



LETTUCE

Having its moment right now, get some lettuce growing ! Whether you start from seed or starter plants get some in the ground to enjoy while the weather is mild enough. So many varieties - loose leaf, Little Gem, romain, butter.... Take your pick !



Tomatomania dates 2026.

Closest events are :

Otto and Sons, Fillmore

March 12-14

Tapia Brothers Farm Stand Encino

March 20-22

More Information :

<https://tomatomania.com>

Seed catalogues to dream of summer with!

Johhny's, Bakers Creek, Burpee, Eden Brothers

There are often copies left in the shed on the shelves to share. Take a moment next time you're at the garden and check them out while enjoying the shade from our new pergolas!

OAK PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



Growing together since 2004

Please extend a warm welcome to our new members Karen A10, Stew A8, Andy and Ryan F4 , Chris C8 and Rajesh E8 , Candy C3 when you see them at the garden .

OPCG in the Community

The garden was recognized in November by the Oak Park Municipal Advisory Council and Ventura County Supervisor Jeff Gorrell for its contribution to community education with the elementary school program the Community Outreach committee has been running.

Our Treasurer, Alison, was also acknowledged, in October by the Oak Park Unified School District board for assisting in getting the districts school gardens up and running and supporting the Farm to School program.

In 2026 we already have tours of the garden booked with Oak Hills Elementary 1st and 5th grades and a local scout troop.

Planting seeds to grow future gardeners – it's a good thing ! Want to participate contact Alison



How does our garden work?



Greenhouse

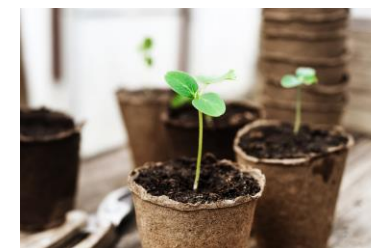
The greenhouse is a relatively new addition to the garden 2024.

If you haven't checked it out it's looking impressive right now!

It recently had some shelving units built that have doubled the growing space and provided storage for materials. Currently, there are over 100 pots of tomatoes started as we work on supplying plants for our fundraising tomato sales and the open house on May 16th.

We are still fine tuning how to regulate the temperature as our lovely California "winter" weather can nudge the daytime temperature inside into the 90's and our recent cold snap we hit 28 one night! A recent donation of a solar panel and some engineering on air flow and we should be good.

Bob, our garden manager supervises the day to day and is the contact should you wish to try your hand at starting some seeds.





MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Jeff Hoyt (B6 & B7)

1. **When did you join OPCG?** My journey began early in 2018. My neighbor Lydia had been telling me about it for a year, and when she took me for a tour, I was hooked!

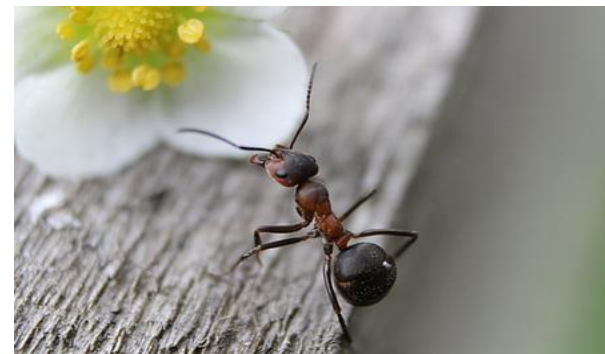
2. **What is the favorite plant you have grown?** Broccoli, cauliflower, and lettuce. I like growing in the winter best because there are fewer critters. But in the summer, I love artichoke and tomatoes.

3. **Top tips for compost?** Tip #1 rotating drum type composter. You rotate it every few days to increase oxygen & speed up the process. Tip #2 50/50 green to brown. Green is all my kitchen scraps including my favorite coffee grounds. For brown I use wood shavings.

4. **Tell us about your asparagus.** My parcel had asparagus that was planted by the previous renter. It came up as a surprise and has spread further each year. There are male and female asparagus, and if you allow the females to flower they produce red berries which really spread the growing area.

5. **What is your favorite tomato?** Indeterminate varieties that grow like vines rather than determinate ones that are like a bush. Although I like growing Early Girls, Celebrities, and the common Disease resistant ones, my favorite variety is called Large Cherry. Some years I have more tomatoes than I can pick. I looked in my garden folder and I had given away a little over a pound of tomatoes to 38 friends and relatives multiple times. Some five times. That's over 75 pounds.

Spring is nature's way of saying "Let's Party!" *Robin Williams*



Organic Pest Control

Ants

1. Sprinkle cinnamon to disrupt scent trails
2. Use food-grade diatomaceous earth to dehydrate ants
3. Pour boiling water on ant nests
4. Watch Gary Pilarchik's Youtube for Borax and sugar tips



Monarch madness continues—9 and counting in the last few weeks!

Board Members:

President: Bill Colangelo

VP: Lekshmi Nair

Treasurer: Alison Batten

Secretary: Amanda Martin

Garden Manager: Bob Kieling

Important Links:

oakparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com

www.instagram.com/oakparkcommunitygardenca

www.facebook.com/oakparkcommunitygarden.org

Important Dates

March General Meeting at the Mae Boyer

Meeting Room – 03/19/2025

Workdays – TBD

Fungal Blight – Tomatoes can be quite susceptible to the spores of fungal blight. If infected, tomato plants will have poor production or you can lose the whole plant. Bob, our garden manager and tomato king suggests the use of organic sprays and good growing practices to combat the blight.

1. Captains Jacks Copper Fungicide used per directions
2. 1-2 tblspns baking soda, 1 tblspn vegetable oil, 1 gallon of water and 1 tblspn dish soap Spray every week.
3. 8 tblspns of hydrogen peroxide to a gallon of water used as a spray weekly.

Keep plant leaves trimmed and off the ground. Remove any infected leaves. Create air flow by pruning. Do not water plant foliage, use drip system to prevent soil borne pathogens splashing up