



Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California

August 2025

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The UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden: The Present, and A Vision for the Future

Our August meeting will feature Rick Flores, Executive Director of the UCSC Rick Flores is the Executive Director of the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden. Rick will speak about the present of the Arboretum - the gardens, programs, research and conservation efforts. He will then present a vision for the future of the Arboretum which builds upon successes and ensures the Arboretum remains impactful both on campus and in the community. Rick says, "Summer is a fantastic time to visit the Arboretum and witness plants that thrive in our Central Coast climate with minimal to no summer water, and we hope they inspire you to create or improve your own sustainable home gardens. In every season, our gardens can be where all life finds what it needs to survive and thrive! "

About Rick: After junior college near his home in the suburbs east of Los Angeles, Rick joined UCSC as an undergraduate in Fall 1995 and graduated in 1997 with a degree in Environmental Studies. He started working at the Arboretum as a student worker during his senior year. During his over 27 years of experience at the Arboretum he has held several titles including Curator of the California



Native Plant Collection, Director of Horticulture, and Associate Director.

In 2014, he went back to school, again at UCSC, to study the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's efforts to revitalize their culture through the re-learning of dormant cultural knowledge pertaining to the stewardship of ecosystems, and the cultivation and uses of California Native Plants, earning an MA in Environmental Studies. He is grateful for his work with the Amah Mutsun, and has served as the Steward of the Amah Mutsun Relearning Program since its founding in 2009.

Over the years, Rick has cultivated relationships and collaborated with faculty, students, campus partners, environmental organizations, and community members. As Executive Director, Rick leads the team in a shared vision of strategic initiatives that advance conversations on campus and in the community about the plant sciences, horticulture, biodiversity, climate change, and sustainability. He also directs fundraising and donor cultivation efforts, community building, and communications. He is a strong advocate of conservation efforts and connecting people with the natural world.

Thursday, August 14, 7:00 pm
Aptos Grange 2555 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos



August is National Peach Month!

What better way to celebrate than with a handful of vine-ripened facts?

The fuzzy peach is actually a member of the rose family and originated in China.

There are two main varieties of peaches: clingstone (the flesh sticks to the stone) and freestone (the stone is easily separated from the flesh).

You can ripen peaches by placing them in a brown paper bag for two to three days. Sliced, fresh peaches can be tossed in lemon or lime juice, or club soda, to prevent browning.

The juice from peaches makes a great moisturizer, and it can be found in many brands of cosmetics.

The term, “you’re a real peach” originated from the tradition of giving a peach to the friend you liked.

There are over 700 varieties of peaches.

Peaches have a lot of vitamins and minerals. According to Healthline, one medium peach has 10 percent of your daily value of Vitamin A; 17 percent of your daily value of Vitamin C; 8 percent of your daily value of potassium; and 5 percent of your daily value of both Vitamins E and K. In addition to having two grams of fiber, peaches also have a smaller amount of magnesium, iron, phosphorus, zinc and B vitamins. It also has a lot of antioxidants that “combat oxidative damage and help protect your body against disease and aging”. All in one peach! Peaches are best from June to the end of August.



The peach tree and all its components—the wood, fruit, blossoms and petals all carry different symbolic meanings in Chinese culture. The peach tree symbolizes longevity. The wood from the tree is said to ward off evil, and ancient warriors crafted weapons from it. The petals of peach blossoms have a history of use by Taoist magicians, and are known to put men peach tree blossoms during spring and is considered the ideal season for young couples to marry. The peach fruit, similar to the tree as a whole, symbolizes a long and healthy life. The fruit also bears associations of perpetual vitality. It is said that the Peach plant of immortality, located in the Kun Lun mountains, would produce fruit only once every 3,000 years. When this happened, the Eight Immortals (a legendary group of enlightened ancient beings) would gather and eat of the magic fruit, assuring their immortality.

The Chinese god of longevity, known as Sau, is a symbol of the easy life, smooth living, and victory over strife. Attached to the end of his staff is a gourd, said to hold the elixir of life, or immortality. Sau is usually depicted holding a peach, the divine fruit of the gods.

—<https://www.jadechocolates.com/>



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A Dog Days of Summer



My son Matthew has moved from Portland to live at the Accessory Dwelling Unit on our property, and with him has come my two granddogs. I planted lots of carrot seeds this year, but I am not a very good harvester, so all of them bolted into lovely flowers. Matthew set to work harvesting them, and his pit bull Sam was ecstatic when he was given some to snack on. He eventually created a bone yard of them in the middle of my meadow!



Working in the garden in the heat of summer, it is important to stay hydrated! Try drinking your lunch in the shade.

Recipe and art by Lea Lralj Jager, [Chick Peas Vegan Quarterly](#), Summer 2013

Whether you're new to gardening or looking to deepen your knowledge, the Native Plant Bootcamp offers something for everyone. Visit mbmg.ucanr.edu to register for this free event.

CA 95018. For carpooling from my house, I want to allow 30 minutes, so 5:15 Pollinator Week 2025 is a celebration of the vital role that pollinators play in our ecosystems, economies, and agriculture. Under the inspiring theme "Pollinators Weave Connections," this year's event urges us to appreciate the essential role pollinators play in creating and expressing human culture, in all of its forms. These essential creatures, including bees, butterflies, moths, bats, beetles, and hummingbirds, are the unsung heroes behind the food we enjoy and the beauty that surrounds us. As we reflect on the interconnectedness of our world, let's unite in a collective effort to protect and preserve these crucial pollinators. By understanding the impact of our actions on their habitats and embracing sustainable practices, we can pave the way for a flourishing future.

