



Laguna Beach Garden Club Weeder's Digest



JANUARY 2025
MEMBER NEWS

Sowing Seeds of Wonder through
a Community of Gardeners.

"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." — Walt Disney

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR • DALYNN MALEK

A new year holds so much promise- moving on from old habits, saying good bye to things that didn't go as well as planned, and thinking about do-overs for things that were too good to let pass by.

Garden Design web-site has once again published their list of New Year's Resolutions for gardeners. I've given myself permission to pick one or two to tackle- hey I know my limits! Just like seeds sprouting from newly tilled soil, our ideas and

projects bring new life and a spark to our world. Happy planning & planting!

https://www.gardendesign.com/holiday/new-years-resolutions.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Resolutions-1-2-25



COME JOIN IN
THE FUN

Events This Month

General Meeting Jan.10

Jenny Rose Carey

Glorious Shade (see page 3)

Laguna Presbyterian Church

- 9:30 am social
- 10:00 am meeting



Green Thumb & Crafts Jan. 17

**Broken china
mosaic
Workshop**

9:30 am at Sharon Stephens' home (see page 5)



Trips & Tours Jan. 22

The Ecology Center SJC



President's Message

Fresh Starts & Planning Ahead

Happy New Year everyone! I hope our first newsletter in 2025 finds you all in great health and high spirits. As we step into the new year, it's a wonderful time to reflect, and spend meaningful moments with loved ones, and give back anyway we can.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on January 10th and giving a warm welcome to Jenny Rose Cary, who will be joining us!

January is also the perfect time to start planning for the next year ahead, especially for those of us who enjoy gardening. I've been working on my garden To-Do list, and as always, I am drawn to planting flowers - annuals and geraniums being among my favorites.

Outside of gardening I am planning to spend time baking and getting into my books. It feels like last year flew by so quickly, and I am determined to savor every moment this year.

Wishing you all a productive and joyful January, filled with exciting plans and cherishing time with friends and family!

- Mary Sanchez



January Newsletter Contest

Know me, know my pet?

Win a prize if you correctly guess which "pet" belongs to which board member.

The pets of the following board members are pictured:

Vice President Blair Contratto

Co-President Nancy Englund

Co-president Mary Sanchez

Director of Membership Lynn Jax

Director of Gate & Garden Tour Susan Denton

Co-Financial Secretaries Brian & Mary Jones

Recording Secretary Monica Thompson

Need some hints? Two people share a fluffy pet, and Blair and Susan have two pets each, your Co-Presidents have short-haired animals. **Send your entries to Nancy Englund at nancyenglund@icloud.com by noon on Thursday, Jan 9.**

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January Guest Speaker Jenny Rose Carey

"Glorious Shade"

Jenny Rose Carey is an avid hands-on gardener and professional horticulturalist. Born in England to a family of botanists and gardeners, she grew up in the countryside and designed her first herb garden at age sixteen.

Her degrees are in Biology, Horticulture and Education, so Jenny Rose brings a strong teaching background to her writing and her presentations.



Professionally, she has been a director of two public gardens: The Ambler Arboretum of Temple University and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Garden at Meadowbrook Farm.

She is now devoting her time to writing, speaking and tending her own 4 ½ acre garden called Northview, where she has lived for over a quarter of a century.

Jenny Rose and her gardens have been featured on the PBS series *The Victory Garden*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *the Washington*

Post, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *GROW* magazine and the *Pennsylvania Gardener*. Jenny has authored two books, **Glorious Shade** (2017) and **The Ultimate Flower Gardener's Guide** (2022).



Please join us on **Friday January 10th** at 9:30-10:00 for social time and refreshments, meetings begin promptly at 10:00. Meetings are held at Laguna Presbyterian Church in Tankersley Hall located at 415 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA.



Our Gift Shop Grows
Stop by the Gift Shop tables at the January meeting to stock up on items you will need to do spring planting or as a gift for you favorite Valentine



All our Thanksgiving baking paid off for the Laguna Food Pantry!

You donated 285 cartons at the December meeting. Plus the 40 cartons that member **Mary Lewis** collected from her Bayside neighbors brings our YTD total Sept-Dec to a whopping **1172 cartons!** This means so far we've saved the Pantry \$527 in egg carton purchases allowing them to allocate those funds towards nutritious food for their clients instead. And we're giving those cartons a second life.

