



# Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club  
Santa Cruz County,  
California

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Writer/Editor: Lise Bixler

[lisetula@gmail.com](mailto:lisetula@gmail.com)

## Double Fun - Enjoy our Two-Part Meeting!

### Part 1: MEET OUR 2025 CABRILLO HORTICULTURE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Join us! Thursday  
June 12, 7:00 pm  
Aptos Grange Hall  
2555 Mar Vista Dr.

Years ago Club Member Bill Patterson envisioned and started our scholarship program for Cabrillo horticulture students. Thanks to his and the Club's persistence, this year we are able to continue our traditional gifting by awarding two scholarships. Both of the scholarship recipients are transferring to CSU Monterey Bay in the fall. We will present them with plaques made by Bill at our June meeting. Come meet the awardees, and listen to Sarah Patiño Hulick, the chair of the Cabrillo Horticulture Program, tell us what's new.

Here are the brief but exciting bios of our 2025 awardees:

Liam McPherson . Graduating with Agriculture Plant Science (A.S.-T) degree. Liam's professional goal is to be a Landscape Designer and Account Manager.

Jasmin Garcia Benitez Graduating with Agriculture Plant Science (A.S.-T) degree. Jasmin's professional goal is to be a Grower or Assistant Grower at an ornamental nursery business.

### Part 2: 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.

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.





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](http://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?



## Native Plant of the Month: Seaside Daisy



*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.

This is an evergreen, perennial daisy that grows from a stout rhizome, reaching heights to no more than 12" with branching, nodding stems. Daisy-like flowers with bright yellow centers bloom late May through early June; the plant is covered in showy

blossoms with delicately fringed petals and a large number of tiny disc flowers which attracts a host of pollinators searching for an abundant source of nectar and pollen. Flower colors vary – with shades of lilac to hot pink and also a hybrid named 'White Lights'. In early summer when Seaside Daisy is smothered with blossoms some dead-heading will help it rebloom but flowering tends to fade with the long hot days of late summer. Plant in full sun to part shade. A great butterfly plant and provides a cool blue spot of color in a coastal garden, thrives with little to no summer water and tolerates wind and salt spray. Provide a little extra water and afternoon shade if inland. Dislikes dust so wash off occasionally. Good nectar source for butterflies and many different pollinators. Their seeds are favored by juncos and finches.



## SUMMER SOLSTICE



(This article is adapted from one published last year in Botanical Interests written byr Lorin Nielsen - <https://www.botanicalinterests.com/community/blog/summer-solstice/>)

The summer solstice marks the first astronomical day of summer, and the longest day of the year. On this day, which this year will be Friday, June 20, at 7:41 pm Pacific Time, the sun reaches its highest point in the northern hemisphere and we receive the longest period of sunlight hours all year! After the solstice, our days will begin to wane, and sunset will occur earlier in the day.

Historically, the summer solstice has been a celebration of bounty in the garden, when people who had spent all of spring tending to their gardens could take a step back and enjoy watching their hard work pay off. The summer solstice was often celebrated with bonfires, with the belief that they would boost the sun's energy, guaranteeing good harvest.

The summer solstice is an important time for our garden, as our plants begin to react to the changes in day length. This is called "photoperiodism". The solstice affects the photoperiod, which signals to plants to bloom or produce more vegetative growth depending on length of daylight. This is a fun time to keep an eye on your garden and watch what starts to take off! There are so many ways to celebrate the summer solstice! You can make a festive flower crown out of traditional herbs and flowers that have been used in ceremonies by ancient cultures. Harvest and use thyme, lavender, St. John's wort, chamomile, fennel, mugwort, rosemary, meadowsweet, sage, mint, roses, sunflower

and dandelions in your flower crown! You could also put together a bee watering station to show your gratitude to pollinators. See the article below for ideas! Even spend the day gardening; now is the perfect time to prepare your fall brassicas! Happy Summer Solstice!

