

OGC October 2019 Hilltop Highlights Newsletter Submission

THE ADVENTURE OF WILDLIFE IN THE OCEANA GARDENS, submitted by Frank Danczyk

Gardening can be fun, but sometimes, oh! those darn pests that can get into your eyes, or even crawl on your legs! Granted, that is not the most common scenario, but we do indeed encounter all sorts of pests, insects, and crawling vermin!

This is the last of 3 articles dedicated to wildlife in our gardens. The first was on birds, the 2nd on different predators we encounter in our gardens, and this one is going to be on the most common insects that we deal with while working our gardens. Naturally the insects can vary from day to day, season to season, and year to year. This also is not a complete list, but probably the most common insects and bugs that we encounter in our gardens. The list is as follows. Thank you!

Ants— many kinds, Aphids, Bees— beneficial, produce eating bugs, Butterflies—beneficial, Caterpillars— become butterflies, Chiggers— microscopic mites, Dragonflies, Fleas, Grasshoppers, Ladybugs— beneficial, Mosquitoes, Spiders— many types, Termites, White Flies-not beneficial

Monthly Homegrown Gardening Class <https://agriserviceinc.com/home-grown-gardening-class/>

The Home-Grown Gardening Classes are a great opportunity for homeowners and OGC members to improve their grading knowledge and skills. Mary Matava, agronomist and owner of Agri Service, and Diane Hollister, North County's premier gardening instructor, share information on topics encountered by gardeners Oceana. The classes are held at the El Corazon Senior Center at 10 AM on the fourth Saturday of each month (except December.) Sign up to receive emailed information and reminders at the bottom of the above web page listed.

Want to have a more productive garden check out "Pat Welsh's Southern California Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide."

How to Freeze your Harvest

For simplicity and speed, it's tough to beat freezing for preserving your garden's homegrown goodness. Frozen vegetables, fruits, and herbs boast fresh-picked flavors long after the growing season ends. In fact, of all the food preservation methods, freezing is the best at keeping your produce's color, quality, and nutrients. What's more, you probably already have all the tools you need to get started.

<https://bonnieplants.com/gardening/how-to-freeze-your-harvest/>

Fall & Winter Gardening, submitted by Christine Gorman

We are fortunate to live in a climate that allows year-round gardening. The Fall/Winter season is an ideal time for growing. We can start our winter veggies from seed as late as October.

Hopefully, we'll get some gentle rains this winter. The plants respond noticeably to natural rainwater in a way you won't see with tap water. With less heat and less bugs, it's a great time to garden.

With winter rains, the trade-off is that you'll see more weeds. This is the time to monitor on a regular basis. You can minimize labor by digging out the weeds when they first appear.

The **OGC Seasonal Planting Calendar** for what to plant in October includes; Beets, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, collards, endive, favas, garlic, kale, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, mustard, onions, parsley, parsnip, peas, radish, rutabaga, spinach, swiss chard, turnips, and winter zucchini.