In September I set a goal of 1700 for Sept-May. With the 1172 so far and 5 months to go, 1700 is well within our reach and I've got a feeling

we'll be closer to 2000. Maybe you have neighbors who can get in on the fun?

Reminder that they will take all cartons, cardboard or plastic as long as they have lids. Please open and stack them to make it easier for Club member (and Pantry volunteer) **Cyndie Metz** to deliver for us.

Thanks to **Diane Kloke and Carolyn Bent** (pictured) for helping stack and count them all. See you all Jan 10!

-Jane Leary



CLUB NEWS

Green Thumb Crafts

Broken China Mosaic Workshop with Sharon Stephens

Date: Friday January 17th 9:30 AM

Location: Home of Sharon Stephens – 25881 Pecos Road
Laguna Hills

Cost: \$30

Payable: When you sign up at the January 10th meeting
Class will be capped at 10 people

Each attendee will be making a small 6" x 6" broken China mosaic. All material will be provided. Attendees may bring costume jewelry or small ceramic figurines to incorporate into their piece to make it more personalized.



We will be working outside on a covered patio so dress according to the weather. Bring a snack or small sack lunch to have while your mosaic is drying.

Questions: Contact Sharon Stephens
stephensco@gmail.com

Valentine Auction & Sale

Look at all the pretty things we already have for the Valentine's boutique! Please bring your items to the January meeting.



Trips & Tours

Tentative 2025

Trips & Tours

Line-Up

Happy New Year, Daytrippers! This is the *tentative* line-up of Trips & Tours (T&T) for January through April. More information will follow as specific times and details for our visits are confirmed. Look for updates at general meetings, and please read your newsletters and Constant Contact reminders for any changes. -Patty Gaffney & Synthia Scofield

January 22 The Ecology Center,
San Juan Capistrano



February 26 Getty Center, Los Angeles

March 26 Niguel Botanical Preserve
(encore visit, member request)

April 23 Private Garden, San Juan Capistrano

The T&T Team looks forward to touring with you in the new year!

The Valentine Container Garden Sale will be the highlight of the February 14 meeting

Let your creativity shine! Design a dazzling container garden for the Valentine Open House Plant & Planter Sale. Please bring a container garden for the silent auction. It can be modest or elaborate, bursting with color or subtle variations on the theme of green—anything goes! Plenty of inspiration can be found online. Thrift shops can be a terrific place to find a unique container. Plant it with thrillers, spillers, and fillers, add top dressing, and you have a winner!

We will also have a boutique version of our plant table, so clean out your closet and donate your cast-off garden and household items and garden-related books. You are welcome to bring your donations to the January meeting.

Please contact Nancy Englund with any questions or suggestions. Nancyenglund@icloud.com



FEBRUARY 14 VALENTINE CONTAINER GARDEN SALE WORKER BEES NEEDED

Once again our February meeting will have the ever popular *Container Garden Sale & Auction*. We need helpers to make the day run smoothly. Sign up at the January meeting or contact Nancy Englund with any questions or suggestions. Nancyenglund@icloud.com

TABLE WORKERS: Arrive at 9 AM and arrange donated items on the tables. Match the bid card number to the number attached to the item. Nancy will determine opening bid. Workers can take time off to place their own bids. Six volunteers needed.

ITEM RUNNERS: Arrive at 9 AM. Assist members to carry their auction item into the meeting. Assist winners to get their purchases to their cars. Two volunteers needed

DOOR CHECKERS: When the auction is closed, stand at the exit to check the receipt card against the item number. Two volunteers needed.