### HOW TO CREATE A SAFE BEE WATERING STATION

Excerpted by article written By Alfredo Salkeld. Find the complete article with instructions [at https://www.buddhabeeapiary.com/blog/bee-watering-station](https://www.buddhabeeapiary.com/blog/bee-watering-station)

Have you ever gone inside after a hot day, served yourself a glass of water, then breathed a sigh of relief when you felt the air conditioning? It felt pretty great, right? That's how bees feel when they have access to a safe, reliable water source. Luckily, bees don't require a KitchenAid fridge with the ability to pick between crushed and cubed ice. A simple, DIY honeybee waterer is all you need to hydrate your pollinators.

Bees get thirsty, just like humans. They need a source of water to stay healthy and safe. Not only do bees drink the water, but they also use it for:

Air conditioning - During hot days, bees will spread a thin film of water over the baby bee cells. The water will evaporate, cooling the hive.

Feeding baby bees - Nurse bees feed developing larvae (aka baby bees) a diet of water, pollen, nectar, and royal jelly. This diet can be up to 80% water on the first day!

Diluting honey - Bees eat their own honey. Sometimes, the honey will crystallize or get too thick. When this happens, bees use water to dilute the honey and make it drinkable again.

But, can't bees find their own source of water like a river or pond? They absolutely can. However, not all beehives are near a natural source of clean water. In these cases, bees will look for water elsewhere. For example, in a neighbor's swimming pool or in a ditch. These sources of water may contain chlorine, pesticides, or other harmful chemicals.

Bee watering stations are important—and

really simple to set up! You can make yours as elaborate or simple as you'd like. Once you've decided on what kind of water station you want to use, just place it several feet away from your hive. Here are 5 easy ideas.



**1. Invite bees to your bird bath.** They are shallow so they can perch on the edge. To keep them safer, you can add pebbles to give them extra places to stand.

**2. Fill a hummingbird feeder with water** A hummingbird feeder costs less than \$15 is the perfect bee watering station. Just fill it with water instead of sugar syrup.



**3. Add glass pebbles or marbles to a shallow container** Any craft store will sell bags of multi-colored pebbles. Get a bag or two and pour them into a wide, shallow container. It should be large enough to hold a few ounces of water, but not so big that bees will drown. This can be a large dish from your kitchen or even just a frisbee!

**4. & 5. Put rocks in a self-filling pet bowl or chicken feeder.** If you don't have the time to refill your bee watering station often, this is a great option. A small gravity-fed pet feeder usually holds a little under a gallon of water and costs about \$15. Be sure to add rocks so you can provide water for bees without the drowning risk. A

## Pansies

### How to Grow, Reimagine, and Create Beauty with Pansies and Violas by Brenda Estrada



Pansies is the big idea flower book we've all been waiting for. While working at the famed Floret Flower Farm, Brenna Estrada was so inspired by the pansies being grown that she began to trial hundreds of varieties of pansies and violas on her own farm. Her innovative approach to growing in full sun results in pansies with long stems, breathtaking fragrance, and unique color.

Filled with stunning photographs, this book is perfect for growers, florists, artists, and collectors.

Readers will discover:

--The fascinating history of pansies and violas, from their origination as a wildflower to a necessary adornment in every household garden

—Everything you need to know about growing pansies (and how to save pansy seeds!)

—How to keep pansies healthy and resilient all year round

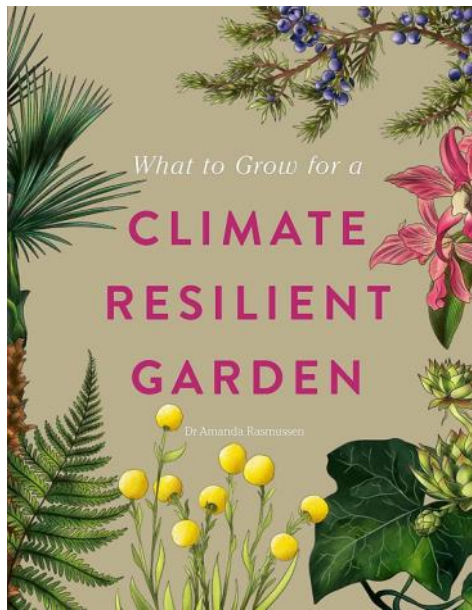
—Inspiration for incorporating pansies in crafts, recipes, and in the apothecary

—Inspiring examples of knockout bouquets and arrangements

—Lush profiles on 50 varieties of pansies and violas available today.

