



Garden Club Newsletter

March / April 2025

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THIS ISSUE

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Companion Planting Presentation



Sheri Spirek

Tulip and Hydrangea Cutting Tips



Carrie Kelly

2025 Officers & Board

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Upcoming Meetings

April 8 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Palm Room at Eagle's Nest

No monthly meetings
May thru September



Upcoming Event

Garden Club Year-End Party
April 10 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Oasis Pool - Potluck

Parking Lot / Plant Sale

A big thank you to everyone participating to make this sale so successful!





Heat and Drought

What Can Be Done?

by Dave Rosenthal

When I first heard about climate change, it was in terms of increasingly Mediterranean-like summers for much of the temperate world. I remember hearing people talk excitedly at the time about how good climate change sounded. Many were actively looking forward to the prospect of this projected scenario. Fellow gardeners would tell me to expect more hot, balmy evenings and that I would have the potential for growing a wider range of produce outside that would lead to lots of enjoyable alfresco dining on my home-grown fruits, herbs, and vegetables. Yet the reality isn't as clear-cut as it was made out to be.

The climatic changes and overall temperature increase will indeed herald more heat waves, it is just that it will occur alongside more extreme weather patterns in general. So, it is probably no surprise that scorching summers, huge forest fires, and widespread flooding have really flipped the switch on the reality that climate change is indeed upon us. Here in State 48, prolonged periods of heat during the summer months are an increasing probability. And, although sunshine is often preferable to rain, prolonged periods of it (and the soaring temperatures that go along with it) can be very problematic for the garden.

As we saw last summer, the heat stress of prolonged hot temperatures, especially for

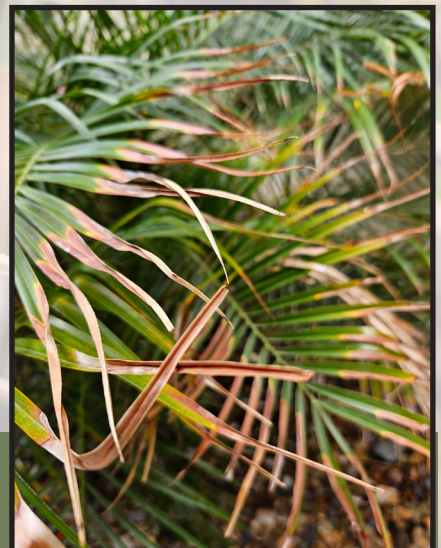
areas of the garden in direct sunlight, can cause immediate damage in the short term, stunting or stopping growth, or in some cases causing plants to wilt away altogether and die.

In the longer term, the stress of dealing with the heat can also weaken plants that have otherwise (to all outward appearances) managed to stand firm. In such cases, it can hamper their ability to cope with further extremes such as those potentially thrown at us in winter. So, what can be done?

In addition to reconsidering and revising the plants that we use in the future and growing for resilience moving forward, there are also some quick and easy measures we can take to provide first step protection and prepare for the next time we experience such searing heat.

Water at the right time of day. A soaking either early in the morning or later at night will enable water to permeate much deeper into the soil for the benefit of your plants. Once the thermostat begins to rise, plants will start transpiring, and some of your precious resource, and the time spent delivering it, will simply evaporate away.

Water for longer, less often. Rather than a surface watering, go for a longer soaking, so that the water seeps deep into the soil and stays around for longer. When you consider that the soil's surface forms the front line, enduring the heat of the sun, it makes





sense to ensure your plants have access to water deep in the ground around their roots. This way, less day-to-day watering will be necessary.

Mulch thirstier plants. Not all

plants have the same requirements, so those with greater thirst can be protected by way of a surface mulch around their base. Compost enables soil to hold on to a greater volume of water than it would be able to otherwise, so it's a first choice in this regard for a mulch, although other materials can also be used. If you water before applying the mulch, the moisture will stay in the ground

for even longer, protected from evaporating by the mulch layer on top.

Vertical watering. You can improve the infiltration of water through the soil by pushing the stiff stems of sweet corn or sunflower deep into the ground to create a pathway for water to move freely. In the same way, you can use a tool to create a narrow vertical hole, which you can backfill with sand.

So, choose your plants wisely, cover the garden ground with mulch or compost, use tall plants such as sunflowers, Jerusalem artichokes, or a trellis of climbing plants so that they create shade over smaller plants, ensure that your soil is of the best possible quality, water at the right time of day, in the right amounts, and enjoy the bounty of your garden.

Spring Fling In The Garden

Thursday, April 10

11:30-1:30

Oasis Pool

Please bring a dish to share

Free Local Plant Exchange

**14076 W Cambridge Ave.,
Goodyear, AZ 85395**

David Thomas's home is not in PebbleCreek but more toward the corners of N. Litchfield Rd. and W. Thomas Rd. in the neighborhood behind West Valley National Bank.

He maintains the Free Plant Stand on behalf of the West Valley Garden Club off of his private home's front porch with the rules of **"Bring One, Take One."** Always identify the plant you leave behind with a label and don't forget to sign the register.

Stop by if you ever have something to share, and you never know what you might walk away with.



Local Exploration!



Yavapai Trail
at Lake Pleasant in Arizona.

**Do you have a
question or topic
you'd like more
information about?**

If your answer is yes, please
email the question or topic to
gardenclubofpc@gmail.com

We will do our best to respond
in one of our upcoming
newsletters!

No question is too trivial!!



Garden Club of PebbleCreek

Website: pcgardenclub.org | Email: gardenclubofpc@gmail.com