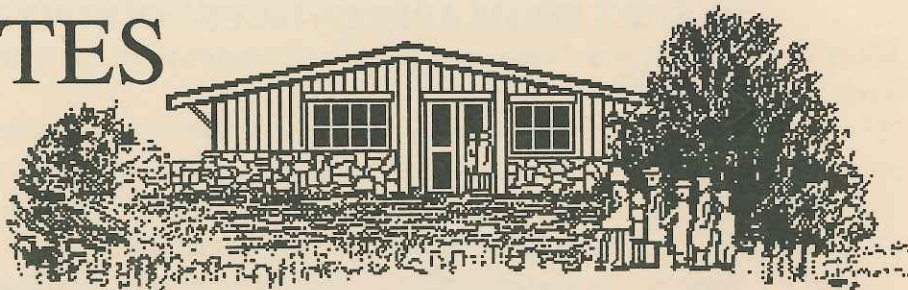


NEWS & NOTES

*of the UCSC FARM
and GARDEN*



Issue 52

June 1991

Beth Benjamin & Mary Offermann, Editors

MARK SAMMONS ON SUMMER PRUNING FOR PRODUCTIVITY

Saturday, June 8, 10 AM - 12 Noon

Louise Cain Gatehouse and the Orchard, UCSC Farm

When most gardeners think about pruning, it brings to mind images of dressing up in warm clothes and going out to work among the bare limbs of a dormant orchard in the cool days of late January and February. And yet, for the home orchardist or specialty fruit grower, pruning only in the dormant season may not give the most desirable results.

Summer pruning, especially with respect to deciduous fruits, is a special system of pruning that allows the gardener an extra measure of control and refinement in the training of trees and shrubs. While a bit more complicated than dormant pruning, once learned,

summer pruning can be used to bring about an optimum production of flowers and fruits. Furthermore, for anyone wishing to develop cordon or espalier trained apples and pears, it is an essential technique.

We will present the basic principles of summer pruning and discuss their application in a few well known systems for training deciduous plants. We will also discuss how summer pruning techniques can be applied to many ornamental shrubs and trees to enhance their shape and maximize bloom in subsequent years. --**Mark Sammons**



ANNUAL MEETING: SPUDS AND BUDS AGAIN!

Saturday, July 13, 10 AM - 1 P.M.

Louise Cain Gatehouse, UCSC Farm

Spend a lovely summer noon with the Friends at the Louise Cain Gatehouse July from 11:00 to 1:00. Please join us in celebrating the Annual Friends Meeting and our second annual Potato & Flower Festival.

- *Potluck luncheon featuring favorite potato salads
- *Potato Salad Contest whereby anyone can compete and everyone can vote
- *The fabulous flower exchange: bouquets for trade or sale
- *Fresh produce and potatoes for sale from the Farm and Garden
- *Election of Officers and Board Members



We hope you will come bearing a bouquet from your own garden to trade with someone else. For the flowerless, the apprentices will have a splendid display of blooms for sale. In keeping with the season of the new potato, we ask you to bring your most delicious potato salad to share. Orin promises there will be an abundance of vegetables and potatoes for sale as well.

Other highlights include a display of dried flower/herb wreaths made by Camp Joy, and exotics from the Arboretum Associates. Please join us in your most flowery attire, or at least wearing a flower behind your ear.

SUMMER WALKING TOUR OF THE FARM ORCHARD

Saturday, August 10, 10 AM - 12 Noon

Louise Cain Gatehouse, UCSC Farm

Please join us for a glorious August morning surrounded by bounty and beauty. The apple trees have been underplanted with red clover, and the orchard and Farm will be at the height of their summer glory when Friends are invited to a special tour led by docents who can answer each and every question you might have.

REPORT FROM APPRENTICES: COMPOSTING AND PLANTING

When I interviewed Jane Feldman, a second-year apprentice, the apprentices had just completed their first three week rotation.

"In order to diversify the experience of apprentices," she said, "they are divided into three groups, each of which works a different area: the Field, the Down Garden, and the Up Garden (Down Gardeners would prefer to be called 'Farm Gardeners,' as other apprentices call them 'Downies' or 'Downers')."

Groups rotate jobs in three-week rotations. Within each of the three groups, one becomes either a Greenhouse Tender or a Waterer. So you might begin your apprenticeship as a Farm Gardener: Greenhouse Tender.

In their first three weeks, Jane told me, the apprentices began to undress the beds from their winter covercrops (which had been a mix of Bell Beans, Rye, Oats and Hairy Vetch in each bed). In most beds, they skimmed off the top and left the nitrogen-fixing roots in the soil. Potato beds were the exception. Those were turned in with "French Intensive" double digging; along the bottom trench, apprentices placed a layer of cover crop and covered it with soil. This allows the nutrients to be released slowly over ninety days. As the potatoes mature, nutrients will become available.

