



Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California
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Caring for Orchids at Home



The Smithsonian Museum is world famous, and its mission is extended by its public garden setting with over 180 acres of outdoor gardens including 13 public exhibition gardens. The Smithsonian Gardens are often called the Smithsonian institution's "museum without walls." Through its educational programming, the Smithsonian Gardens engages people with plants and gardens, informs on the roles both play in our cultural and natural worlds, and inspires appreciation and stewardship. You could spend hours on their web site learning and exploring, reading articles, watching presentations, being inspired by lesson plans, and so much more. If I have one New Year resolution at all, it is to absorb as much of it as I can, and share it with our club. The website address is <https://gardens.si.edu/>.

One of the things you can do while you are on their website is sign up for their **Let's Talk Gardens!** monthly gardening series. Additionally, they have an archive of all of their past seminars, and what a bounty it is!

This month at our meeting we'll sample one of their Let's Talk Gardens video talks together. We'll watch the informative "**Caring for Orchids at Home**" video. We'll explore the fundamentals of growing orchids with Smithsonian Gardens Orchid Collection's Lead Horticulturist, Justin Kondrat. Justin will walk us through each element needed to successfully grow orchids at home, including how to encourage reblooming. He will discuss common challenges and best practices for watering, choice of nutrients, repotting methods, light requirements, air circulation, and the optimal supplies required for home orchid cultivation.

See you there!
Thursday
Jan. 9th, 7:00 pm
Aptos Grange Hall
2555 Mar Vista Dr.

Want to connect with others interested in orchids? The Santa Cruz Orchid Society meets. Meetings are held the second Friday of every month at the Live Oak Grange Hall, 1900 17th Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. Meetings typically feature a presentation from an orchid expert, a show and tell table of blooming plants brought in by members, plants for sale, and light refreshments. Contact santacruzorchidsociety831@gmail.com for information.



Sneak Peek At Our PBS Mini-Doc!

From Renee Shepherd at Renee's Garden: "Our mini-documentary is airing on national and regional PBS stations now! Last October, we spent two days filming in the trial garden with a production company that works closely with PBS. The garden was packed with end of summer flowers, herbs and fall vegetables. It was a moment to reflect on the joy of gardening and how it nourishes body and soul and connects us to nature. "

Watch this to learn so much about Renee's!



<https://youtu.be/OKwNQUnFKZI>

And below is the actual interview with Renee on the show "You Bet Your Garden"!



Saturday, January 11, 9am-12pm INTRO TO FRUIT TREES WORKSHOP

The Farm, UCSC



This workshop will focus on fruit tree care and management, especially for those who are looking to establish and/or care for their fruit trees using organic methods. Although we

will be demonstrating on a home garden scale, the techniques and methods are applicable at multiple scales—the basics are the same.

This hands-on workshop will cover: -The run up to planting (site, sun, soil); -Assessing and improving your soil; -Sourcing quality trees; -Planting bare root trees; -Post plant care; -A Q&A session

Cost: Based on your ability to pay. Workshop fees go to support the Center for Agroecology. Please select the price that works for you. Sliding Scale Tiers \$20, \$35 or \$50.

Registration is required for this workshop—https://center-for-agroecology.company.site/products/Backyard-Series-Intro-to-Fruit-Trees-p712925910?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR3XOhQpzkdL4qn0kg5h_QEHd1ZNUUp4cwoSllegtONeYnYQcdW3wf0QRA4_aem_q8Cqg7Tyn_S6XNhE0ZdSHA

All June I bound the rose
in sheaves, Now, rose by
rose, I strip the leaves.

Robert Browning

Do roses need their leaves stripped at pruning time? There is divided opinion on the necessity of this. The idea behind this is those

leaves may carry some lingering fungus spores or insect eggs and you want to make sure you get them out of the garden before next season comes in. Plus, as the new leaves begin to emerge in spring they will push the old leaves off on the ground, contributing to pest problems. A lot of people believe that, given that most of our roses here never go dormant, removing the leaves encourages some dormancy and gives roses a period of rest, enabling them to grow better the next year. . Some people remove leaves BEFORE pruning to make it easier to prune more systematically.

Taking the roses off one by one can be a big job. An idea to speed that along, suggested by Fine Gardening, is to mix Dormant Lime and Sulfur Spray coupled with Horticultural Oil and spray it liberally to cover all of the leaves. The key is to do this on a sunny day, so the sun will burn them and they will simply fall off. If they don't all fall off you can apply it again in a few weeks and that should get the rest of them. This spray regime helps prevent pest problems the following year.

ONLINE CLASS— INTRO TO FRUIT TREES WORKSHOP Saturday, January 11, 11 am-12pm

Contact: UC Master Gardeners, Santa Clara County, CA

Sponsor: UC Master Gardeners, Santa Clara County, CA

Winter is the best time to prune fruit trees because they're dormant and you can see the tree structure. Proper pruning timing and technique allows your trees to produce the best fruit. Come join us for a free online workshop to learn about pruning fruit trees, presented by UC Master Gardener Allen Buchinski. Learn the why, how, and when of pruning for best structure and fruit

production. Allen has worked at the Emma Prusch Park Farm High-Density Fruit Orchard where the trees are kept small and at a reduced height to make harvesting ladder-free!



