



# Into the Garden

The Gardeners' Club  
Santa Cruz County,  
California  
MAY 2026  
Writer/Editor: Lise Bixler  
[lisetula@gmail.com](mailto:lisetula@gmail.com)



## Spring Plant Sale & Swap

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get free and bargain-priced plants and paraphernalia for your garden. Our members have been industriously dividing their perennials, potting up seedlings and extra plants, collecting seeds, bagging bulbs, gleaning surplus harvest, thinning tool and décor collections—all to make our trade and sale event a rich and rewarding experience. Come choose from a limitless variety of plants, bulbs, perennials, shrubs, seeds, small trees, tools, pots, vases, planters, books, magazines, knick-knacks and anything/everything garden. If you don't have plants to trade, you can buy stuff at ridiculously low prices. You are sure to discover something new to try. Don't miss out—see you there! Bring a friend —new members will get a bonus plant!



**Trade**  
**Books**  
**Buy**



**Yard**  
**Art**

**Share**



THURSDAY,  
MAY 14TH 7:00 PM,  
APTOS GRANGE  
2555 MAR VISTA DR.

(See inside back cover for more information.)

## Seeds Galore at Felton Library



The Felton Seed Library has been restocked and is bursting with seeds for for spring planting! Volunteers have been busy packing and labeling seeds donated by patrons and seed companies for this project of Felton Library Friends. Come choose some seeds for your garden and join the cycle: Borrow, Grow, Save, Return! The Felton Branch Library is located at 6121 Gushee St, Felton, For information on seed saving, see Seed Savers Exchange at <https://seedsavers.org/learn/seed-saving/>.



May is a unique "bridge" month for coastal gardening, allowing us to grow heat-lovers and late-

spring cool crops simultaneously. Finally warm temperatures seem to be here—no more worry about frost, at least. You may think it's too late to grow all your favorite vegetables from seeds, faster but warmer May temperatures make the soil good for for faster germination and steady plant growth.

For leafy greens and cool season holdovers, since coastal temperatures rarely spike in May, you can still direct sow many greens that would bolt elsewhere. For lettuce, stick to heat-resistant varieties like 'Muir' or 'Little Gem'. Arugula grows fast, and you can sow it every two weeks for a continuous supply. Swiss Chard is extremely reliable on the coast, tolerating both cool fog and sun. Kale can be sown now for a late summer harvest.

## EASY-TO-GROW FLOWERS TO START IN MAY



Beets and carrots are ideal for coastal soil; keep them moist until they sprout.

May is the "sweet spot" for favorites such as bush beans. Varieties like 'Blue Lake' are highly productive. Plant zucchini and summer squash. I am really enthusiastic about bush forms rather than. vining varieties.

Cucumbers are best grown on a trellis to keep fruit off the damp ground. Pole beans can be started. Scarlet runner beans like "Black Knight" and 'Black Coat' love the cooler coastal air and produce beautiful flowers.

For corn, opt for early-maturing varieties if your "June Gloom" tends to be heavy.

For flowers and herbs, see below.

Nasturtiums: They love the coast and are entirely edible.

Sweet Peas: You can get one last late-season sowing in if you have a cooler microclimate.

Basil: Wait until the end of May if you are still getting very heavy overnight fog. Cilantro: Unlike inland areas, cilantro thrives longer in the coastal May mist.

Zinnias & Cosmos: These will bloom deep into the fall in our mild climate.

## Dig Into Spring Gardening with AHS Live



Don't miss out on upcoming AHS LIVE programs! Join virtual programs with leading horticulturists and level up your skills. You don't have to be a member. Here are a couple of AHS LIVE programs coming up this month.

Black in the Garden with Colah Tawkin  
Thursday, May 7, 2026  
from 2-3 p.m. ET. Join Colah B.



