



College Area Community Garden

a community based member supported organic garden

Hi fellow gardeners

It's been unseasonably warm, especially on Christmas, but there are colder nights coming, so be watching for any indication of frost warnings that may threaten your garden plants. Here is a UC Master Gardener link that provides guidelines for how to minimize frost damage in your garden:

[http://marinmg.ucanr.edu/Our Projects/Leaflet/How to protect plants from frost/](http://marinmg.ucanr.edu/Our%20Projects/Leaflet/How%20to%20protect%20plants%20from%20frost/)

This week, Jennifer crafted some frost protection tenting for the mango and lychee trees and will be building frost protection fixtures for the papaya trees as well. The frost protection fixtures will be constructed using some flexible fencing material to surround the plant and then filling the container with mulch to insulate the trunk of the tree. The blanket of mulch will keep the trunk a few degrees warmer than the surrounding air and protect the tree from freezing on cold nights.

If you'd like to get some ideas for garden activities in the month of January, take a look at what San Diego Home and Garden recommends: <https://www.sandiegohomegarden.com/2019/01/11/10-things-to-do-in-the-garden-in-january/>

We are thankful for all of the great work our community of gardeners is doing to keep the garden growing strong. Here are a few of the happenings over this past month. Jacqueline Hadley and Keith Sweatt have been continually caring for the Bee Happy Garden along the front fence and fostering buddleias that are being planted in the new herb and pollinator garden along the North border of the raised beds. When you are at the garden take some time to stroll past the pollinator plants. The plants that are flowering are constantly changing, so you will probably find something new growing there each month of the year. One of our newest gardeners, Alex Cavalier, has been distributing the large pile of native soil amendment over the area where our herb garden will be planted this coming year. Jacob Kirksey, Sam Mallen, Charlie Trujillo, and Nancy Smits have been very helpful watering gardens for other community gardeners who were unable to go to the garden.

Mark Miner, our College Area Community Garden vineyardist, has been cultivating an amazing variety of grapes, black berries and passion fruit for many years. This year Mark has added some additional grape and berry varieties and is implementing a new strategy to keep the grapes out of reach of the "fluffle" of rabbits that come out to feast every night during the harvest season. Here is a link to Mark's latest [vineyard report](#).

Gardener Helen Pittman is finishing up an article about the garden that will be submitted for publication in an upcoming College Area Times newspaper. So, I'm really looking forward to reading the article and I will notify all of you when we know the publication date. We are continually looking for volunteers to write an article about the garden that will be published by the College Times Courier (Note: 600 words maximum). So, if you have some ideas, try putting pen to paper, and share your ideas with the

community. We encourage you to include up to 3 story related original photos (preferably in jpg format). Forward any articles or thoughts about articles to any of the College Area Community Garden board members. The board members will review articles before submitting for publication and reserve the right to edit for content.

Some gardens, mine included, have been experiencing significant pilfering of some of our cruciferous plants (broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage). We think its likely caused by rodents. Wes Moyers has a potential solution that may be worth a try. If you try this solution wear proper PPE including gloves and goggles and be extra careful not to get any on your skin, mouth, eyes or nose. Here is the recommendation from Wes: *The recipe comes from Burpees "The Complete Vegetable and Herb Gardener". It's listed under "Repellants" for insects but since it's so tough on mucus membranes, I figure it would have value against animals too. I am positive I have also heard about it being used as a taste repellent against deer - Organic Gardener maybe.*

The recipe is 1/2 cup hot pepper puree - seeds, skins and all. I used a blender and a mix of the hottest peppers I could find - Sorrento and habanero chilies. There are hotter peppers and if someone can find them, buy me some too! I suggest wearing some gloves and keeping the lid on the blender - the mist is killer. I strained mine through a layer of paper towel or in a fine mesh sieve basket. Add two cups of just warm water - you can use it in the blender to keep a vortex going. Finally mix with 1 tsp of dish washing soap to emulsify. The soap seems to make it spread and coat leaves better. Put in a spray bottle and I thoroughly wet front and back of leaves and stems. Wear a mask when you spray. The stuff I made was nuclear. Best, Wes

The garden has engaged a fruit tree specialist, Tyler Trimble, from Backyard Fruit, to care for our fruit trees while Gabe Mitchell is taking some time off. In December, Tyler began implementing pest management and feeding the trees. In the third week of January Tyler will return to prune, feed, and treat the trees (actually date to be determined). Click [here to view Tyler's YouTube channel](#) where you can learn a lot about fruit tree care.

Some of our lemons and limes are ripe and ready for picking! If you are like me, you probably can't figure out which tree is which in the CACG orchard. Click here to see a [treasure map of the orchard](#) made by Jennifer Petit that labels the location of each of our fruit trees. This version of the map has circled the numbers 21 and 23 that identify the two trees that have ripe fruit right now. We welcome gardeners to pick a few pieces of the fruit for themselves and a few more that they can place on the giving table for gardeners that aren't able to pick the fruit themselves. Take caution to not damage the tree or yourselves when picking from these trees. Their branches can be fragile and they do have very thick thorns that can cut into your skin.

Just a reminder, it's time to renew your membership. Note: the rates haven't changed for 2021. Payment is due from all gardeners by January 7th. Please click on the link that follows to renew your membership online via our [College Area Community Garden website](#). The amount to pay for each size of raised bed is listed on the website. Scroll down to the "Buy Now" button and use PayPal to make your payment. Or use this QR code to go directly to PayPal using your smartphone or tablet.



Scan. Pay. Go.

Best regards,

David Petit
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College Area Community Garden