



July/August 2021

NEWSLETTER

The Central Peninsula Garden Club

Greetings Central Peninsula Gardeners.

We're getting into the part of the vegetable gardening season where some harvesting is taking place. Some of our members have already harvested greenhouse cucumbers & tomatoes. We all should have harvests of radishes, spinach, greens, and lettuce in the kitchen already with more on the way. The best stuff is yet to come to include, cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, beets, potatoes, etc. I don't know about anyone else, but I get excited anytime I'm harvesting a hidden underground treasure.

Flowers are coming on strong too with daffodils and tulips pretty much over or getting close to the end. Dahlias are doing well by now and should be staked soon. Peonies are budding and will be flowering soon. The colors are a welcome sign of the efforts we've all put in to help paint our landscapes.

Don't forget the next program meeting will be on Sep 14, 2021, 7 PM, at our new location, College Heights Baptist Church located at 44440 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Soldotna, AK. College Heights is 1/3 of a mile down K-Beach from Peninsula Grace back toward Soldotna, right across the street from the door and window company.

And don't forget we would love to print your gardening stories, pictures, and recipes in our newsletter. You can email your stories, pictures, & recipes to me at CPGCNewsletter@gmail.com Larry Opperman, Newsletter Editor

Reminder: This is a two-month newsletter with the next issue out in September

Gardening is the art that uses flowers and plants as paint,
and the soil and sky as the canvas

CPGC Board of Directors

Cleta Elefritz – President	Terrell Brewer - Treasurer	Cathy Haas - Director
Mitzie Long – Vice President	Cindy Roque - Secretary	Dirk Tanner- Director
David Rigall – Director	Charlene McLean - Director	Larry Opperman – Director
Rebecca Notmeyer – Director	Beverly Romanin - director	

CENTRAL PENINSULA GARDEN CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Don't forget it's getting close to the time to renew your individual or family membership to the club. Membership runs from September 1 to August 31. You can easily sign up on the club website or print out a membership form on our website and send to the club address with your dues.

Membership fees are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family membership

Please go to our website to become a new member or renew your membership.

<https://www.cenpengardenclub.org/membership.html>

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL PENINSULA GARDEN CLUB?

There is something **new** in store for paid members of the garden club! We have worked with local greenhouses, feed stores, farms, and vendors to provide a discount to club members who display the new membership card we will be issuing this year. So far, we have over **15 local** businesses who are willing to provide a 5% discount on purchases for our paid-up club members! 5% may not seem like a lot but as gardeners, you know it's easy to rack up some buys and this program can easily help pay for your annual membership in full or at least partially.

BUT! You must be a paid-up member with your membership card to receive the discount!

We are working right now to solidify the list of businesses and when finalized, the information will be sent to our paid-up members for their use starting with the 2021-2022 membership year. And to be sure, those local businesses who are participating are not obscure and are frequented by all of us for our gardening needs.

And besides this new perk of membership, we still have the other benefits of being a club member. Priority registration for workshops (which we hope to start again next year), garden tours, and the comradery of getting together with fellow gardeners to talk our craft. And of course, the continued publication of our newsletter.

We would love to have you as a new member and/or your continuing membership in our club!



Annual Plant Sale



The annual plant sale went off without a hitch on Jun 12 at Peninsula Grace Church. Cathy Haas did yet another wonderful job in organizing and running the sale. Customers were lined up 45 minutes before opening and 80% of the plant stock on hand was gone within the first 30 minutes. The garden club wishes to thank all the volunteers who helped with the sale and especially to all of you who donated plants. We sold vegetables, flowers, trees, berries, and some houseplants. We look forward to the sale next year at our new location. College Heights Baptist Church, 44440 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Soldotna, AK. And we all owe Cathy Haas a big thank you for another job well done. Thanks Cathy!



Patrons queued and ready to pounce



Volunteers awaiting the start of the sale



Happy customers with their rhubarb



Cathy Haas making sure everything is right before opening for business



Getting ready for business



Even the little ones got in on the act



More happy customers



A nice smile from another happy customer



Now everyone is queued up on the way out



One patron had more important things on her mind

Garden Tours

We have an updated schedule for garden tours and more information will be forthcoming soon.

Remember! You must be a paid-up club member to participate in garden tours.

July 5 Monday 6 PM Dirk Tanner

July 22 Thursday 6 PM Richard & Ludy Link

July 27 Tuesday 6 PM Larry & Marti Opperman

August 5 Thursday 6 PM Lee Bowman

August 9 Monday 6 PM Cool Cache Farms

August 18 Wednesday 6 PM Eliza Eller- Ionia

August 21 Friday 2 PM Clea Elifritz

August 26 Thursday 6 PM Lee & Terrill Brewer

Another email will be sent to all members on how to sign up for the garden tours.