Tawkin, creator of podcast Black in the Garden, for a conversation reflecting on the podcast's highlights and impact, the future of horticultural communication, insights on land stewardship and farming heritage, and all things Black and botanical. Register at [https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=4f583ca1-14db-4919-8ddd-82ae46b2221e&envId=p-JnbQKmfglEe\\_obdla3X7mQ&zone=usa](https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=4f583ca1-14db-4919-8ddd-82ae46b2221e&envId=p-JnbQKmfglEe_obdla3X7mQ&zone=usa)

Flora Culture with Christin Geall  
Friday, May 29, 2026  
from 2-3 p.m. ET  
Our love of flowers and desire to be close



to them has, across cultures and for millennia, created both landscapes and livelihoods. In this talk, Flora Culture author Christin Geall will take us on a journey across continents to explore the origins of some familiar garden favorites. By weaving her narrative between art, ecology, science, and history, Geall will get you thinking about your relationships to flowers, fashion, gardens and design. Register at [https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=c46006e9-5dcb-4523-82a9-7390c0a3c827&envId=p-JnbQKmfglEe\\_obdla3X7mQ&zone=usa](https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=c46006e9-5dcb-4523-82a9-7390c0a3c827&envId=p-JnbQKmfglEe_obdla3X7mQ&zone=usa)

## Spring Garden Maintenance: Protecting Bird Habitat



### Date & Time

May 9, 2026 from 9:30am to 11:30am

Register at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/spring-garden-maintenance-protecting-bird->

Cabrillo College Horticulture Center

6500 Soquel Dr

Aptos, CA 95003

United States

This is an in-person event

**Learn practical ways to care for your spring garden while protecting the birds that rely on it. Free event.**

As we undertake spring landscape maintenance, it's good to keep in mind how our local birds use our gardens for food and shelter.

Join Cabrillo College Horticulture Instructor Nicky Hughes and UC Master Gardeners to learn about sustainable habitat practices for bird-friendly gardens. A portion of the class will be held in the College Horticulture garden applying what we have learned.

**Monterey Bay  
Master Gardeners**

## How to Use Bread Dough for Snail Control

Bread dough is a highly effective, non-toxic, and inexpensive bait for controlling snails and slugs in gardens, outperforming many commercial products. Researchers found that a fermented mixture of flour, water, and yeast attracts them, allowing for mass trapping when placed in containers (slurry) or as bait balls.

The Recipe: Mix 2 cups of water, 1 cup of flour, and 1 packet of yeast to create a soupy, fermenting mixture.

The Trap (Slurry Method): Place the mixture in a container (like a plastic food tub or cut-up water bottle) with entry holes, and bury it in the soil so the holes are at ground level.

The Trap (Bait Balls): Simply place small blobs of the dough on the ground, or use a "dough-and-pick" method where you collect the gathered snails by hand.

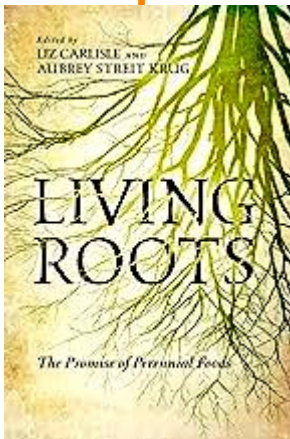
Maintenance: Check traps daily, remove the snails, and replenish the slurry weekly.

Effectiveness: The yeast fermentation lasts for up to 8 days, and the bait attracts snails from up to 1 meter (3-4 feet) away.



## Living Roots: Santa Cruz, CA book launch with UCSC

May 5 @ 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm



The University of California Santa Cruz's Center for Agroecology is hosting Living Roots co-editors Aubrey Streit Krug and contributor Tim Crews from The Land Institute for a book launch event celebrating perennial foods. Following the conversation, attendees can sample perennial treats and purchase copies of the book for signing.

Living Roots: The Promise of Perennial Foods explores the potential of perennial plants to create a more sustainable food system, moving away from dominant annual monocultures like corn, wheat, rice, and soybeans. The book features essays, poems, and art from a diverse group of contributors, including scientists, Indigenous leaders, farmers, and chefs, who advocate for perennial agriculture to build healthier soils, sequester carbon, and increase food system resilience. It serves as an introduction to a movement focused on integrating perennial crops like fruit and nut trees, grains, and native grasses into our farms and diets. It incorporates perspectives

from experts across numerous backgrounds and lived experiences to examine the promise of perennial foods such as perennial grains, indigenous food forests, fruit trees, nuts, berries, and more for sustaining communities and protecting the health of our shared planet.

This event is free to attend and open to the public. It takes place at the university's Hay Barn at 94 Ranch



Read something wonderful with **A MOM** this Mother's Day.