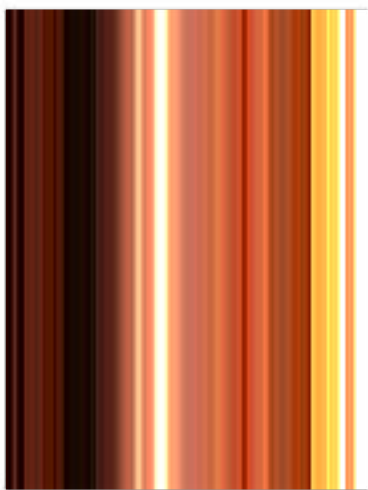
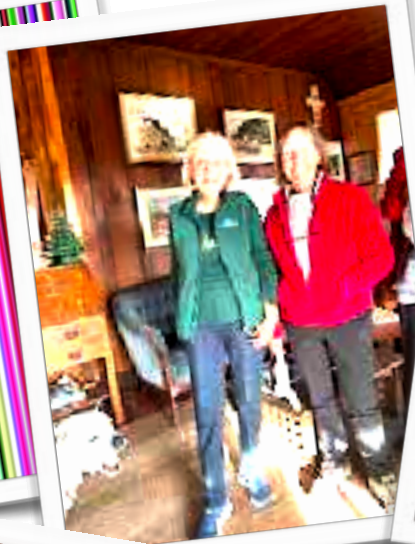
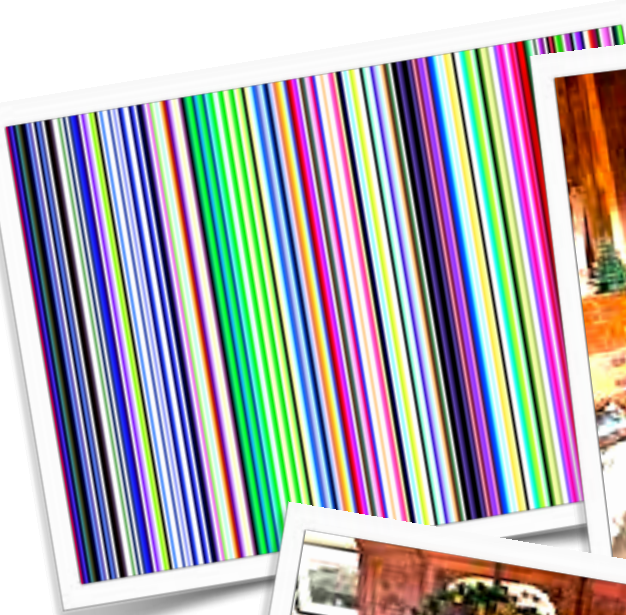
2024 Holiday Member's Home Tour

On December 13, 2024, three of our members graciously opened their homes and gardens for the Holiday Member Tour. It was a festive occasion, providing a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new members. The Tour was a big success with nearly 80 members attending.

Each home on the tour was unique in its own special way, and of course, the delightful variety of nibbles and drinks was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to **Marilyn Alexander**, **Patricia Weier**, and **Shirley Matthews-Jagels** for their holiday hospitality. Special thanks to **Mary Jones** for organizing the event.

- Brian Jones



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*More Holiday Fun at the Members'
Holiday Open House*



It's a New Year So Why Not Build a New Hive?

Do you recall that feeling when you were a kid and you got a brand new notebook on the first day of school? All the pages were fresh and clean and waiting to have something written on them! It felt like the year was full of possibilities.... like a fresh New Year!

Let's start on page 1 and write **2025 Gate & Garden Tour** on the top of the page. The next part is really fun! Write in all the incredible ways that you are going to participate in this transformative event. You may be asking yourself, has Karen gone mad, what does she mean "transformative" event?

Just for starters, the Gate & Garden Tour over the years has transformed the proceeds from the tour into more than \$250,000 in scholarships that have changed many young adult's lives for the better. The beautiful pollinator gardens throughout town were "transformed" from weed filled patches to life-giving pollinator gardens. The spectacular Matt Willey Good of the Hive® bee mural has brought joy to thousands and brought the plight of pollinators front and center in this city. This is just a handful of things that we have accomplished as a club!

So how are you going to fill in your notebook? Take a huge leap of faith in yourself and volunteer for a major role in this year's tour. I promise you that by the end of the year you will have to say, "Holy Cow, she was right, I've accomplished meaningful, life changing objectives just by volunteering for a garden tour! Who knew??"

I promise you that you will make some life-long friends, deepen your knowledge of self and find that you are so much more than you gave yourself credit for, never mind all the people that you will participate in helping. This is the essence of the message of the mural, the message of "The Good of the Hive®". It encourages us to live outside our own bubble, our own comfort zone, and find out how to begin to participate in the world in a new way where concern for "others", comes before what we want. Definitely a paradigm shift, but the payoff is mind-blowing.

