



Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club
Santa Cruz County,
California
NOVEMBER 2025
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Time to Think Spring!



Here's an event you won't want to miss—a potting party! We'll plant spring-blooming bulbs in terracotta pots with fellow garden enthusiasts. Potting up bulbs and corms with the promise of spring surprises will ease the winter blahs as you look forward to colorful blooms up close and personal on your deck, porch or patio. We'll provide the bulbs, potting soil and bulb fertilizer. You bring your favorite trowel, a terra cotta pot, and gloves if you wish. If you don't want to do terra cotta, bring a favorite pot (1 gal. max). If you want to do a layered "lasagna" planting (see next page), your pot should be about 12 inches tall. If you have bulbs you'd like to share with others, bring them, too.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13
7:00 PM, APTOS GRANGE
2555 MAR VISTA DR.**

Saving Dahlia Seeds

Steve Lloyd, Facebook

Every fall I gather thousands of seeds from my dahlias, and each one is a surprise waiting to happen. Some will sprout into ordinary plants, while others may reveal flower forms and colors I've never seen before in my own crosses. But those little seeds are fragile, and how you store them makes all the difference between a thriving seedling and a handful of duds.

Seeds begin aging as soon as they ripen. Warmth, light, and moisture speed that process. The good news: with proper care, dahlia seeds can stay viable for years.

Cool temperatures are the biggest factor. Seeds kept around 40 °F (4 °C) in a refrigerator retain germination power much longer than those left at room temperature. Combine that with dryness—an airtight container plus a packet of silica gel—and you've solved most of the problem.

Light matters too. Even brief exposure can nudge seeds toward decline, which is why I use opaque jars or containers. And before they go into storage, seeds must be fully dry. I let them air-dry for a week or so, then label each batch clearly with variety, date, and notes before sealing them away.

Handled this way, dahlia seeds can germinate reliably for three to five years. That's enough time to plan crosses, keep a "seed bank" of promising lines, and always have fresh surprises waiting for the next season. One study even tracked the viability of dahlia seeds that had been in storage for 16 years!

If you would like to learn more about growing dahlias from seed, or any aspect of multiplying dahlias from tubers, cuttings, and other methods, check out this FB group devoted entirely to all aspects of propagating dahlias:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4035990713379095/>



Lasagne Planting

A creative way to plant your bulbs to create a display of flowers that lasts for months

Top Layer:
Snowdrop, crocus, miniature iris

Middle Layers:
Narcissus, Daffodils, anemone

Bottom Layer: Tulips and Hyacinths are great for the base layer

Order is important - plant bulbs that will flower first in the top layer

Compost should be placed between each layer - ensuring bulbs are placed the right way round.

Everything you'll need to plant your bulb lasagne:

- Spring Bulbs - Multi-purpose compost - Trowel - Gardening Gloves - Container - Winter Bedding Plants

Message from Club President Cherry Thompson

We've told you before; Our Board meetings are a terrific opportunity to tour amazing gardens. Our October meeting, the last one of the year, was hosted at Ken Foster's home and demonstration garden. Ken is the owner of Terra Nova Landscaping, and we had an amazing walkaround. What an eclectic garden!

We encourage you to visit the Terra Nova website for lots of tips, resources and inspiration from Ken and from Jillian Steinberger, aka "The Garden Artisan". Here's an example from their site!

#6. Stop and smell the roses & other flowers & herbs

Plants and humans have evolved together over eons. To enjoy them is our inheritance! Some wonderful plants that humans and pollinators both enjoy are pictured below. Breathe deep the giant "Day of the Dead" marigold which is said to repel pests. Breathe deep the show-stopping purple Black Adder Agastache, also known as hyssop, which is aromatic and relaxing in your tea.

Watch the butterfly get drunk on your cheerful red zinnia, or on Verbena lilacina 'de la Mina.' It's a symphony (or a rock concert). Enjoy! And come for a visit.

Website address is [https://](https://www.terranovalandscaping.com/)



