb.com/wonder/>

[www.thegardenersclub.org](http://www.thegardenersclub.org)

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[www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern](http://www.etsy.com/shop/curiousprintpattern).

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

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

CA 95005. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of

to "The Gardeners' Club" and mail to P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond,

Dues are \$15 per calendar year. Make check

**It's easy-peasy to join our club!**