Accompanying the skimming process is the ongoing building of compost. In the Farm Garden, Jane reported, compost is all vegetable matter. The nitrogen-rich cover crop (and kitchen waste) is layered with straw. Beds are additionally dressed with horse and chicken manure. In the Up Garden, the compost consists of horse manure, a cover crop, and straw. Only manure is used in the Field.

The Farm Garden has been plagued with gophers. Apprentices there have been doing heavy gopher trapping. They use the classic Maccabee traps--unpleasant, but necessary.

More happily, they have been planting out seedlings, intercropping for healthy and vigorous plants. One bed (which has been mentioned more than once to me) has Galaxy Sweet Peas along the center, and cabbage and lettuce along the edges. Another beautiful bed has zucchini, Bok Choy, and lettuce interplanted. They've also planted "tons of flowers"...calendulas, annual and perennial statice, candy tufts, and others.

Apprentices have also been working on the perennial border, transplanting many perennials to the East Garden, which this year is going to be a seed-saving garden.

"They're a very enthusiastic crew!" Jane exclaimed.

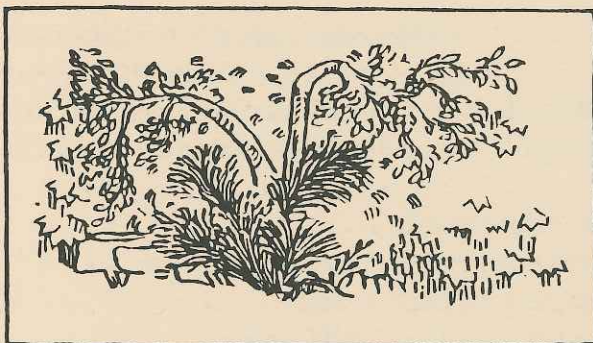
--Mary Offermann

SENSATION

On blue summer evenings I'll go down the pathways
Pricked by the grain, crushing the tender grass--
Dreaming, I'll feel its coolness on my feet.
I'll let the wind bathe my bare head.

I won't talk at all, I won't think about anything.
But infinite love will rise in my soul,
And I'll go far, very far, like a gypsy,
Into Nature--happy, as if with a woman.

--Arthur Rimbaud, 1854-1891



APPRENTICES NEED WORK

Our 1991 Apprentices are here, and many of them are looking for work. If you or friends need help in any of the following categories, call the Farm Center phone, 425-9335, and ask for one of the people listed below.

You won't be sorry!

Animal Care: Claudia Olney, Ellen O'Loughlin, Marek Suchomel (cattle, sheep, goats)

Babysitting: Lucia Borriello, Edy Cassell, Lisa Cantor (weekend nanny, toddlers especially)

Farm Labor: Josh Slotnick, Marek Suchomel, Fuad Aziz, Joana Weiss

Gardening and Yardwork: Tim Cheng, Fuad Aziz, Marek Suchomel, Matthew Belmont, Lucia Borriello, Joana Weiss, Josh Slotnick, Edy Cassell, Katy Brennan, Sylvia Platt, Ellen O'Loughlin, Karen Zischke, Claudia Olney, Lisa Cantor

Housekeeping: Lisa Cantor, Lucia Borriello

Housesitting: Sylvia Platt, Ellen O'Loughlin, Claudia Olney

Masonry: Josh Slotnick

Painting: Josh Slotnick, Katy Brennan

Party Assistance: Sylvia Platt, Karen Zischke, Lisa Cantor

Secretarial Work: Marek Suchomel

Tutoring:

English: Matthew Belmont, Josh Slotnick, Katy Brennan

English as a foreign language: Matthew Belmont

French: Matthew Belmont, Katy Brennan

German: Joana Weiss

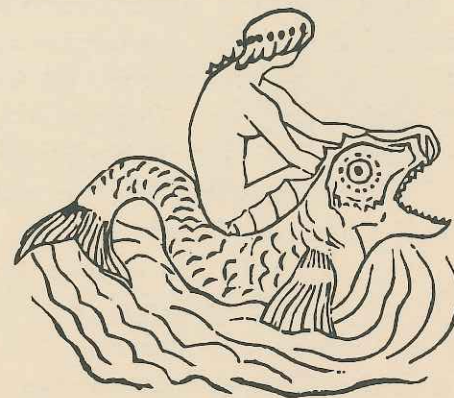
Mathematics: Katy Brennan

Science: Matthew Belmont

Swedish: Joana Weiss

Woodworking: Tim Cheng

And Amando Borzola would like a job selling ice cream on a tricycle in the park on the beach!