I know you are out there; you are the person with great organizational skills, has maybe been involved in putting together events before, are great with mobilizing people. You are the person who would be perfect to take over the Gate & Garden Tour in the future! So why not step up and offer to shadow Susan Denton this year to get your feet wet in the space and see how it feels? Remember, no guts, no glory!

Just like the bees when they start a new hive, their primary focus is to build honeycomb structures within their new home that suit the needs of their swarm. Start your new year with a new hive and see how you can live differently in 2025!

-Karen Nelson



Our Members Shine



December Centerpiece

Mary Lewis & EilzaBeth Chapel created the centerpiece for the December treat table. They chose nutcrackers as the main focus of the table scape to add a sense of play to the delicious setting.



December Volunteer of the Month

JoAnn DeYonker was selected as the Volunteer of the Month. JoAnn, a member since 2013, is always willing to volunteer to help with Raffle ticket sales, help set up Tankersley Hall for the monthly meetings, organize raffle prize packages, and many other behind the scenes jobs that help to make our club's activities run smoothly. Thank you Jo Ann for all you do for our club!



Proud Name Tag Wearer

Mae Ho, member since 2019, as a reward for wearing her name tag at the meeting. Wearing one's name tag helps to welcome new members to the club by letting them know everyone's name.

Monthly Contest Winners

Regina Hartley won the Counting Bees Contest with **Susan South** buzzing right behind her as Runner - Up.



In The Weeds

Design Notes From Fashion Designer Erica Patapoff

Hi Blair,

Thank you again for having me last week, I really enjoyed sharing my dress with everyone! Here is a copy of the talk I gave, as well as the dress sketch. Please let me know if there are any other photos you would like!

Thank you,

Erica

"It's an honor to present to the Laguna Beach Garden Club, whose mission to celebrate and nurture the natural world— and the people in it— inspired my design. My name is Erica Patapoff, and I am both a costume designer and herbalist. Today, I'll be sharing the story of my dress called, "In the Weeds," which won 'Best Interpretation of Theme' at the Laguna Art Museum's Art + Nature Show. This dress is not just a garment—it's a love letter to the overlooked beauty, wisdom, and resilience of nature.

The inspiration for In the Weeds came from a question that's always intrigued me, especially as an herbalist: why do we so often dismiss nature's most abundant medicines as mere 'weeds'? Plants like dandelion, thistle, and nettle—often uprooted or ignored—are brimming with healing, nourishing, and protective qualities. Their resilience in harsh environments mirrors the strength and adaptability we can all learn from.

Your club's focus on protecting our natural ecosystems and honoring every part of the garden and community, from cultivated flowers to the wild corners, sparked my imagination. I wanted to create a piece that celebrates the regenerative power of these so-called 'weeds' and invites a reimagining of their place in our world—just as you aim to look more deeply at the beauty in every plant and every person.

In the Weeds is a 100% upcycled creation. Every element is made from materials that might otherwise have been discarded. The base of the gown comes from thrifted garments- each layer hand dyed to capture the multitude of colors found in nature. All of the lace you see started out as a stained party dress, which I then over-dyed, carefully cut out piece by piece, and lovingly stitched by hand. If you look closely enough, you'll see that some of those lace flowers cover up the rips and tears of the salvaged tulle it's sewn to. Some of the other layers were even made of fabric leftover from when I made my own wedding dress! The leaves, flowers, and embellishments are crafted from fabric scraps and broken jewelry destined for the trash. These details reflect the vibrancy and beauty of dandelion and thistle, turning what might have been waste into something meaningful and beautiful.



Continued on the next page

The delicate trims are made from hand-dried plants I gathered in spaces like parking lots and sidewalk cracks—areas where nature thrives quietly and often unnoticed. Every detail is full of meaning—the very shape of the sleeve itself is called a butterfly sleeve in honor of our pollinators. The top layer of the sleeves are cut in the shape of a nettle leaf and decorated with trim cut and dyed to look like nettle seeds. Each stitch, fold, and trim became a meditation on nature's abundance and resilience. My hope was to echo what I've learned from working with plants: that every element of the garden, no matter how humble, plays a role in creating balance and beauty.

