



ON THE DRY SIDE

The next meeting is Sunday
September 11 at 2:00. It will be a



Hi everyone,

As I told you in the last newsletter, our September meeting is going to be a potluck Bar-B-Que. If you have not already signed up there is still some room. Please contact me, Pat Gilson at 805-710-4957 or email hupt74@yahoo.com.

The club is supplying Tri tip and chicken as well as water, coffee and some soft drinks. Members will supply everything else as well as additional drinks if desired. Please label your dishes whether they are vegetarian or gluten free, contain nuts or fish, or other allergens.

We are not doing any auctions but we will have the raffle. We are planning to eat at 2:30.

Harry & Mary will have to doors open at 1:00 so tables & chairs can be set up please come and help.

If you are bringing a dish please bring it in something that you don't mind if it is lost.

Let's have fun!



Thank you,
Pat



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Pelargoniums

Pelargoniums are a diverse group of plants with a wide variety of growth habits and habitats.

Members of the family Geraniaceae, estimates of the total number of species and subspecies in the genus range from 230-300. Most are native to southern Africa, but a few species occur naturally in Australia, eastern Africa, New Zealand, the Middle East and the islands of Madagascar, St. Helena, and Tristan de Cuhna.

The genus Pelargonium includes annuals and herbaceous perennials, shrubs and subshrubs, and both evergreen and deciduous plants, but most of the scented-leaved species or “scenteds” are succulent perennial shrubs in their native habitats. Some grow erect while others have a trailing habit, and some have tuberous roots.

Most herb enthusiasts value pelargoniums for their fragrant leaves, but not all plants in the genus are scented, and not all of the scents are pleasant. The common name, scented geranium, came to be associated with pelargoniums due to a very early misclassification of the genus. True geraniums belong to the genus Geranium and are hardy North American and European plants.

Pelargoniums are informally classified as zonals (which are named for the dark markings on the leaf surface and are primarily ornamental, bedding plants), fancy-leaf cultivars (some of which are scented), regals, angels, ivy-leaf, and scented-leaf. The scented-leaved pelargoniums (often called “scented geraniums”) can have aromas of rose, peppermint, lemon, lime, orange, strawberry, camphor, nutmeg, spice, apricot,

apple, filbert, ginger, and coconut. Plants are often categorized by enthusiasts according to the following scent groups: citrus, fruit and nut, mint, rose, and pungent.



Pelargonium leaves come in a variety of shapes and sizes and may resemble ferns, grape leaves or oak leaves and may be deeply divided or nearly round. They may be small or large, may be covered with fine hairs and may be rough, sticky or have a velvety texture. Leaf edges may appear “curly” or “crisped” in

some species. Leaves include scent glands that release pelargoniums’ renowned scents when brushed, may be variegated, and may include dark patches of color in the center or along the veins.

Flowers occur in a pseudo-umbel consisting of 1-50 individual flowers, but most have 5-10 florets. Flowers may be white, pink, mauve, lavender, pale yellow or burgundy, and upper petals may have purple, pink or red markings. Most of the scented-leaf species have small, delicate blooms, but some pelargoniums have flowers that resemble tulips, carnations, cactus flowers or pansies.

Pelargoniums can be propagated from stem cuttings, root divisions, leaf cuttings or seed. Propagating from seed can be tricky for several reasons. Only true species can be cultivated successfully from seed, but due to cross-pollination and labeling errors it may be difficult to know if your seed is true. Cuttings are the preferred propagation method for many of HSA’s Pelargonium aficionados.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

All pelargoniums are hardy in Zone 10, but some are hardy to Zones 7-8. All pelargoniums require well drained soil with good air circulation. Some, like P. graveolens, prefer moist soil, and others, like P. scabrum, grow in dry, sandy areas. Soil should be slightly acid with a pH of 6.0-6.8. Sterilized potting soil amended with perlite, pigeon grit, granular baked clay, sand or greensand will provide adequate drainage.

Pelargoniums can be planted in-ground or in containers, or a combination of both. If planting in-ground, remember that due to their temperature requirements, pelargoniums are generally grown as annuals in areas of North America that experience frost. One way to get around this is to plant pelargoniums in pots sunk into the ground. Planting in sunken pots allows plants to be easily moved indoors or to the green house in the fall. If you will be planting directly in the ground, spacing should be based on the size and habit of the plant. Pelargoniums are well-suited to container growing, whether in whiskey barrels, pots or hanging baskets. Clay pots are recommended because they promote water evaporation and prevent accumulation of excess moisture.