www.terranovalandscaping.com/

And more goodies at <https://www.pinterest.com/kenfoster7771/>,

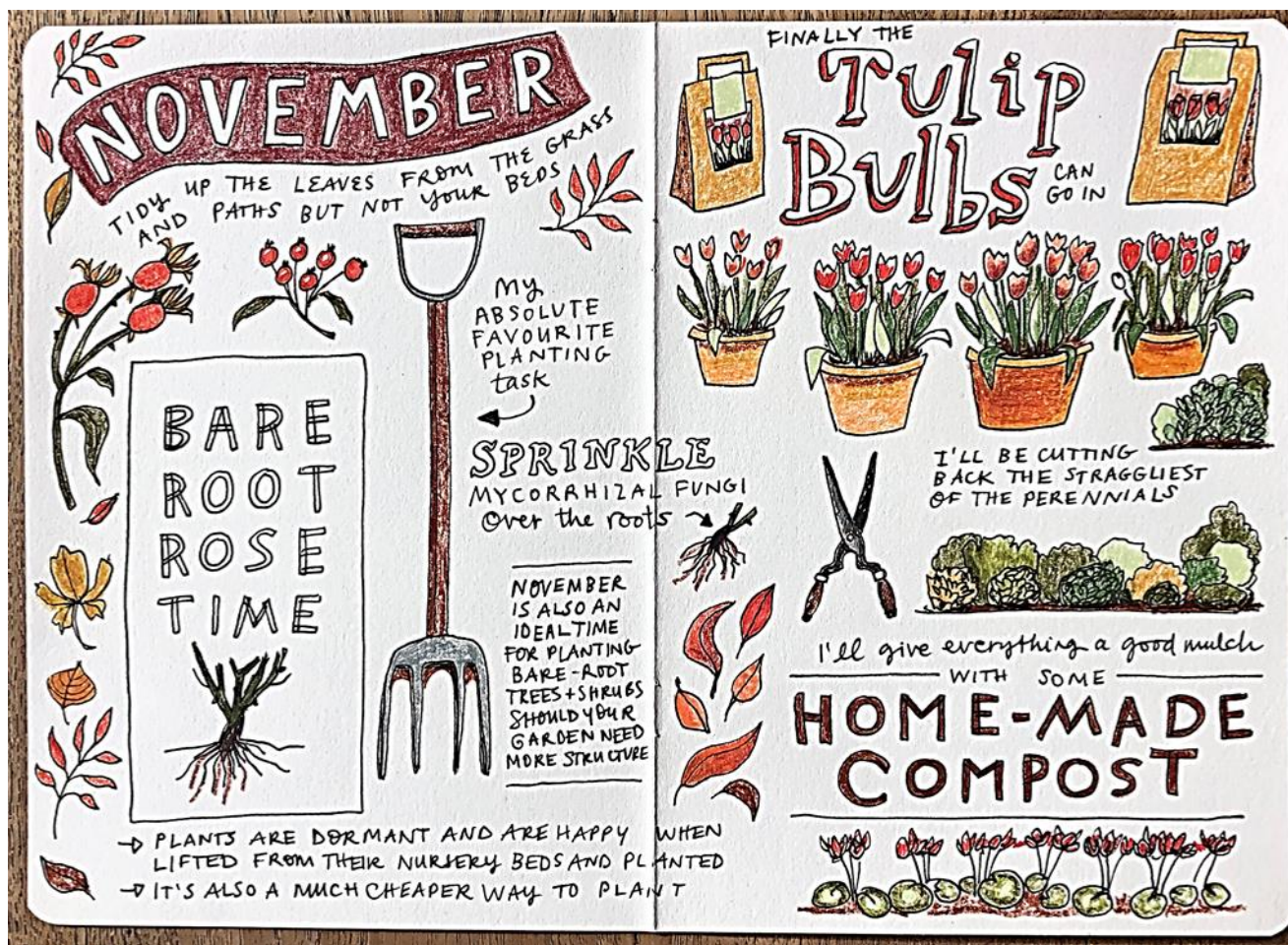


More Board meeting news. There was a conversation about the possibility of starting our meetings earlier but we concluded that it would create confusion. We have flyers out with the 7pm time, and also felt members would encounter more traffic as well as having less time to deal with dinner. The Board members start set up at 6:30 and welcome help from those who come early.

Still more exciting news. We have a number of garden books in our cupboard, too many, and rather than put them out on the Plant Table for sale, they will be on the bench at the front door of the Grange FREE for the taking. If you have a Little Free Library nearby, you can take them to contribute. This was the last Board meeting of the year. We will resume our 4th Monday of the month in January with a potluck at my place and Soup by Joe, my resident chef.

"There is no better excess in the world than the excess of gratitude."

JEAN DE LA BRUYÈRE



From The Gardening Mind on Substack by Jo Thompson. Illustration: Helen C. Stark

UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties

GARDEN TOOL TLC

Nov 8, 2025 9:30am to 11:30am

Join us at the next workshop in our Home Gardener Days partnership with Cabrillo College Horticulture! Garden Tools TLC Maintain new tools and rehabilitate old/neglected tools. We'll talk about protection from rust, rust removal and tool sharpening. Discover how best to clean and store tools after use.



Class participants are encouraged to bring a personal gardening hand tool in need of some TLC. Registration encouraged but not required. <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/tool-care-tlc-2>

Cabrillo College Horticulture, 6500 Soquel Dr, Room 5005, Aptos

REGENERATIVE SOIL TECHNIQUES FOR THE HOME GARDENER

Nov 9, 2025 10:00am to 1:00pm

UC Master Gardeners of Monterey & Santa Cruz Counties invite our local community to join us to learn regenerative soil techniques that you can add to your gardening bag of tricks.

Growing healthy soil helps the home gardener grow vibrant veggies and herbs, bountiful fruit trees and gorgeous flowers.

We will summarize what makes a soil regenerative, and demonstrate proven techniques such as cover cropping, vermicompost, lasagna beds, and straw bale gardening.



This class will be held outdoors and space is limited. Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/regenerative-soil-techniques-for-the-home-gardener-2>

Mountain Feed and Farm Supply, 9550 CA -9, Ben Lomond 95005

It is membership renewal time! Annual dues, which include all benefits, are only \$20.00, due by January 1st. The membership year lasts through the end of December, 2026. 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. And...with gift-giving season almost here, 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. Thank you!

Your Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

Gift Membership

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ Email: _____

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	\$ _____

UCSC ARBORETUM

Annual Holiday

Gift & Wreath SALE



throughout the holidays. In addition to beautiful wreaths and fantastic centerpieces made from Arboretum blossoms and foliage, offerings will include succulent and tillandsia driftwood pieces and terrariums, handmade colorful knitted mittens & scarves, stunning items

created by local artisan woodworkers, dish gardens of all sizes, and more!

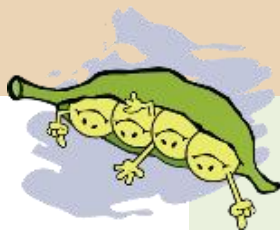
Saturday, November 23, 2025
9am-10am Members Hour
10am-4pm General Public

Arboretum artists have been busy for months creating stunning succulent and dried flower wreaths and works of art for this enchanting Arboretum fundraiser. This is the only collection you will find that draws from the Arboretum's rare and extraordinary collection of amazing plants! These items make the perfect gifts and decorations that will last



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.

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

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