



# Beyond the Garden Gate

## Elk Grove Garden Club

### A Message from our Co-Presidents

Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne Strohmaier

As February unfolds, it brings with it the promise of spring and the beauty and growth that comes with it. This is the perfect time to start thinking about the upcoming Spring Plant Sale, a cherished event that not only supports our club but also spreads the joy of gardening to our community. Our sale is just around the corner, and we're looking forward to a fantastic selection of plants, flowers, vegetables, and herbs that will help transform gardens throughout the area.

In preparation, we encourage all of you to begin growing seeds! There's something magical about nurturing a tiny seed and watching it transform into a strong, healthy plant. Now is the time to give those seeds the care they need to thrive and flourish. For many of us, this process brings joy, a sense of accomplishment, and the anticipation of the seasons ahead.

Remember, our plant sale will not only be a great opportunity to showcase your gardening talents but also help fund our club's projects and initiatives. Your contributions are what make this event a success.

Let's make this spring our best yet! Start planning your seed starts, think about what plants you want to donate, and mark your calendars for the sale date. Together, we'll help our community grow, one plant at a time.

Thank you all for your continued enthusiasm, dedication, and support. We can't wait to see the fruits of our collective efforts bloom this spring!

Happy Valentine's Day!



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**Please remember to bring your water bottle to our meeting.**



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**Thursday, Feb. 13**

10am – social

10:30am – meeting begins

Gil Albani Recreation Center  
8830 Sharkey Ave.

**February Speaker**

Growing from Seeds – Susan Muckey & Vivian Sellers

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**Refreshment Committee**

**February** – no team leader; Inge Biggs, Silvia Boggs, Olinda Cortez, Marianne Folkers, Kate Genato, Gina Kan, Karen Lewis, Rita Montez, Teena Yee

**March** – Ana Weekley, team leader; Mary Adams-Wiley, Leslie Haynes, Gayle Martin, Susan Muckey, Jane Olson, Ines Wright, Juana Zamora

## February Meeting

Growing from Seeds – our own Master Gardener’s Susan Muckey and Vivian Sellers will guide us on starting seeds of flowers and vegetables.

Each member will be given a “pony pack” to grow for our **April Plant Sale**. There will be plenty of flower and vegetable seeds to choose from. If you have a favorite, please bring seeds to the meeting.

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## February Birthday

Olinda Cortez	2/2
Ana Weekley	2/4
Karmen Loftis	2/15
Sandra Aldana-Evans Raas	2/20
Karen Lewis	2/26

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## Roses and Alfalfa

Have you pruned your roses? Roses should be pruned every year between the end of December and Valentine’s Day.

Remove every leaf from the newly pruned bush. Clean all leaves and debris away from the base of the plant.

Consider applying an insecticidal soap or horticultural oil after pruning and while the rose is dormant. This will smother overwintering scales and insect eggs; they are least harmful to beneficial insects.

Apply two cups of alfalfa pellets; work into the soil and water, if necessary. Alfalfa is a natural product rich in protein, vitamins and minerals. IT also contains triacontol, a fatty acid that stimulates cane growth.

**Don’t have alfalfa pellets? We have leftovers from Lichtenberger Rose Garden and will be selling bags containing 2 cups for \$1.00 each.**

**If you let Vivian know ahead of meeting, she will have your purchase all bagged and ready to go. Just email to [vrsellers@frontiernet.net](mailto:vrsellers@frontiernet.net)**

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## Did You Know?



1. The Rose is the official flower of the USA
2. Hybrid ‘tea’ rose got its name because they were sent to England from China with the tea shipments.
3. A rose patent is for 27 years
4. Roses range in size from tiny miniatures of 8 inches to a tree climbing giant that will reach 50 feet. Hybrid teas grow 4-6 feet tall, floribundas from 3-4 feet tall and pillar and climbing roses reach 8-15 feet tall.
5. Most roses grow fairly rapidly. Tea roses may reach their full height after only 3-4 feet and grow to that height each year despite being cut back each year.
6. Many of the “new/modern” roses will live only 10 years unless given exceptional care. Some species and climbing roses will live 50 or more years.
7. Roses are the most popular gift of flowers year round, in 2023 2.8 billion stems were sold (more than enough for every adult American to get a one 10-stem bouquet)
8. More than 250 million roses will be grown for Valentine’s Day.
9. The number of roses in a bouquet can convey a message:
  - 1 – You are still the one
  - 3 – I love you
  - 6 – I want to be yours
  - 10 – You are perfect
  - 12 – A classic way to ask someone to be yours
  - 13 – A secret admirer
  - 15 –An apology/plea for forgiveness
10. The color of the rose has a meaning:  
White – Innocence and purity  
Pink – Romance and happiness  
Yellow – Love between friends  
Peach – Modesty and appreciation  
Lavender – Love at first sight  
RED – Passionate love



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## Garden Corner

By: DeAna Melilli, Landscape Committee

### February the Prelude to Spring

What an exciting time for us gardeners! As the cold weather begins to wane, it is the perfect time to start sowing seeds and planning for the upcoming growing season.