Although most pelargoniums can be grown in full sun, some species, including P. odoratissimum, P. graveolens, P. grossularioides and P. tomentosum require some shade. If there is a cardinal rule for watering pelargoniums, it is "less is more." Although some grow near streams or in areas with winter rainfall in their native lands, most plants in this genus are native to low-rainfall areas, and they dislike excess water and humidity.

Container-grown pelargoniums generally need more fertilizer than in-ground plants. Pelargonium cuttings can be fertilized with a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer after they are



rooted. For in-ground plants, compost and balanced organic fertilizer can be added to the soil before planting. For indoor growing and overwintering, plants should be brought indoors before nighttime temperatures fall below 45°F. Indoor plants will require at least 4 hours of direct sunlight or grow lights, and are best placed in a south facing window or greenhouse.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - Cont'd

Pelargoniums have a wide variety of uses. Scented-leaved pelargoniums can be used to flavor jellies, cakes, butters, ice cream, iced tea and other dishes. The pelargoniums most often used in food are the rose, lemon- and peppermint-scented species and cultivars. Commonly used lemon-scented culinary species include *P. crispum* and *P. citronellum*. Rose-scenteds include *P. graveolens* and members of the *P. 'Graveolens'* cultivar group. Other species and cultivars with culinary use include the lime-scented *P. 'Lime,'* the lemon balm-scented *P. 'Lemon Balm,'* the strawberry-lemon-scented *P. 'Lady Scarborough'* and the peppermint-scented *P. tomentosum*. There are many rose and citrus-scented cultivars with culinary use including those with hints of peach, cinnamon and orange. *P. 'Rosé'/'P. 'Old Fashioned Rose'* is a culinary favorite among HSA's Pelargonium aficionados.

Many Pelargonium species have a long history of medicinal use in their native Africa. The primary uses have been for intestinal problems, wounds and respiratory ailments, but Pelargonium species have also been used to treat fevers, kidney complaints and other conditions. Geranium (Pelargonium) oil is considered a relaxant in aromatherapy, and in recent years respiratory/cold remedies made from *P. sidoides* and *P. reniforme* have been sold in Europe and the United States. Pelargoniums can also be used in crafts and cosmetics. For more information on uses see the Uses section of Pelargoniums: An Herb Society of America Guide, available on The Herb Society of America website.



This article was adapted/excerpted from Pelargoniums: An Herb Society of America Guide. Kirtland, OH: The Herb Society of America, 2006.

Thank you, Markus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCSS President's Message September 2022

We will have a special meeting this month featuring a BBQ lunch of tri-tip, chicken and delicious side dishes provided by our members. Coffee and water will be provided. Bring your own beverages, if you wish. This will be an opportunity to chat with our friends and hopefully connect with some new people we have not yet met. The only scheduled regular event will be our opportunity (raffle) plants after we eat. We will have tables set up both indoors and outside. We now have overflow parking available in the Community Foundations parking lot 2 doors down (toward Nipomo St) on Dana Street, if needed.

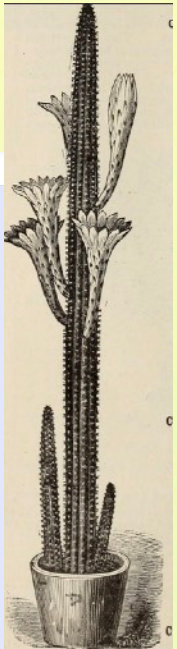
We have a new Publicity officer on the BOD as Peggy Heaney volunteered to fill this vacant position during the last BOD meeting. Welcome Peggy! What a great group of volunteers our Society has! There are a lot of moving parts—equipment, books, plant care handouts and plants that make our meetings such a pleasure to attend. This is all made possible by our volunteers. Thanks everyone!

October Keith Kitoi Taylor will be our featured speaker. His entertaining and informative presentations have caused quite a few gasps from the audience as he demonstrates and explains his plant care techniques.

Note: On several occasions our Society has been the target of phishing scams trying to get BOD or other club members to send money to me at an unknown email address. There were 3 attempts in August. Needless to say, no club or Board member will ask you to send money to anyone else in the Club.

As usual, please stay home if you are not feeling well. Masks are still recommended for indoor gatherings (except while eating, of course!). Let's have a good time and celebrate our Society together.