SUFFICIENT WARNING FOR YOUR AUTUMN GARDEN!

After enjoying a much more tender green spring than we expected, we may have regrets about what we didn't plant in the way of vegetables. It's not too late! Dig up some round areas about three feet across, mix in a lot of well-rotted manure or compost and some bone meal, and poke in seeds for a late summer crop of summer squashes, cukes, green beans, or even a few rows of sweet corn. Keep moist until seedlings emerge, then mulch well and soak weekly. Choose short day corn varieties like Early Sunglow, and in the glorious clear days of September and October, you'll enjoy the buttered benefits. We've had garden corn-on-the-cob for Thanksgiving dinner, planting as late as the Fourth of July.

After you plant a few heat-lovers, start thinking about a fall and winter garden. Choose your seeds now, and plant before the end of July to reap sumptuous and long-standing fall harvests. Broccoli, cabbages, cauliflower, kale, Brussels sprouts and leeks do best started in flats, so they can be shaded on the hottest days, well-watered and tended. Transplant after four or five weeks, avoiding heat spells, and mulch well to keep roots cool.

Carrots and parsnips should be sown right in the ground. Using sifted compost, leaf mold, or sawdust to cover seeds helps retain soil moisture. You can even cover the bed with burlap, making sure to remove it as soon as germination begins. Remember that root crops, especially carrots, need enough time to grow into good sized plants before they even begin to size up underground. What you try to do is get them almost full-sized before daylight hours shorten and night temperatures drop, slowing growth rate sooner than we would guess.

Spinach, chard, beets, turnips, radishes, parsley, green onions, and lettuce can be planted up until the end of August, and the leafy crops even into early September. Protect from birds at the early stages. Once the cold weather comes, plants will hold as if in a refrigerator. The winter sweetens and improves flavors, and cut-and-come-again crops like broccoli, spinach, and chard will yield many dinners. Along with your bed of carrots and beets, they'll produce well into February.

An added benefit of a fall and winter vegetable garden is that it keeps you out in it regularly. This eliminates the build-up of unnoticed winter pest problems, most notably the snail. So go ahead! You've been reminded in plenty of time. Let this be the year that you really take advantage of our mild winters and our season of most plentiful water.

--Beth Benjamin

NEWS FROM THE AGROECOLOGY PROGRAM

Spring finds the Agroecology Program with an overflowing agenda: the Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture, Environmental Studies classes, research projects, and a major international conference make for an ever-busy calendar.

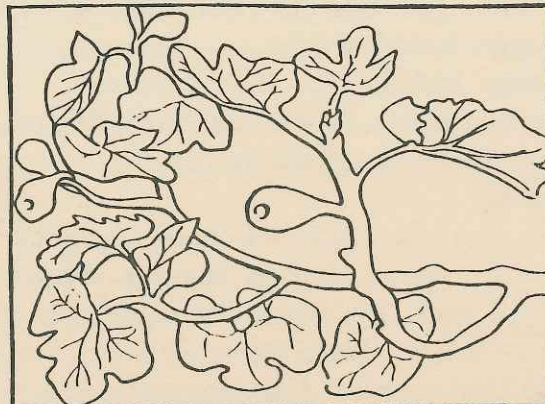
The largest class of apprentices ever to take part in the six-month course arrived in April: classroom and hands-on work now fill their days. This international group brings enormous energy with them--come see their handiwork at the Farm and Garden soon? The ever-popular Market Cart starts at the end of May, with fresh produce and flowers available on Tuesdays and Fridays from noon to 6 PM on the corner of Bay and High Streets.

UCSC classes taught by Agroecology Program staff and faculty have also attracted big audiences this spring. These include an Agroecology Internship for upper-division students (many of whom help with our ongoing research projects), the largest-ever course on Integrated Pest Management, and a standing-room-only class in Agricultural Development.

Research projects continue to focus on helping farmers make the transition from chemical-intensive management to low-input, organic systems. Working with strawberry, apple and artichoke growers in the Monterey Bay area, program researchers monitor the changes that take place as chemical inputs are withdrawn from the systems and replaced by organic fertilizers and alternative pest-control measures. We hope that the results of these studies will enable us to make recommendations to farmers as to the best ways to make a smooth transition from one system to another.

The program's efforts to bring social and economic issues into discussions of sustainable agriculture will focus in May on an international conference which we are co-sponsoring with the Agriculture and Human Values Society. More than one hundred researchers from around the world will gather at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove to present their work on ethics, environment and economic equity as they relate to sustainable agriculture.

--*Martha Brown*



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