CPGC MINI-GRANTS PROMOTE LOCAL AGRICULTURE!!!

The Central Peninsula Garden Club Mini-Grant Committee is now accepting applications for mini-grant projects in 2022.

[Grant Applications are currently being accepted for 2022](#)

Grants are set up to support other organizations' efforts that directly promote local agriculture. The mini-grant request form may be found on the CPGC website.

Please e-mail Terrell Brewer at ltbrewer2@yahoo.com for more info.

DID YOU KNOW?

By

Nancy Dawn Kufel

TROLLIUS (Globeflower) the Alaskan spring buttercup. The large, usually bright yellow flowers that look like a buttercup inside and out are usually the first perennial to bloom in late spring (May to Mid-June) The difference being the Globeflower does not fully open, but remains round, opening only to a tea cup shaped form. But unlike Buttercups, which can be quite unruly, Globeflowers stay put.

Top Performers: Trollius X cultorum [hybrid globeflower], Trollius chinensis (Chinese globeflower) Most Trollius are sold under T. europaeus (common globeflower) Most are hybrids and there is not much difference between species.



Trollius-Europaeas

Growing Tips

Cool and Wet: The perfect conditions for growing, if you want to have a Globeflower showing in your perennial garden are cool, wet or boggy soil. The foliage remains attractive all summer, when in a cool partial shaded location, even after the blooms have turned to a funny looking seed ball, the finger like leaves stay vibrant green. If some of the leaves

turn yellow, usually around the base of the plant, just prune them off to keep your plant looking neat. Globeflowers are slow to get established, so when choosing your plant, either from the nursery or a divided clump from a friend's garden, be patient. Division or nursery potted is the best way to get your Globeflower garden started. Growing from seed is tricky and a long wait. The ideal time to divide is just after the final blooming. Powdery mildew sometimes causes white patches on the leaves, just trim off the affected leaves, and be sure to keep the soil moist, but not saturated. However, globeflowers can do well in a boggy garden with wet soil. I grow mine in a peat, sand, moss mixed soil, keeping the soil moist/wet. Do not let the soil dry out.

Plant Profile: Bloom color: cream, orange or yellow

Bloom Time: spring

Bloom Length: 3 - 4 weeks

Height/Spread: 20 to 36 inches/12 to 30 inches

Garden Uses: Container, cut flower, edging, border, rock garden, wildflower meadow, back of beds in wet areas.

Soil Preference: Rich, moist, even boggy soil

USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 3 - 9

Best Propagate: Divide in Spring, after blooming



Trollius-Chinensis

To All Of Our Gardening Friends Receiving This Newsletter

Please don't forget that I could sure use your garden pictures, stories of successes or failures, and recipes using your garden produce. I would love to focus on what our members are doing and what is or isn't working for them.

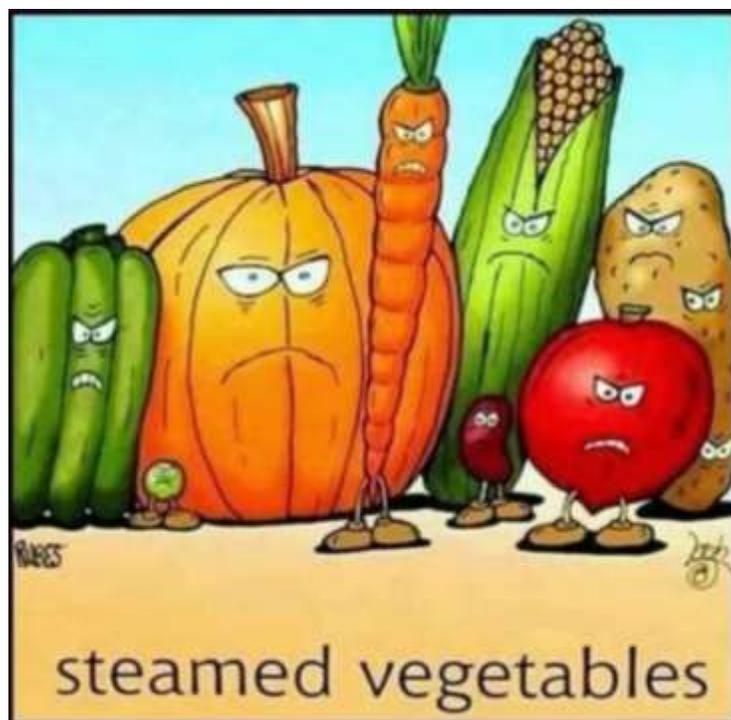
I mean, if any of you grow a tomato the size of a basketball and you don't send a picture of that to me...!!