*"This is a must-add-to-your-garden-library book, an indispensable guide to pansies—and a brand new way to look at the dazzling flower that brings drama, whimsy, and diversity to every garden and arrangement (Erin Benzakein, Floret)".*

### What to Grow for a Climate Resilient Garden by Royal Horticultural Society



What to Grow for a Climate Resilient Garden urges green-thumbed readers that are conscious of the environment to think deeper about the impact of maintaining a thriving garden on the future of the planet, and vice versa. With easy, practical ideas, it is the ideal book for experienced gardeners and a growing environmentally-inclined public looking for ways to make a difference.

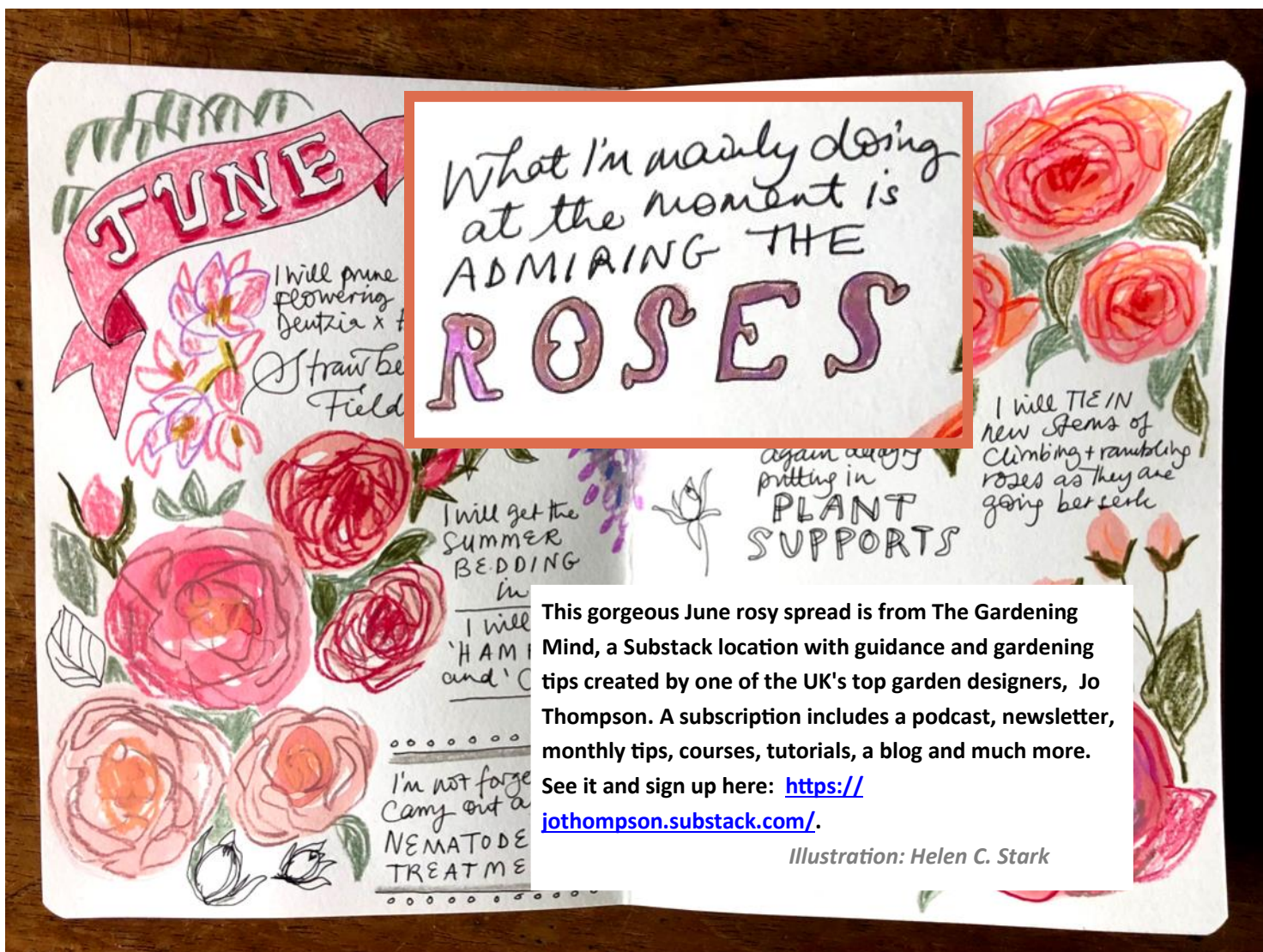
Eminent plant expert Dr Amanda Rasmussen explains what makes particular plants suited to certain conditions, along with easy-to-implement ideas for forward-thinking