Harry





CCCSS Meeting summaries August 14 2022

General meeting:

75 people in attendance

Harry made several announcements:

- Today's speaker will be Woody Minnich who is a lifetime member of CCCSS. He has plants, books & t-shirts for sale today. He will be making a presentation on the small cacti of Mexico.
- Harry reminded members that the Board of Directors meeting has always been open to all members. The BOD meets in the Conference Room directly after the Plant Exchange and clean up has concluded. He encouraged members to attend to see how Club business is conducted.
- Next meeting we are planning to have a Party. The Club will provide the protein. Please see Pat to sign up to bring side dishes or dessert. We will also need volunteers for set up and clean up. We plan to serve the food inside and set up tables both inside and outside in the parking area near the kitchen. Set-up will begin at 1pm. Socialize and set out food items at 2pm. Plan to eat by 2:30.
- Membership: If you have not renewed your membership (due in July), please see Laura Oliver at the back table. She also has name tags for those of you that paid your membership, but haven't received your name tag yet.
- Harry thanked all the members at the side tables who answer questions, loan books, sell tickets for the opportunity table & otherwise help make our gatherings successful. Also a big thank you to Claudette for organizing the snack tables!
- Free plants were given to refreshment providers, clean up volunteers and 1st time visitors to our meetings.
- Mike Bush announced that another plant and pottery sale will be held in Los Osos Sat & Sun August 20 & 21 at 2016 9th street.
- Following the announcements Woody entertained us with a comprehensive discussion of the small cacti of Mexico. Great photos, Woody, thank you!

BOD meeting:

- Tanya Luthin resigned from her Board position for Publicity.
- The BOD discussed the duties of the Publicity position. Managing our Social Media profiles (right now we are just on Facebook), interfacing with our Webmaster and managing Publicity for the annual Show & Sale will be the primary duties of this position.
 - Member, Peggy Heaney, attended the meeting and expressed an interest in this position.
 - BOD Harry Harlow proposed appointing Peggy for the remainder of the term and the Board approved this unanimously.
- Karen Kolba stated that as a not-for-profit organization we need to look for appropriate projects to fund with any surplus money we may have after expenses. She is going to form a committee to explore options. Please let Karen know if you have any suggestions.
- Treasurer's report:
 - Our Odd Fellows rent was increased by \$10/mo. There is new leadership of the organization. They are working on repairs and maintenance issues. The new President spoke briefly at the general meeting and talked about the origins and purpose of the organization.
 - Money was approved to buy the meat for the September potluck.
- Bill said he was having some difficulty finding speakers to travel to our meetings. He proposed a gas stipend of up to \$200 to be offered to speakers. This amount was approved by the Board.
 - Bill will also be researching a "document camera" to interface with the projector. This would enable the audience to see demonstrations on stage---such as plant repotting/pruning---much better. He will come back to the BOD when he has more information.

Submitted by Mary Harlow, Secretary



CCCSS ASK US: WE WILL TRY TO HELP!!

GENE SCHROEDER & KATHIE MATSUYAMA ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

Do you have a prickly cactus question or an inscrutable succulent issue? The CCCSS ASK US TABLE can be accessed at in person CCCSS meetings or VIRTUALLY. However, the ASK US table will not be present at the September monthly meeting since we are having a CCCSS potluck. You can still send us your questions; the online ASK US service is for Active CCCSS members only.

Examples of issues we may be able to help with include:

- ID of Cactus or Succulent Plants

Provide 3 photos of the plant: 1) close-up of leaves, flowers, spines; 2) general photo of the plant with something in the photo that indicates scale....a ruler, soda can or credit card; and 3) a photo of the plant in its environment (is the plant in full sun, under a porch, planted in the landscape?)

- Watering & Light Requirements
- Feeding & Fertilization
- Pests & Problems
- Soil & Amendments
- Propagation



Please email good photos of your plant. Also provide all the background information you think necessary to help us answer your question. Tell us which city you live in; microclimates in our region provide vastly different growing conditions. We will email you with our thoughts. Your plant question might be featured in a future CCCSS ASK US Newsletter column.

Send your **ASK US** questions to Gene Schroeder and Kathie Matsuyama at:

AskMe@centralcoastcactus.org

Happy and Healthy Growing!

Photos by Kathie M.



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

“ASK US” EXPERTS ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS BY GENE SCHROEDER AND KATHIE MATSUYAMA

CCCSS Member Mary asked a question about the *Dudleya* seedlings in the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden greenhouse where she volunteers.

“Can you help? Our plants at the SLO Botanical Garden continue to have something damaging the center of the growing tip. Some of the seedlings are having that problem as well even though everything is sterile in the greenhouse. They suggested it might be some type of insect and I have sprayed them with alcohol, but it doesn't seem to help. Let me know if you can tell what it might be from the photos.”

Kathie replied:

It looks like mealy bugs in the *Dudleya pulverulenta* photo. The white gunky stuff around the growing point is a dead giveaway. If you can sacrifice one plant, you can peel away the leaves down to the growing point and you'll find a mess of cruddy white mealy bugs. The distorted leaves in the other photo is something the mealies would also cause.