Since this is a July/August newsletter, there should be some great produce coming out of everyone's garden very soon and pics for the September issue would be fantastic.

Don't forget folks. If you purchase items through Amazon Smile, a percentage of your purchase can be designated for donation to the Central Peninsula Garden Club. This costs you nothing extra on your purchase. Just go into your account and choose the Central Peninsula Garden Club as your charity of choice. What a great and easy way to support the club. We certainly appreciate your support!



Looks like the start of our 2021 gardening season



Isn't this our ultimate goal?

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER GARDENING FRIENDS
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL ON SEPT 14 AT OUR NEW LOCATION
COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH**

ENGLISH RHUBARB CRUMBLE

- 8 cups chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb
- 1-1/4 cups sugar, divided
- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1 cup cold butter

- **CUSTARD SAUCE:**

- 6 large egg yolks
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1-1/4 teaspoons vanilla extract



In a saucepan, combine rhubarb and 3/4 cup sugar. Cover and cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the rhubarb is tender, about 10 minutes.

Pour into a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. In a bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, oats and remaining sugar. Cut in butter until crumbly; sprinkle over rhubarb. Bake at 400° for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a saucepan, whisk the egg yolks and sugar; stir in cream. Cook and stir over low heat until a thermometer reads 160° and mixture thickens, 15-20 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in vanilla. Serve warm over rhubarb crumble.

Note

If using frozen rhubarb, measure rhubarb while still frozen, then thaw completely. Drain in a colander, but do not press liquid out.



If I could eat only one thing
for the rest of my life, it
would be rhubarb fool, which
I make with ginger and a hint
of elderflower cordial.

Sebastian Paulis



Protecting Your Plants

Understanding nutritional problems early

ELEMENTS FOR OPTIMUM GROWTH

There are 19 beneficial elements that contribute to healthy plant growth. Three of these essential elements, oxygen, hydrogen and carbon, are provided by air and water, while the rest are absorbed by plants through the soil.

Boron (B) stimulates cell division, flower formation and pollination.

Calcium (Ca) raises soil pH, promotes root hair formation and early growth.

Chlorine (Cl) is needed for photosynthesis, stimulates root growth and aids water regulation.

Cobalt (Co) improves growth, water regulation and photosynthesis.

Copper (Cu) stimulates stem development and pigment formation.

Iron (Fe) stimulates the formation of chlorophyll and helps oxidize sugar needed for energy. It is also necessary for legume nitrogen fixation.

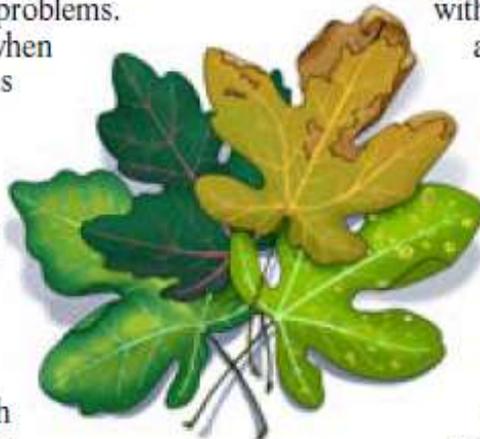
Magnesium (Mg) aids in chlorophyll formation and energy metabolism. It increases oil production in flax and soybeans, and helps regulate uptake of other elements.

Manganese (Mn) is necessary for the formation of chlorophyll.

Molybdenum (Mo) is needed for nitrogen fixation and nitrogen use. It stimulates plant growth and vigor much like nitrogen.

Normally, when plants are grown in fertile soil, fortified with compost and organic fertilizers, or fresh potting soil, they do not suffer from nutritional problems.

Disorders arise when a plant variety has particular needs or when too little or too much fertilizer is used. A fertilizer overdose can be remedied by flushing with water. Plants with specific needs, like acidic soil or a particular nutrient deficiency, require the addition of amendments or fertilizer.



IMBALANCE OF PRIMARY NUTRIENTS

Excess Nitrogen: Too much nitrogen produces dark green foliage, few or no flowers or fruits and burnt leaf tips. Too little nitrogen produces light green to yellow leaves and slow growth, especially in the lower leaves of older plants.