Through this dress, I wanted to challenge the perception of what we value and discard—not just in the garden, but in our lives. By embracing nature's overlooked wisdom, we can spark conversations about sustainability, biodiversity, and working in harmony with the Earth rather than against her.

This piece is also a call to celebrate the regenerative potential of what is often dismissed. The resilience of the dandelion reminds us to nurture what's deemed unworthy, to see the beauty and potential in the overlooked, and to find ways to collaborate with nature's abundance.

In closing, I want to thank the Laguna Beach Garden Club for the inspiration you provided, not only for this dress but for the way I approach my work and my connection to nature. In the Weeds wouldn't exist without your passion for cultivating and protecting the beauty of our natural world and giving back to the community who grows in it.



I hope this dress serves as a small reminder that even the humblest plants can teach us the greatest lessons, and that beauty can be found in the discard."



Growing Our Membership

Please roll out the Garden Club Welcome Mat when you see our new members at meetings and outings. I truly enjoyed reading about and writing about each one. I know you will also. I'm sure you will notice a familiar refrain of many of our new members as being invited by other members. That being said, if you have a friend, neighbor, or colleague who might be interested, please feel free to invite them to attend a meeting to see if we are good fit. The first meeting is free.

Lynn Jax, Director of Membership

Terry Barman – (*joined December 9, 2024*) heard so much about the great lectures that happen each month from her friends in the Garden Club, so she thought she would give it a try. She spends much of her time outside in her “way too big” garden. Terry has lived in Laguna Beach for 35 years and started her new career as a preschool teacher when Head Start was on the El Morro Elementary campus. She then started a free preschool program for low-income children at the Boys & Girls Club in Laguna Beach, writing grants to sustain the program. She retired at the age of 69 but continues to write grants for the Boys & Girls Club to continue to keep the children of Laguna Beach safe and happy. She is very open to experiencing whatever the Garden Club has to offer. Terry has spent much of her life traveling, which included spending two years hitchhiking in Africa after graduating from UCLA. Later she worked Northwest Airlines, enabling her to travel for 15 years. She continues to travel when she gets the chance.



Pat McClure – (*joined December 1, 2024*) has always gardening. Her friends, Kathy and Julie, introduced her to Laguna Beach Garden Club. Pat is originally from the Midwest, Lake Forest, Illinois, but she has also lived in New York City and Boston. She moved to California in 1980, having had enough of Midwestern winters. Pat retired from a career in marketing. She hopes to expand her knowledge of Western gardens and landscapes. She looks forward to meeting new friends with similar interests. She has always wanted to go to the Chelsea Flower Show in London. She was a member of Huntington Gardens, her favorite place in Los Angeles. On occasion she has had to hide the dirt under her fingernails by covering her nails with polish because she often digs in her yard.



Phyllis Mitchell – (*joined December 12, 2024*). Susan Denton invited her to join. She's a Midwest girl having been born, raised, and lived in the Cleveland, Ohio area until 2021. Phyllis has had 4 distinct careers including corporate banking and information technology. Her skills include excellent organizational and business skills, working well with numbers, competent in a variety of computer skills and cooking. Best of all is that she leans more towards being collaborative and is very flexible. Her superpower is patience. For 35 years, her contribution to their yard and garden was cutting the grass!! She hopes to get a little better at growing plants, meet some new people and listen to some interesting speakers. When her sister and her husband were going on vacation, they asked her to care for their plants, which include about 30 indoor plants of various shapes and sizes. When they returned home, they were absolutely thrilled that she had only killed two of their plants.



Mary Raber – (*joined November 11, 2024*). The Garden Club is well known in Laguna Beach. Because she recently fulfilled a board commitment with a non-profit organization and now has the time to focus on a new endeavor, she thought the Garden Club might be a good fit. The Club's meetings are well run and organized, which she appreciates. Mary grew up in the northern Wisconsin/Minnesota area where winters are long, and the growing season is short. In her twenties, she wised up and moved to California, where she completed her accounting degree at Cal State Fullerton. Eventually she became a partner in a small CPA firm. She retired ten years ago, so her accounting skills are rusty, but she has strong organizational skills. Aside from meeting interesting people, she hopes to learn some basic gardening skills for her little fairy garden and her collection of orchids. She has taken a Rosemary Gladstar course in herbalism as well as an aromatherapy course, both of which put plants into action.