With so little rain we will need to prepare for the hot weather to come. We can start with putting fertilizer out in the entire yard and lightly soaking the ground. This would let the fertilizer to penetrate the soil equally.

Watching your budget? Consider using cooked water on your fertilizer. Finished cooking, let the water cool and then dump that water in your garden instead of down the drain. Many micronutrients, such as phosphorus, nitrogen, and calcium, are cooked into the water when you boil pasta, vegetables, eggs, or potatoes. This is my water saving method of feeding all my plants while kick starting my summer garden with lettuce, spinach, celery, and mixed greens.

Fun Fact! Harry Truman preference for "earthy" language was legendary. He once offended a friend of Bess Truman at a Washington horticulture show by referring repeatedly to the "good manure" that must have been used to nurture the blossoms. "Bess, couldn't you get the President to say 'fertilizer'?" the woman complained.

Fertilizer in Ancient Times! The Babylonians, Egyptians, Romans, and early Germans all are recorded as having used minerals or manure to increase yields on their farms. The predominant source of fertilizer for a few thousand years was manure as cropping and herding developed at the same time were integral.

Mud Pie Fertilizer Twist – Sugar for the Soul

Brownie Bottom Chocolate Pudding Pie

Ingredients:

2 (3.9-oz) boxes of instant chocolate pudding

1 box of brownie mix (your favorite)

Garnish:

Semi-Sweet Chocolate Curls

Whipped Cream:

1 Cup Heavy Cream

2 Tbsp. Confectioners' Sugar

½ Tsp Vanilla Extract

**DIRECTIONS:** Make the pudding first following the box instructions. Chill pudding for up to 3 hours. While the pudding is chilling, make the brownie crust following the box directions. To make the whipped cream, beat the whipping cream and confectioners' sugar with a mixer until the cream is about halfway to being stiff. Add in the vanilla extract and continue beating until stiff peaks form. Refrigerate the whipped cream until the pudding is chilled enough to assemble the pie.

To assemble the pie, make sure the brownie crust is at room temperature. Grease a 9-inch or 10-inch pie dish with cooking spray or butter. Place the brownie crust in the dish. Add the chilled pudding on top of the brownie crust. Top the pudding with the whipped cream. For the garnish, use a vegetable peeler to peel along a straight edge of your chocolate square. Scatter the chocolate swirls on top of the pie. Refrigerate the pie for at least an hour before serving, to allow it to set.

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## April Plant Sale

EGGC will provide labels for our plant sale so that all plants will be labelled the same and have all the information needed. A sample will be included with each packet of labels.

In addition, if you need potting soil or pots, contact Vivian Sellers.

At our February meeting, we will start seeds of flowers and vegetables for the sale.

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## February Garden Checklist

### February Garden Checklist ~~~~

By Jan Fetler



- Convert sprinklers to low water or drip systems.
- Check moisture of plants under eaves.
- Plant vegetable seeds outdoors: carrots, kale, lettuce, radishes, beets, chard, etc.
- Cut down and turn under vegetable garden cover crops.
- Continue pruning: dormant deciduous fruit trees, cane berries, blueberries, roses, and trees and shrubs that will flower on this year's growth, such as salvia and butterfly bush. Finish by mid-February.
- Cut back ornamental grasses.
- Wait to prune woody plants that flower on last year's growth, such as azalea and camellia.
- Plant summer bulbs like canna and gladiolus.
- Apply last copper spray on peaches and nectarines to reduce peach leaf curl. Apply by bud swell in mid-February.

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## Calendar

### Upcoming Events

**March 8, 2025** (Saturday) 9is till 3pm  
Perennial Plant Club Sale  
Sheppard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

**March 15/16** (Saturday & Sunday) 10 am till 4 pm  
Sheppard Garden & Arts Center Spring Sale  
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA

**March 22** (Saturday) 10 is till 4 pm  
Cymbidium Show and Sale  
Sheppard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, CA

**April 12** (Saturday) 8am till?  
EGGC Plant Sale  
8609 Brodie Ct., Elk Grove, CA

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## Sacramento River Valley District Meetings

**May 13, 2025** (Tuesday) 8:30a till 1:30p  
Speaker – Judy Eitzen, Rosarian and Master Gardener

Clipboard will be passed around at meeting for those who are interested in attending SRVD meeting.

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### Elk Grove Garden Club Leaders

Co-Presidents – Maureen Slocum and Mary Anne Strohmaier

Vice-President – Ana Weekley

Secretary – Mary Lou Lange

Treasurer – Susan Muckey

<https://www.elkgrovegardenclub.org/>

**Elk Grove Garden Club is a member of:**

Sacramento River Valley District  
California Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Pacific Region of National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
National Garden Clubs Inc.

### The Newsletter Team

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### This Month's Contributors

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