Go to pollinator.org for a wealth of resources to spread information about supporting pollinators. You can also get "stuff", and with Father's Day just around the bend, how about a t-shirt, sweatshirt or poster?

Erigeron glaucus is a species of flowering plant in the daisy family known by the common name seaside fleabane, beach aster, or seaside daisy. This wildflower is native to the coastline of Oregon and California where it grows on beaches, coastal bluffs and dunes.

August Rose Pruning for Warmer climates

Encourage a fresh flush of bloom in fall with a late-summer pruning

The first pruning, of roses is traditionally done in late January or early February, preparing rose bushes for the late-spring to early summer blooming. The second pruning is done in August to early September and ensures shapely bushes with lots of flowers in the fall blooming season.

Because in our climate we have a longer flowering season, this August pruning will encourage a second, hearty bloom cycle in October. This pruning does not need to be as hard-core and meticulous. The goal is more to reduce the amount of stem and leaf material so the plants can focus their energy on putting forth flowers.



In her Fine Gardening article (<https://www.finegardening.com/project-guides/pruning/august-rose-pruning-for-southern-california?srltid=AfmBOopul6dLiIVvnNsFCXeNyQyWDCXPepfsxc3Ins2Rn88na90M2t01>)

author Francesca Corra says, "I usually trim my own roses to 4 feet or less, and I am not looking necessarily for the bud eyes but will snip above an outward-facing leaflet. Again, no matter the reason for cutting, always cut 45° from the outside, slanting down toward the center of the plant. It is sometimes a bit agonizing to prune at this time of year because there are still quite a few roses flowering and budding on the shrubs. This is a good opportunity to grab however many vases you need to fill and bring them into your house.. Add a nice layer of mulch around your roses. Mulch acts as a blanket to help protect the roots from extremes of temperature—heat as well as cold. "

Some people call this process "deep deadheading". In August, deep deadheading of roses, which involves cutting back to a lower leaf node than usual, can be beneficial for shaping the plant and encouraging bushier growth, especially for vigorous roses. This technique is a more aggressive approach than simply removing spent blooms and can help control the size and direction of your rose bushes.



Pull off any dead leaves, and cut off any dead wood that is accessible. Make the cut about 1 inch below the diseased section where the cane is healthy. Cut above an outward-facing node on the stem if you want to promote better airflow through your plant..

After pruning, you can fertilize with a balanced fertilizer, or compost, and perhaps Epsom salts.

THE CONTRACT

The woman who gave me the rosebush
reminds me:
"Cut it back hard."

The stems resist.

Thorns and weedy twig-thickets
catch on jacket sleeve, on gloves.
Core-wood splinters green under the shears.

Impossible to believe
that so little left will lead to fragrance.

Still, my hands move quickly,
adding their signature branch by branch,
agreeing to loss.

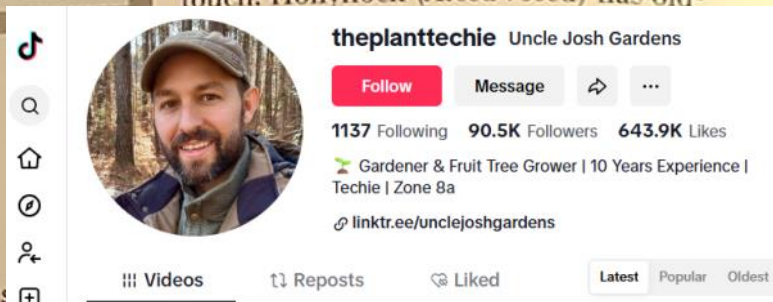
—Poet Jane Hirschfield

August

- Most crops will begin to ripen this month, so stay on top of picking to extend the harvest.
- Early in the month, replant spaces left bare by early maturing crops with new plantings of carrots, lettuce, beets and kale for a fall harvest.

Keep tomatoes and other vegetables evenly watered through the heat. Both blossom-end rot and cracking in tomatoes are caused by irregular watering. Adjust your watering schedule to ensure that plants are watered deeply and that the soil stays evenly moist.

<https://www.housedigest.com/1788395/best-ground-covers-plant-near-fruit-trees/>



Powdery mildew will likely appear on squash and cucumber leaves as the weather begins to cool and the humidity rises in the evening hours.

Treat the plants with a mixture of 4 teaspoons of baking soda and 2 1/2 tablespoons of Neem oil to a gallon of water before the mildew appears. Spray the leaves lightly as too much can damage them.



<https://www.tiktok.com/@theplanttechie/video/7533965285477387550>

to slightly alkaline soil—but most finish blooming in midsummer. Oriental

Plan your cool season vegetable garden. . This is a time to plant cool season crops like leafy greens (kale, chard, mustard greens, arugula, lettuce, spinach, bok choy and more), brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, romanesco, Brussels, kohlrabi), root veggies (radish, beets, turnips, carrots) plus peas, garlic, onions, and leeks.

recurved dark crimson flowers.

Planty Affirmations for You

- I'm growing and I'm doing great.
- I'm so proud of myself.
- Dormancy is okay. My next season will be full of growth and flowers.
- I'm an unfurling leaf, expanding into my greatest potential.
- I'm growing at my own rate, like everyone else is. I'm exactly where I need to be.
- Bloom unapologetically, baby!
- In this stillness, I'm still growing.
- I deserve love, nourishment, and kindness.
- There is space in stillness.
- It's okay to let things go. I'm letting go of what doesn't serve me anymore.
- Exciting seeds are germinating within me.

From Growing Joy by
Maria Failla

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

It's easy-peasy to join our club!
Dues are \$20 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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