David Raber – (*joined November 11, 2024*) and his wife, Mary [listed above], attended one of the Open House meetings and found out more about the Garden Club and subsequently nominated it for the “Local Organization of the Year” award from the Beautification Council in October 2024. He and Mary signed for membership at the next meeting in November. They first moved to Laguna Beach in 1999 and have been living in Temple Hills since 2008. He was born in St. Louis, raised north of Chicago, and finished college at UNC Chapel Hill. After a career in software development, he seems to be able to tame the unruliest of software issues. David can fix and extend the life of many mechanical items. However, he wishes he inherited better green thumbs from his parents, who started life as central Illinois farm kids. The December speaker inspired them to try to “Go Native” with some of their garden space. They love the low maintenance and low water aspects of plants. He feels they have become very good the “Low Maintenance” aspect of gardening, now they just need plants to match their minimalist ambition. For over 20 years, David has volunteered for a non-profit historic railroad operation in the mountains of central Nevada as an “Operating Docent” (train crew). Through his involvement has become certified as a railroad engineer, but only for standard gauge steam locomotives.



Membership Update

Welcome to the New Year! Wow! 2025! I am pleased to announce that we now have **245** members as of December 12, 2025.

If you have not picked up your 2024-2025 Membership Book yet, tables with the books will be located inside Tankersly Hall at the Jan 10th meeting for your convenience.

Name tags – reminder to wear yours to receive a ticket to be eligible to win a great prize as a reward for wearing it. If you joined the Club in December, your new name tag will be ready for pick up. If you ordered a replacement or spare name tag, it will also be ready for pick up.

If you have a friend, neighbor, or colleague who might be interested in our Speaker Series, please invite them to attend a meeting to see if we are a good fit. The first meeting is free, and we accept members at any time.

Please feel free to contact me at any time via email: lynnmjax@icloud.com or cell: 949-294-1500.

-Lynn Jax, Director of Membership

December Raffle Cheer

Holiday cheer was spread to the lucky winners of sought after items such as the Marion Paquette Designer Handbag won by **Harriett Craig-Neghabat** and the Gorjana Jewelry Gift Certificate won by **Lynn Jax**.

Ongoing cheer was spread to the winners of these specialty items: Talavera Pottery, Designer Cocktail Napkins, Viori Sports Gift Bag, a handmade Succulent Wreath, hand selected Christmas Baskets and a Laguna Pottery Gift Card.

Thank you to those who helped with donations, sold tickets and participated!

- Vicky Adams-Cuccia



So Many Toys for Laguna Beach Kids!

As they do every year, the Laguna Beach Fire Department collected toys from the community in their **Spark of Love Toy Drive** to support kids right here in our city who could use a little bit of extra joy at Christmas. With your generosity we were able to purchase 8 bicycles and 9 helmets, plus the bike donated by my neighbor, Harvest Restaurant garden manager Farmer Leo, along with all the other toys and games and sports equipment donated by you. So many toys they had to bring the fire department pickup truck to haul them all away!

The toys were given out by the fire department on Saturday, Dec 21. Each child got to choose the toy(s) they wanted. What a special Christmas for these kids, thanks to you, our generous members.

-Jane Leary



PROMISE ME A ROSE GARDEN

THURSDAY, JAN. 9, 1-2:00 PM

Hosted by
Norman P. Murray Center
24932 Veterans Way
Mission Viejo, CA, 92692

Roses bring beauty, fragrance, and romance into our lives. Whether you are new to roses or experienced, a Master Gardener will inform and inspire you about the selection, planting, care and feeding of roses. You'll learn how easy it is to bring the beauty of roses to your garden.

Free, open to the public

Note: If you are unable to attend, sign up for the online encore presentation on Friday, Jan. 10th, 10:00 a.m. to receive the Zoom link.

Registration Required

**Presented by the
UCCE Master Gardeners of Orange County**
mgorange.ucanr.edu mgorange.ucanr.edu/Gardening_Hotline/



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
Orange County

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