



# Garden Notes

## Spring 2021



(c) Kathy Keatley Garvey

**Male Valley Carpenter Bee** Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey

**Have a Gardening Question? Ask Us!**

## Welcome to our Spring Edition of Garden Notes.

Hello Spring! Spring is the most exciting and busiest time to be a gardener. Plants are waking up, weeds need to be pulled, and winter clean-up has to be done. This should also be the busiest time of year for our program, but with restrictions still in place we are not able to hold in-person events. While we look forward to the time where we can see you in person again, we will continue to plan virtual events and do our best answering your gardening questions remotely. We anxiously wait for the time when we can help out with school gardens, set up tables at farmers' markets, host community workshops and say hello at events throughout the county.

Until then, we hope you enjoy our spring edition of Garden Notes.

~ Happy Gardening ~

Marcy Sousa, Program Coordinator



## The Elder Plant

Elderberry (or Elder) is a flowering plant of the genus *Sambucus* from the family *Adoxaceae*. Often seen as a robust and woody 12-foot shrub, the plant bursts forth with creamy white flower sprays in the spring and by summer the dark clusters of juicy, plump berries are visible.

*Sambucus* enjoys worldwide geographical distribution as well as morphological diversity which previously led to the identification of 30+ recognized species. It was, however, Bolli's 1994 published dissertation which dramatically reduced that number to just nine.

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## Outdoor Flower Gardening

Outdoor container gardening is a wonderful way to garden in a small space, but it has many other advantages too, the greatest of which is flexibility. Plants in containers have some special needs besides the light, air, water, and nutrients that all plants need. Container plants also need a good soil mixture, the proper container, fertilizer amendments and attention to water.

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## Bulbs

Many bulb crops are of Old World origin, introduced into horticulture long ago and subjected to selection and crossing through the years to yield modern cultivars.

In Horticulture, the term bulb is inaccurately applied to several botanical structures with a similar food storing function. Bulbs are a modified stem that is the resting stage of certain seed plants, mainly perennials monocotyledons.

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## Spring Garden Chores

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## Plants of the Season

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## Pests of the Season

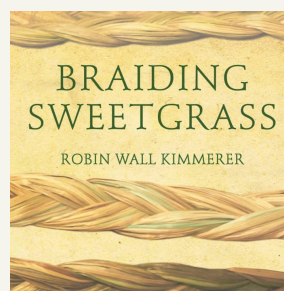
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## Herb Study - Herbs in Pots

Culinary herbs are easy to grow if you have the right location, good drainage and the right potting mix, and several herbs with similar requirements—such as oregano and rosemary—that can be grown in the same pot. Follow the general guidelines for growing plants in pots elsewhere in the issue. Growing herbs in pots, rather than in the ground, has several advantages:

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## Growing Knowledge Light Winter Reads

Braiding Sweetgrass is her homage to the respect and reverence she has learned from her life among the natural world, from her family and tribal elders. Her book is “a braid of stories meant to heal our relationship with the world. It is an intertwining of science, spirit and stories – old and new ones that can be medicine for our broken relationship with the earth...”

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## Community Connections Pruning Ornamental Grasses



## Horticultural Terms Mycorrhiza



## A Taste of the Season Recipes from the Garden

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### Help Desk

**My peaches were small last year. What can I do to improve their size?**

Fruit trees often set more fruit than they can support or develop. Peaches along with nectarines, apricots, plums, and other stone fruits all benefit from thinning.

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### From the Garden Hypertufa

Hypertufa can be used to create garden spheres, decorative toadstools, steppingstones, pots and vases, and so much more. The only limit is your imagination. There are many websites to boost your creativity and help with the selection of a project.

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### Find us on YouTube!

The San Joaquin County UC Master Gardeners have a [YouTube page](#). We recently created a channel and are excited to add videos to it as we make them. Did you miss a virtual class? Don't worry, you will be able to find in on our channel! Make sure you subscribe so you don't miss out!

### Have a Gardening Question? Ask Us!

**Master Gardener Helpline: 209-953-6112**  
**E-mail: [anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu](mailto:anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu)**  
**Website: [ucanr.edu/sjmg](http://ucanr.edu/sjmg)**

We are currently checking e-mails and phone messages remotely due to COVID restrictions. We ask for your patience as there may be a delay in response time from our volunteers.

[Find past editions of our newsletter here.](#)