gardeners. Whether you are gardening in the rain, the baking hot sun, in the city or the countryside, you'll discover information and inspiration for creating your very own resilient, future-proofed garden.

The author's expertise ensures a book that is botanically sound, but also aesthetically designed and eye-catching. The fascinating information about easy-to-find plants for a wide range of abilities and geographically diverse locations makes this book highly desirable for all gardeners wishing to diversify their green spaces as the climate continues to change radically.



Join us in the Hay Barn on June 8th from 9:30am to noon for a workshop on growing citrus with Christof Bernau! This workshop is geared toward gardeners hoping to grow, enjoy, and eat citrus from the home. We will cover citrus life cycles, site selection and soils, varietal selection for the Central Coast and beyond, planting techniques and crop establishment, fertility inputs, irrigation, and pest and disease management. If time permits, we will also demonstrate the planting of a couple of new trees amidst our existing blocks of 50 trees that are spread across four locations on the farm at 1008 Ranch View Road, Santa Cruz Please visit [Agroecology.ucsc.edu](https://agroecology.ucsc.edu) to register for this workshop



## Solstice Squash



Does this baked parmesan summer squash look basically exactly like the sun? I think so!

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Prepare a baking sheet with parchment paper, or thin coating of olive oil. Cut a few yellow

summer squash (2? 3? 4? Whatever you've got) into 1/2 inch slices. Put on sheet; sprinkle with garlic powder., salt and pepper Put a spoonful of shredded parmesan cheese on each slice. If you'd like, add a sprinkling of a green herb or dried red pepper. Stick in the oven and bake for 20-25 minutes until golden brown.