Excess Phosphorous: An excess of phosphorous is rare, yet when it does occur, symptoms are similar to an excess of nitrogen. A phosphorous deficiency is revealed by deep green, red or purple leaves, few blooms and fruits, yellowing bottom leaves and stunted growth.

Excess Potassium: Potassium toxicity will create nitrogen, phosphorous and trace mineral imbalances. Potassium deficiency produces very tall plants with weak stems as well as leaf tips and edges turning yellow, then brown later.

OTHER PROBLEMS

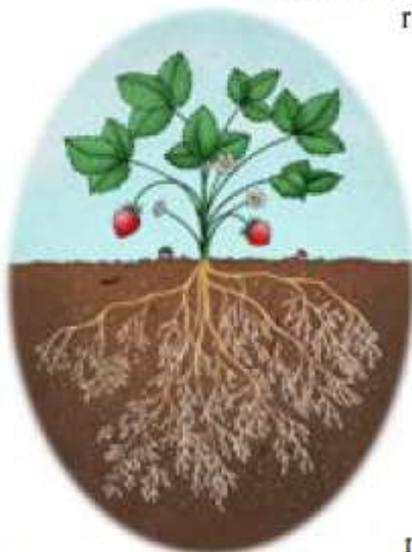
Excess of Secondary Nutrients: Too much calcium and magnesium increase potassium problems, and can also inhibit reciprocal uptake of each other. Too little calcium will cause young leaf tips to die back, blossom end rot on tomato fruits, short roots, stunted growth and rotten plant centers. Magnesium deficiencies show up in leaf tips turning brown and curling upwards in a hook shape

pH Problems: Plants may also reveal problems when the soil pH is incorrect. Soil pH measures soil acidity or alkalinity on a scale of 1 to 14. Most plants prefer a neutral soil range of pH 6.5 to 7. However, acid lovers like blueberries enjoy a pH of 4.5-5.5. Soil pH regulates nutrient uptake in plants. **An unbalanced pH will lock up vital nutrients in the soil even if they are in adequate supply.** To raise the pH, add oyster shell or lime. An abundance of organic matter in the soil will help plants accept a wider range of pH.

Mycorrhizae get to the root of great gardens

“Myco”-“rrhizae” literally means “fungus”-“root” and defines the mutually beneficial relationship between plants and these specialized fungi. The fungi colonize plant roots and extend microscopic filaments into the surrounding soil profile, greatly enhancing the effective surface area of the root system. The mycorrhizal hyphae can access nutrients and water unavailable to the host plant’s roots because they explore a much larger volume of soil.

More than 90 percent of plant species form a **symbiotic relationship** with these types of beneficial soil fungi. Over 70 percent of plant species, including most common vegetables, flowers, fruits, grasses and agricultural crops, form endomycorrhizal



relationships. **Endomycorrhizae** penetrate into plant roots, delivering nutrients directly.

A smaller percentage of species, including the most popular conifers and oaks, form ectomycorrhizal relationships.

Ectomycorrhizae live in close proximity to, but outside, plant roots.

The mycorrhizal products we offer contain the most diverse and effective strains of mycorrhizal fungi available anywhere. Several of our fertilizer blends also contain mycorrhizae.

Apply all these products so they come into direct contact with existing or emerging plant roots. By utilizing a robust mix of beneficial soil organisms, plants can survive and thrive the way they naturally evolved.

Control pests ecologically

Simply growing plants in a healthy garden with soil empowered by compost and organic fertilizers and amendments greatly reduces attacks by pests and diseases.

Growing plants selected for your locale, including cover crops and companion plants that repel or trap pests, growing flowers and flowering

vegetables that attract and support beneficial insects and using sprays and powders made from natural materials provides further protection from problems.

Remember, artificial pest control products can effect more than just what's bothering your plants, including the soil and plant itself.

ELEMENTS FOR OPTIMUM GROWTH - continued

Nitrogen (N) is necessary for chlorophyll and genetic material (DNA & RNA) formation, and stimulates green, leafy growth.

Phosphorous (P) is necessary for genetic material (DNA & RNA) formation, and stimulates fruit, flower, root production and early season growth, and increases disease resistance.

Potassium (K) produces strong, sturdy plants with thick cell walls, increases disease resistance and stimulates fruit, seed and root production.

Silicon (Si) increases seed quantity and strengthens cell walls.

Sodium (Na) increases sugar content and resistance to drought (in some crops).

Sulfur (S) aids in formation of certain oil compounds that create specific odors in some plants such as onions, garlic, mustard, etc. It increases oil production in flax and soybeans.

Zinc (Zn) stimulates stem growth and flower bud formation.