This is an Online event. Registration is required on the Mountain View Public Library's website at <https://mountainview.libcal.com/calendar/libraryevents?cid=8800&t=d&d=2025-01-11&cal=8800&inc=0>. Sign up to receive ZOOM information the morning of the event.

Cost: Free

ROSE PRUNING WORKSHOPS

MONTEREY BAY ROSE SOCIETY PRUNING DEMOS IN 2025

Saturday, January 11 and Sunday, January 12, 10 to Noon
hands on pruning in the Monterey Bay Rose Society's Display Garden, Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, E. Lake Road, Watsonville. Enter through the Livestock Gate across from Sierra Azul Nursery. All welcome. Bring your gloves, shears, and energy. We have nearly 200 roses that need to be pruned.

Saturday, January 18, 10 to Noon:

Alladin's Nursery, Freedom Boulevard, Watsonville

Master Rosarians discuss pruning and demonstrate on potted rose.

Saturday, January 25, 10 to Noon:

San Lorenzo Nursery, Santa Cruz

Master Rosarians discuss pruning and demonstrate on potted rose.

The Art & Science of Growing Native Plants from Seed: Why, When and How



ZOOM Class with Randi Eckel

January 15, 2025
4:00 pm –5:30 pm

Looking out at the winter landscape, what's a gardener to do? Begin to dream of spring, of course! It's time to plan for more flowering plants to entice butterflies (and moths!) to your gardens for nectar, along with different native plants to provide food for caterpillars. You can be well on your way to a garden upgrade by starting your plants from seed, and winter is the best time to do it.

As we incorporate more native plants into our landscapes, there are so many good reasons to use plants propagated from seeds. But wild plants have evolved a dizzying array of mechanisms, including chemical-induced dormancy and mandatory cold stratification, to ensure that their seeds disperse, persevere, and germinate at just the right time under natural conditions. These mechanisms are not in place to frustrate would-be plant propagators but must be understood to successfully grow native plants from seed. A far-reaching discussion of the issues surrounding seed collection, procurement, and propagation, with information that will encourage the novice and challenge the professional alike.

This Zoom class is sponsored by the Native Plant Society of New Jersey and is taught by Dr. Randi Eckel. A life-long naturalist, lover of nature, entomologist, and confirmed plant and ecology nerd, Randi has been working with native plants for over 35 years and founded the mail-order native plant nursery Toadshade Wildflower Farm (<https://www.toadshade.com/>) in 1996. She has a particular focus on education and the fascinating ecological diversity of the natural world,



Register for this ZOOM class at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pwSRIrwcRKamZ9jAXiL3bw#/registration.



Digging Dog Nursery calls them the harbinger of spring, but in our neighborhood they are already blooming.

“Hellebores deserve a place in every garden for their lustrous evergreen foliage and long-lasting cool-season blooms. The handsome thick dark green leaves are usually divided into 7 to 9 segments, while their mostly cupped or saucer-shaped blooms afford a dazzling array of colors with many enhanced by distinctive spots, splotches, veins and double-layered petals. A resilient, multi-seasonal mainstay, they can be massed under high-branching trees, planted as a shrub understory and featured in partially shaded borders, patio containers or cut arrangements. An elevated alcove allows easy viewing of their sumptuous, often nodding flowers. Easy-care Hellebores keep the bees happy, handle occasional dry spells once established plus fend off pests, deer and rabbits. Please feel free to check out our numerous online Hellebore offering at <https://www.diggingdog.com/plant/p-0243>.”

Want to learn more about Hellebores? Read <https://www.finegardening.com/article/hellebores-cure-the-late-winter-blues>

The Hellebore

by Theodora Goss

It was January, and yet
the green leaves of the hellebore still stuck
out of last year's leaf mold, mostly oak
and maple, edged with frost
(there was frost all over the garden),
rising leathery green against the brown,
and underneath I could see the pale cream buds
of what, eventually, would become flowers like bowls
of milk, the color of a wedding gown,
as soft as the cheek of a newborn,
as elegant as one of those engravings
from the Edo period, stylized
and meaning something other than itself:
resiliency, rebirth. The promise
of Spring. But they did not have to mean
anything in particular, as I stood there admiring
their tenacity: I simply wanted them
to continue being themselves, and for myself to learn
a little, just a little, of their endurance.

The time has come for membership renewal. Annual membership dues, which include all benefits, are only \$20.00, due by January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2025. 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 newsletter e-mail option below. 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!

Ours is a club celebrating the joys of gardening, friendship, community, learning, nature and growth. We have a history of giving to the community, and have focused this giving in the last few years on scholarships for Cabrillo College

students who are working towards careers in horticulture. Because our dues are so low and we'd like to be able to continue to give scholarships as needed, we are giving you the option of making an additional gift with your membership.

Your Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

How would you like your newsletter? Check ONE:

E-mail (FULL COLOR!!!) (the green option...save trees)

Paper (Black & white; via Snail Mail)



Gift Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

Gift Membership Newsletter —Check ONE:

E-mail (FULL COLOR!!!) (the green option...save trees)

Paper (Black & white; via Snail Mail)



Enclose check for \$20 per member, plus any additional contribution to our scholarship fund, made out to *The Gardeners' Club*.

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

Membership amount	\$ _____
I would like to make an additional gift	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

The Gardeners' Club

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Refreshments Joe Thompson

Refreshments www.thegardenersclub.org



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

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.