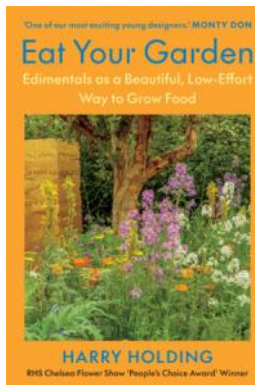
The perfect gift this month for someone you love or admire: or appreciate: a book with the potential to become a favorite!

**Art from the Garden: Create 25 Beautiful Botanical Projects**

Gorgeously photographed, warmly detailed guide to creating works of art with materials (mostly) from your own garden.



Create chic vases from twigs, visually stunning luminarias using water, your own gorgeous blooms, and a freezer, cyanotype prints with a branch and the power of the sun, and other striking projects. Artist and photographer Kerry Michaels lends her artistic and photographic talent, refined eye, and warm writing voice to this book for folks who want to bring nature into their home in sophisticated, highly personalized ways. If this is a Mother's Day gift, it will have to be a promise as it will have to be preordered for the end of the month. Oh, dear...so will the next one on this page!

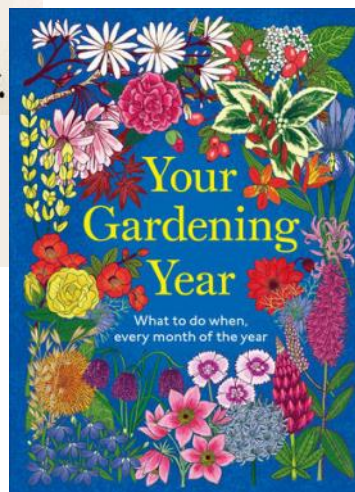


Eat Your Garden by award-winning RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden designer Harry Holding, is the first book to focus on a style of edible gardening that is lower in effort, greater in beauty and less demanding of space than the traditional kitchen garden or vegetable plot.

This is a grow-your-own book with a difference: edimentals are plants that are both edible and ornamental.

Some offer bountiful harvests and great flavours, others are more unusual, and then there are plants that earn their place in the garden because they are so joyful. Edimentals can be woven into existing gardens and across different planting styles, whether formal borders, cottage gardens or meadows, and in naturalistic or minimalist designs. Harry emphasises resilient, low-maintenance perennials for a more sustainable way to grow your own food. From familiar plants, such as fennel and wild strawberry, to ostrich fern and king's spear, Harry shows you how to create a foraging experience on your own doorstep. Har-

ry's pioneering design principles are drawn from permaculture, food forests, agroforestry, edible meadows and market gardens, which he brings to every garden from rural to suburban, city gardens, balconies and containers.



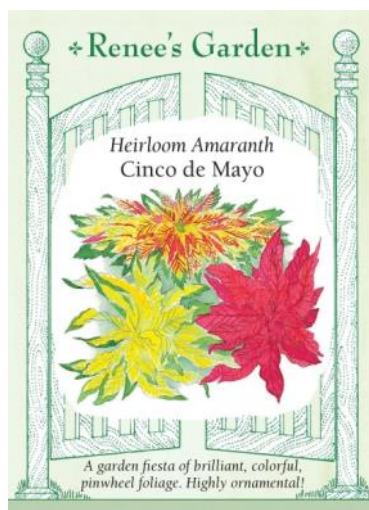
How soon can I sow my sweet peas? When should I prune my clematis? What can I do to add plenty of winter color to my borders? Is there anything to do in January?

Your Gardening Year is the book every gardener should have as they embark on a new year of planting, sowing, pruning, and growing. This easy-to-use guide is packed with

essential tasks and top tips for every month of the year, with sections on general garden care, growing fruit and veg, and getting the best out of containers.

Discover which plants will look their best each month, and mark the progression of the seasons with a dedicated note section, so you can record your garden successes and make plans for next year.

With beautiful illustrations to accompany each month, Your Gardening Year is a must-have resource for all gardeners – whether you're looking for a useful at-a-glance guide for yourself or a gift for a green-fingered loved one. His lovely volume will make a wonderful gift for new or experienced gardeners alike. It's got lovely illustrations and loads of helpful information. The helpful, month-by-month suggestions will guide gardeners through the most important tasks on the calendar.



**Happy Cinco de Mayo!**

Celebrate by planting a Renee's Garden amaranth, guaranteed to give you a fiesta in your garden. Modern cultivars of ancient New World plants, this is effortless to grow, loves hot weather and puts on a glorious late summer show of spectacular colors.

