



## DEL MAR MESA GARDEN CLUB

### JULY MEETING Project of FDMM

July 8, 2020    ZOOM    Time: 1:00 pm

### Meeting Notes

**Attendees:** Terri, Shital, Elizabeth, Wendy, Annie, Debbie, Diane, Marjan, Rachna, Sari, Seetha, Liz (MG), Carla

1. Opening remarks by team members – Terri, Elizabeth (ER), Shital, Wendy, and Diane
2. Short intro by each member: State your name and gardening interest 30 sec - 1 min.
  - 2.1. Debbie – Shital’s prior neighbor living in Carmel Valley. I don’t know too much about gardening. My husband grew up on a farm and learned from him. When I travel, I love to visit gardens and see the beauty.
  - 2.2. Marjan – Wendy introduced me to this club. I don’t know much about gardening. I recently retired and want to learn a new hobby.
  - 2.3. Sandi – She’s been gardening since 1<sup>st</sup> grade where I did a seed propagation project. I feel in love and have been gardening ever since. Moved here 4 years ago. I enjoy ornamental and edible gardening.
  - 2.4. Rachna – We love gardening, I have two young gardeners in our family. We moved to the area from the Bay area. Living in del mar mesa for 6 months now. Gardening here is much easier. We now have 5 garden beds.
  - 2.5. Annie – Lived at the mesa 4 years. I’m a small business owner with 9 shops in SD. I have 3 raised garden beds growing tomatoes, strawberries, etc. Citrus and Avocado Trees.
  - 2.6. Seetha – Live in Carmel Valley. I have always tried gardening, now with all the time we have due to covid-19 I’m focusing on my garden more.
  - 2.7. Sari – I have a garden, it started growing well. Now I think I might have over watered it because they are not doing well. It is a new hobby and I’m conscious of what foods I eat.
3. Master Gardener Liz Schmidt answers questions.
  - 3.1. What veggies do we plant now and how much water to use?
    - 3.1.1. Time of year is important to planting. It is hot in the summer and things that need heat and pollinators are what to plant. Things like: Strawberries, tomatoes,



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squashes. Generally, any fruit bearing plant is good during this time of the year. Root types are also almost year-round here in SD. Some more hearty veggies can sustain the heat like Kale and Chard. Other leafy veggies and lettuces are more fragile and may not do well in the heat of summer. Try a north side of your yard or a shady area if it is too hot for your delicate leaves.

3.1.2. Watering needs is really dependent on what the variety of plant you have and the soil. Generally moistened  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch below the surface. Use a moisture meter stick to verify. Adjust if needed.

3.1.3. Watering during the morning is beneficial as it allows the plant the day to absorb the water. The days heat will dry up the water on leaves preventing mildew on leaves and soil.

3.2. How to get rid of powdery mildew?

3.2.1. This is a fungus that needs to be carefully removed. It is common on squashes. Lack of air circulation can cause it so don't water at night. The best time to water is the morning.

3.2.1.1. Cut off infected leaves and put in trash, carefully as to not spread the mildew.

3.2.1.2. Use a hose to wash off the leaves.

3.2.1.3. Spray with Neem oil.

3.2.1.4. Soap & water can be used to wash it off too.

3.2.2. How to manage your plants health when a dog has peed on it?

3.2.2.1. Dog urine is intense in nitrogen and highly toxic to leaf tissues. There is really nothing you can do except watering it down or have your dog pee elsewhere.

3.2.3. My vegetable garden is in the shade by 5pm. Is that ok? What is the preferred watering schedule? My drip is set for 20 min at 6 am.

3.2.3.1. As long as your garden is getting 6-8 hours of bright sunlight the garden should be fine.

3.2.3.2. Watering schedule all is dependent on your drip system. Some drip systems release water quicker than others. Also, it depends on what you are watering. Some plants require more water than others.

3.2.4. I have 3 blueberry bushes in my backyard that are 20 years old. What are the best trimming recommendations, time of year, and what to trim?



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- 3.2.4.1. The MG gardener had limited experience with blueberries. She suggested opening it up to get the air flow. Prune out anything dead or crisscrossing branches. Always prune when dormant.
- 3.2.4.2. ER shared she has blueberries too. Hers are doing great. She has them in the ground and planters. They like more acid soil. Make sure to keep up with the acid and put type A & B close by for pollenating.
- 3.2.4.3. The need chill hours, under 45 degrees.
- 3.2.4.4. MG website has info on blueberries.
- 3.2.5. Eggplants are staying yellow & falling off the plant. Why?
- 3.2.5.1. Plants that are turning yellow may need some food in their soil. Give the hungry eggplants some food and they will return to health.
- 3.2.6. This year my tomatoes are having a bad harvest. Why?
- 3.2.6.1. This question and 3.2.5 are I believe related. The weather we have had in the past two months has been gloomy. Plants need sunshine to perform. They love heat and sun. If our nights are too cool and the days are overcast, it will result in a slowdown in production of our plants.
- 3.2.7. I have had a pomegranate tree for a few years, and it was not providing fruit. I thought it was that it was not pollinating so I got more trees. Now I have 3 trees. The pomegranate trees look beautiful but no fruit. What to do?
- 3.2.7.1. ER had this same problem and consulted a MG years ago. I now in late January apply grow power bloom. Now I have tons of pomegranates.
- 3.2.7.2. ER also has a beehive close by, so they also do get pollinated well.
- 3.2.7.3. **Tip:** Add a recurring task to your smart phone or calendar of choice. It will remind you when you need to apply what to which plant. 😊
- 3.2.8. We have a cherry tomato plant that has grown to be very large. It is taller than me. How can I support the limbs so that it will continue to grow?
- 3.2.8.1. You can trim the plan to suite the size you want. Tomato plants are resilient to pruning.
- 3.2.8.1.1. When pruning plants, it encourages it to grow a certain way. It will shift their energy towards that direction. At a school where I work, we had some tomato plants trimmed and others not. The ones that were trimmed had healthier stalks.
- 3.2.8.2. If you don't want to trim it, you can support it.



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- 3.2.8.3. Shital requested a photo and she will help you. She can draw some designs that may work for you. I have used many different things. Chicken wire, tall stakes in the ground around it and use rope for supports.
- 3.2.9. Some veggies require pollination. Squashes, cucumbers, pumpkins.
- 3.2.9.1. **Tips** for pollinating are to take a small paint brush and go to the squash flowers and stick the brush in to get pollen on it. Go to another flower and spread the pollen. Put the pollen on the other flowers that need the pollen.
- 3.2.10. How deep to plant?
- 3.2.10.1. Most plants only need to be planted up to roots. Tomatoes require to be planted deep.
- 3.2.11. Do you know any good drought tolerant fast-growing shade trees?
- 3.2.11.1. Check out the Nifty 50
4. Announcements for things to come in the following weeks.
- 4.1. The club will send an email to all members when the gift bags are ready to pick up.  
Target day is Sunday.
- 4.1.1. **Reminder:** Keep your back together. We will go over all the individual items in a meeting soon.
- 4.2. **Reminder:** Shital sent out two polls for everyone to complete, please let us know what you want.
- 4.2.1. Interest ideas
- 4.2.2. Monthly meeting time