



MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Melinda at C4 has a parcel bursting with beautiful blooms right now. She is a busy full-time mom to 3 y/o Arianna who is learning to tend the garden alongside her mom. Together, they make flower bouquets for the tables at their family restaurant in Moorpark, CA "Magma Pizzeria!"

How long have you been at the garden?

November 2022.

What is your favorite thing to grow and why?

Edible herbs, basil genovese has to be a favorite, I love fresh pesto!

One thing gardening has taught you?

Gardening is never-ending journey of discovery, no matter how experienced and I think the same applies to myself, but one thing I've realized is if you nurture your garden with love and care, nature will always find a way to give that love back. There is something profoundly healing about the simple act of tending to a garden.

What is the most unusual plant in your parcel?

Native milkweed for the monarchs.

"The hum of bees is the voice of the garden."



Elizabeth Lawrence

Tastes of Summer

Stuffed Zucchini Blossoms

Ingredients :

- 1 egg
- 1 cup of flour
- ½ of milk
- 1 cup of ricotta cheese

Directions:

Harvest a dozen male flowers and wash. (they have the thin stems) Whisk flour, milk and egg together. Place 1-2 tsp of ricotta inside each flower. Dip in batter until coated. Fry in your oil of choice until browned both sides. Enjoy !



Cucumber Beetle Verses the Organic Gardener

Just as we get ready to dream of cucumber salad, along come these brightly colored marauders. These yellow beetles suck on cucumber plant stems causing damage to your prized plant. The cucumber beetle is attracted by cucurbitacin, an odor that members of the Cucurbita family excrete, which is why you will find them mainly concentrated on cucumber and squash plants!

Damage includes reduced plant vitality, lower yields, and the potential spread of viruses. To avoid this, plan ahead by choosing a resistant variety of cucumber plant such as the "Burpless varietal." Organic methods such as hand removal, netting, soap spray, or sticky traps can also be helpful tools to defend your cucumbers!

Cucumber beetles spread quickly between plants—and especially within a community garden like ours—so let's all work together to keep these little fiends under control!

For more information, check out cucumber beetle videos from "MI Gardener" and "The Millennial Gardener" on YouTube to learn some techniques on how to control these pesky garden foes.