# Instructions & Tally sheet for Plant sale and swap

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to get free and bargain-priced plants and paraphernalia for your garden. Come choose from a limitless variety of plants, bulbs, perennials, shrubs, seeds, small trees, tools, pots, vases, planters, books, magazines, surplus harvest, knick-knacks and anything/everything garden. If you don't have plants to trade, you can buy stuff at ridiculously low prices. You are sure to discover something new to try.

You can take plants home by either by paying cash or check, or by bringing plants and other items for trade tickets to use instead of cash. Fill out this form before the meeting if you are going to trade. This is what you'll get for what you bring:

- 2", 3" & 4" pots: 1 ticket each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 1.5 ticket each
- 1 gallon pot: 2 tickets each
- 2 gallon pot: 3 tickets each

Miscellaneous items are priced at the meeting.



Label your plants with their common or botanical names, and put your name on them in case purchasers have questions.

Please don't bring loose, dirty plants that would make a mess, or plants you wouldn't be proud to put your name on.

We appreciate all of you who come early to help set up – it's a lot of work! And if you can, plan on staying to help with clean-up.

We'll start accepting plants at 6:40 p.m. The purchase prices are:

- 2", 3", or 4" pots: 2 tickets or \$1 each
- 6" pot or 6-pack: 3 tickets, or \$1.50 each
- 1 gallon pot: 4 tickets or \$2.00 each
- 2 gallon pot: 6 ticket or \$3.00 each

When there are multiples of the same plant available, please take only one until other members have had a chance to buy one. If there are multiples left over, then you can

grab them! Plants that don't get sold or given away go home with the person who brought them.

Good luck, and have fun!

Please complete this form at home and bring it with you to the meeting.

Number of 2, 3 or 4" pots: \_\_\_\_\_ X 1 = \_\_\_\_\_ tickets

Number of 6" pots or 6-packs: \_\_\_\_\_ X 1.5 = \_\_\_\_\_ tickets (round up to whole number)

Number of 1-gal. pots: \_\_\_\_\_ X 2 = \_\_\_\_\_ tickets

Number of 2-gal. pots: \_\_\_\_\_ X 3 = \_\_\_\_\_ tickets

Miscellaneous items (to be priced at meeting): \_\_\_\_\_ tickets

TOTAL TICKETS: \_\_\_\_\_



Note from Member Bill Patterson: “

Just watched the new first of five episodes of the Netflix series “This is a Gardening Show” and want to share that I found it a delightful twenty minutes of savoring the light yet informative side of gardening, —Bill Patterson”.



Thanks for the recommendation, Bill!

“This Is a Gardening Show” is a 2026 Netflix documentary series hosted by comedian Zach Galifianakis. It features six short episodes combining comedic interviews with eccentric experts and curious kids to explore gardening and food. The show is described as a humorous, eccentric take on gardening and sustainability

# The Gardeners' Club

P.O. Box 3025, Ben Lomond CA 95005

## President

Cherry Thompson, 475-0991

cherrytea@comcast.net

## Vice President & Publicity

Vacant

## Secretary

April Barclay, 688-7656

ABarclay@aol.com

## Treasurer

VACANT

## Memberships

Suzanne Caron 609-6230

Suzanne.bottomline@gmail.com

## Hospitality

Joanna Hall

628821

jhaveclock@sbcglobal.net

## Newsletter Writer/Editor

Lise Bixler, 457-2089

lisebixler@sbcglobal.net

www.thegardenersclub.org

## Webmaster

pmcveigh@baymoon.com

566-4553

Pat McVeigh

## Member-at-Large

rv41@gmail.com

marginerego-

684-1529

Marge Gregory

## Refreshments

zhovreboff@aol.com

(916) 303-3673

George & Evelyn Zhovreboff

aneymark@hotmail.com

lupea@ucsc.edu

Lupe Allen, 247-2705

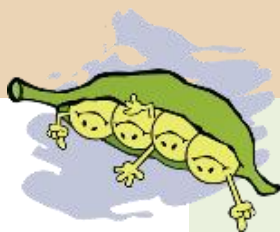
## Plant Table

poppy-54@live.com

Debbie Kindle

## Members-at-Large

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