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The City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department's

The Green Thumb

An occasional publication to update Community Gardens Program participants about the current happenings in the San Luis Obispo gardening community.

SLO Gardeners' Seed Exchange

Community gardeners from the Laurel Lane garden are hard at work organizing a fantastic event for the gardening community of San Luis Obispo. The second annual SLO Gardeners' Seed Exchange looks for community support to allow this event to keep coming back year after year.

On Monday, October 22 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the SLO City/County Library Community Room, all gardeners should find a wealth of information regarding saving and storing seeds for the winter.

Monday, October 22
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. SLO City/County Library Community Room



Guest speaker, Barbara Spencer of Windrose Farms will share the secrets of saving seeds to have a more bountiful harvest come next spring, summer, and fall. Local nursery donations of seeds and seedlings enhance the variety available for exchange.

Sponsors of the event include the City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department, Cal Poly's Sustainable Agriculture Resource Consortium (SARC), Nature's Touch Nursery and Harvest, ECOSLO, and Hope Dance. Bring your seeds and seedlings to share!



Quick Tips

Cal Poly U-Pick Orchards have apples and pears that will soon be available for harvest. U-Pick farms open for the community to harvest fruits directly from the source. All tools and buckets are provided by Cal Poly. Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Cal Poly Highway 1 access.

Call the U-Pick Hotline for more information 756-2224.



Tops of garbage cans, especially plastic ones with no handles, make easy-to-scoot-around receptacles for weeds or harvested fruits and vegetables. The tops won't injure delicate plants while working near ground covers. The broad, shallow surfaces of tops are perfect for harvesting delicate vegetables and fruits.

As fall begins, it is easy to become lazy in the garden. Please remember you are responsible for removing weeds in and around your plot.

If you need a gray day pick-me-up, find a gardening book from the library. Plan ahead for spring gardens, prepare the soil, or research some new blooms and vegetables for the coming season!



Dry Your Fresh Herbs

Summer has faded and most likely so have a majority of the fresh herbs in your gardens. Here are a few ideas to help store those savories for year-round enjoyment.

For large-leaf herbs, bundle together like a bouquet and tie the stems with string. Hang the bundles upside down to dry away from direct sunlight.

Finer-leafed herbs should

be laid out flat, away from direct sunlight (a window screen works well). Once dry, strip leaves off stems and store in airtight container. Enjoy these fresh grown herbs year round!



For more information on activities through the City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Department, call (805) 781-7300 or stop by 1341 Nipomo Street in SLO.

Local Garden Events & Attractions

San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens

October 13: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fall Plant Sale; 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Many Uses of Lavender

For more information on SLO Botanical Garden events, call 546-3501 or view www.slobg.org.

Cambria Pines Lodge and Nursery

October 13: 10:00 a.m., Demonstration, Orchids Demystified

October 27: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Workshop- Succulent Wreath

November 3: 10:00 a.m., Demonstration, California Native Gardening

November 10: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Workshop- Living Birdhouse

December 15: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Workshop- Garlands, Wreaths, and Swags

For more information or to RSVP for Cambria Pines Lodge Nursery Events, call 927-4747 or view www.gardenersevents.com.

North County Autumn Garden Tour

October 14: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Celebrating Gardens That Make a Difference

For more information on the North County Autumn Garden Tour, call 461-7217 extension 17 or visit www.amwc.us.

Windrose Farms Apple Tasting and Tomato Gleaning

October 21: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Taste 20 varieties of organic apples and pick some tomatoes for the road!

For more information on Windrose Farms, call 239-3757 or visit www.windrosefarm.org.

Autumn Gardeners' Monthly Checklist

October

- Plant spring bulbs, divide mature tubers if they have reduced blooming production.
- Feed roses & plumerias for one final bloom.
- Plant cool season crops: broccoli, spinach, lettuce, carrots, beets, cilantro, and peas.
- Cut back succulents and replant rosettes.

November

- Continue to plant winter crops for continuous harvesting later in the season.
- Stay on top of weed eradication, pull out the young weeds as they emerge.
- Plant color among the veggies with snapdragons, poppies, stock, violas, and pansies.

December

- Prepare for the rain, berm the perimeter and top with mulch to protect soil.
- Bare root plants are prime: roses, asparagus, artichoke, and rhubarb. Plant right away.
- California natives thrive when planted before the rains: fuchsia, sage, and toyon.