



Here's the Dirt

A publication of the River Valley Garden Club

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Winter Care Workshop for Roses

The Sierra Foothills Rose Society announces a Rose Pruning Workshop touted to be better than any you've attended before.— ever. Check out the specifics below:

Saturday, January 13th from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Orangevale Grange Auditorium
5807 Walnut Avenue, Orangevale 95662**

Watch Baldo Villegas prune a rose in 3 minutes or less

Easy to Learn Techniques

- ◆ Practice under the watchful eyes of experienced rosarians who prune hundreds of their own roses.
- ◆ Learn the basics, or refresh your skills
- ◆ Come and have some fun!
- ◆ Taste & vote for the best chili in the chili cookoff (yes— you read that correctly. They even have chili!)
- ◆ Ask as many questions as you want!



AGENDA

- ◆ 8:30 a.m.— Doors open /Registration
- ◆ 9:00 a.m. Pruning tools and their care
- ◆ 9:15 a.m. Pruning Principles & Tips by Rose Types
- ◆ 10—10:45 Hands-on pruning by type
 - ◆ Hybrid Teas & Floribundas
 - ◆ Old Garden Roses & Polyanthas
 - ◆ Shrubs & climbing roses
 - ◆ Miniatures and Minifloras
- ◆ 10:45—11:45 Roses are EASY!
- ◆ 11:45—12:30 Controlling Pests & Diseases in the Garden (Q&A)
- ◆ 12:30-1:30 Q&A and Chili Cook-off (Vote for the best chili)

When you leave, you will CONFIDEDNTLY prune your roses!

*For further information and carpooling call Berniece Jones (916) 354-2873
or Nancy Compton (916) 600-1992*

January Club Program to Feature Wildlife Habitats



Our first program for the 2024 year will feature Master Gardener Roxy Jones who will present a program on “Developing Wildlife Habitats”

Come and learn about bringing your landscape into harmony with nature. Learn simple things you can do to create an enjoyable garden that invites wildlife in. And why is this important? What is needed? Roxy will also talk about the how, what, and why of getting our gardens registered by the National Wildlife Federation as a Certified Wildlife Habitat.



Roxy grew up under the redwoods on 32 acres in the Santa Cruz mountains, so her heart is still in the forest. She taught Computer Science for 21 years at Sacramento State University. Since becoming a Master Gardener in 2013, her ideas about city landscapes have evolved. She began giving talks on native plants and water-efficient, river-friendly landscaping, then sustainable landscaping. Now she is devoted to supporting wildlife in our yards and urban landscapes. In 2022 Roxy became a Certified California Naturalist.

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Happy National Houseplant Appreciation Day!

Until reading this piece in the most recent issue of *Sacramento Digs Gardening*, I had no idea that any particular day was set aside in which to appreciate houseplants. Actually, I think we should appreciate our houseplants every day. After all, they put up with us when we forget to water, try to ignore the occasional cat or grandchild caper that could threaten their very existence, and they never complain if we leave the door open too long on a chilly day. *Sacramento Digs Gardening* adds that our assortment of ferns, orchids, and other tropical plants do more than just decorate our rooms. They help keep us healthier and happier.

The plants that make the best house plants like the same things we do — moderate temperatures with bright, indirect light, weekly watering, a little fertilizer, and occasional dusting.



Their foliage helps clean the air, filtering out pollutants and carbon dioxide while adding a little additional oxygen. Houseplants also contribute some moisture and added humidity to our indoor air, creating a more comfortable and cooler environment. Actually, the previous statement is geographically specific. If you live in, say, Florida or Alabama, you will not be looking for added humidity to your environment.

The article has two very positive suggestions for celebrating National Houseplant Appreciation Day — share some cuttings with friends, and buy more houseplants. Both suggestions are a positive way to start a new year.

Growing Ornamental Cabbage for a Boost of Color



If you just looked outside and didn't see even a whiff of color anywhere, you may be interested in bringing Ornamental Cabbage into your garden. These vivid and unique plants are simple to grow and can provide a spark of color when everything else is a rather depressingly drab gray.



Ornamental cabbage, also known as flowering kale, look similar to their edible counterparts. They are not grown for their flavor however, so don't plan your dinner around them. It is their striking foliage that make them a terrific option for fall and winter gardens. If you don't even want to go stomping around a damp and soggy garden, then pop them into a container and put them out front of your house.



Ornamental cabbage comes in lots of color combinations, some of which you can see pictured at your left. All are very appealing, so it's your personal choice which colors complement your garden.

Ornamental cabbage are annuals, so when they start to bolt and the underneath leaves begin to get mushy, it's probably time to toss them into your compost bin so they can mix with other items in your compost, and then become fertilizer for other plants. You can buy another one next year.



From the Green Acres Calendar.....

January 15 – MLK Day. Read about the MLK “I Have a Dream” speech. Visit the World Peace Rose Garden at Capital Park

January 17 Prune roses and other dormant shrubs. *This should be an easy task, especially if you attend the pruning clinic on January 13.*

January 19 Clear leaves and debris from the base of fruit trees to prevent disease.

January 23 Feed camellias after winter bloom.

January 27 Visit the Extraordinary Houseplant Event! — Shop unique plants curated for the houseplant and succulent enthusiast, collector, or novice. This event is at the Green Acres nursery in Citrus Heights, so gas up your car.