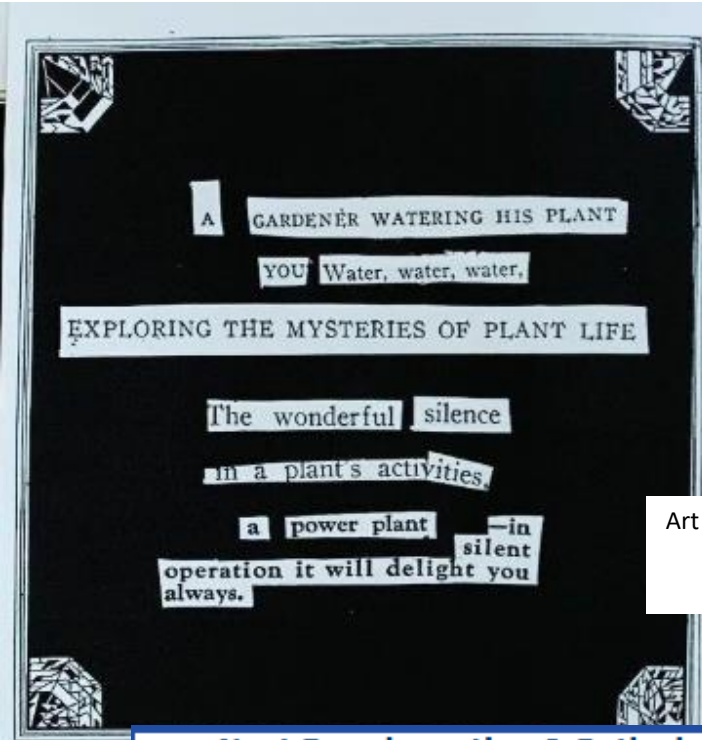


## soup garden: growing vegetable soup

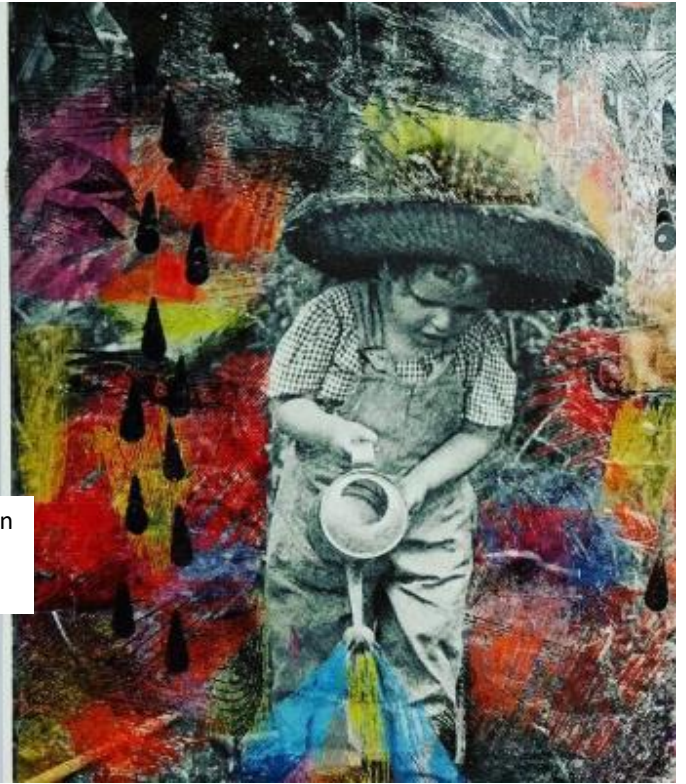
Last year, I dealt with a glut of tomatoes by buying a freezer. I invested in mason jars instead of plastic bags, and froze enough tomatoes, raw and cooked, to use all fall, winter and spring.

I just finished reading Margaret Roach's monthly newsletter, and in it she talks about freezing her summer veggies to have soup makings for the entire year! Read it for her recipe and other tips—<https://awaytogarden.com/soup-garden-growing-my-vegetable-soup-ingredients/>.

Some of the soup ingredients she grows were ones I've never tried: 'Piracicaba' broccoli provides many months of tender foliage, florets and even stem; Aunt Ada's Italian' heirloom pole bean for unique, rich flavor; shelling peas such as 'Mayfair'; and 'puffer peas,' sort of a cross between a snap pea and snowpea, such as 'Schweizer Riesen' or 'Green Beauty' (check those out at Peace Seedlings ( <https://peaceseedlingsseeds.blogspot.com/>)).



Art by Austin Kleon

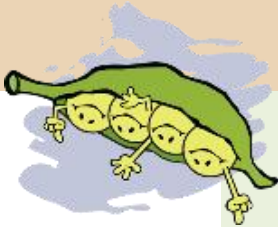


**Next Board meeting & Potluck  
Monday, June 23rd 6pm  
6pm Garden Tour prior to  
Potluck and business meeting  
at Rita Ramirez's  
255 Bollinger Place,  
Watsonville 95076**

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

**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

**President**  
Cherry Thompson, 475-0991  
cherrylea@comcast.net

**Vice President & Publicity**  
Vacant

**Secretary**  
April Barclay, 688-7656  
AABarclay@aol.com

**Treasurer**  
VACANT

**Membership**  
Suzanne Caron 609-6230  
Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.com

**Hospitality**  
Joanna Hall  
628821

**Newsletter Writer/Editor**  
Lise Bixler, 457-2089  
lisebixler@sbcglobal.net

**Webmaster**  
Joe Thompson  
pmcveigh@baysmoon.com

**Members-at-Large**  
Pat McVeigh  
566-4553

**Refreshments**  
Marge Gregory  
684-1529

**Plant Table**  
Lupe Allen, 247-2705  
lupea@ucsc.edu

**Members-at-Large**  
Debbie Kindle  
poppy-54@live.com

**Members-at-Large**  
George & Evelyn Zhovreboff  
(916) 303-3673

**Members-at-Large**  
zhovreboff@aol.com

**Members-at-Large**  
margarego-ry41@gmail.com

**Members-at-Large**  
Pat McVeigh  
566-4553

**Members-at-Large**  
pmcveigh@baysmoon.com

**Members-at-Large**  
Joe Thompson

**Members-at-Large**  
www.thegardenersclub.org