Pop the plant out of the pot and check the soil. A bad infestation would show some mealies on the inside of the pot and in the soil as well. If this is what you find, you have a bad infestation and unfortunately, you may need more than alcohol to kill these buggers. You may need a systemic chemical to get control of it. Mealy bugs infested inside the pots and soil require repotting the plant into a clean pot with clean soil. Also make sure you have good air circulation in the greenhouse.

Mary answered:

“Thanks for the info. I did see some mealybugs and sprayed all of them. I checked the roots and there weren't any mealies which was good. I'll keep an eye on them.”

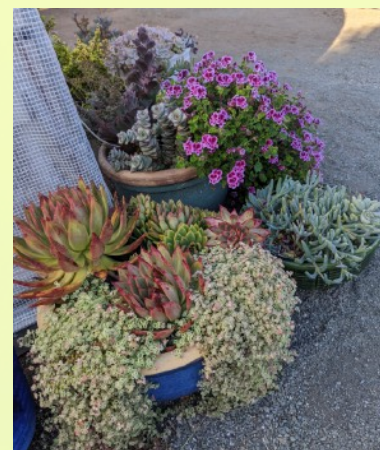
Mealy Bugs! The bane of my existence as a succulent grower in a mild, perpetually damp climate!
Happy Growing,
Kathie



BREAKING

GARDEN GATHERING NEWS

A Garden Gathering is planned at **Jeanne Miller and Mike Bush's** home in Los Osos on **Saturday September 17, 2022**. This will be a fun and relaxing event in the gardens of the owners of CalCoast Succulents, known for their pop-up mobile trailer, The Succ Shack. They sell unique, well-grown succulent plants at not to be missed super cool events in Los Osos in collaboration with other CCCSS club members. And, yes, there will be plants for sale at this Garden Gathering event!



There will be two time slots available to attend Jeanne and Mike's Garden Gathering: 11:30 am and 1:00 pm. But there are only 12 spots available to attend in each time slot, so don't hesitate! Please sign up quickly; spaces will fill fast for this fantastic Garden Gathering in this very special gorgeous garden. **You must be a CCCSS member and fully vaccinated to attend.** Email Kathie and Paul at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net to put your name on the list.

We are currently booking additional Garden Gathering dates for this year and 2023. Let us know if you are interested in hosting. It's super fun!

New to CCCSS? Here are the FAQs about Garden Gatherings:

Health FIRST: We take the health and safety of our club members seriously. Our Garden Gathering hosts are inviting us into their homes and gardens. Therefore, all attendees are required to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination to attend the events.

Why: CCCSS club is large and growing; it's hard to connect with other cactophiles at our Zoom meetings and huge in-person meetings.

What: "Garden Gatherings" are a chance to meet club members in a fun, casual garden setting. Food and a tour of the member's garden are the focus of the events.

Where: Gatherings take place in a CCCSS member's garden.

Who: Participants must be CCCSS members. The host decides the number of guests.

When: Hosts pick the date and time for the event. Events average 1-1½ hours.

Help: Event pre-planning, organization, sign-up and email coordination with your guests is all capably managed by Paul and Kathie!

Interested in hosting a Garden Gathering in 2022 or 2023?



Contact Paul and Kathie Matsuyama at luvbigdogs@earthlink.net

POTTERY AND SUCCULENT SALE!

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9TH, 10-4.
SUNDAY OCTOBER 10TH, 11-4

Mary Peracca and Richard Rowe will be selling their ceramic planters.

Linda Drake will have a large and diverse selection of her amazing succulents.

The sale is at Mary Peracca's house.
Free garden tour included!

4486 Sunflower Way, SLO



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

Greetings from San Jose!

We will be having our first show and sale since the pandemic shut us all down. I understand that we may be geographically far away, but consider that the Monterey Bay Area club's show is the week end before ours, and perhaps might be worth making a trip to our part of the state to check out both! We are allowing early entry to fellow Society members on Friday, 9/23 from 6:30-8 pm or Saturday, 9/24 from 8-10 am. If you would like to send me a list of your current members by 9/20, I can have it available at the door. If your members have club badges, they can wear them for entry as well.

Free
admission!

Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose



Fall 2022 Show/Sale:

9/24: 10am-5pm

9/25: 10am-4pm

Society Members

Early Access:

9/23: 6:30-8pm

9/24: 8-10am

Peterson Middle School
1380 Rosalia Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Featuring rare and unusual cacti and succulents, pottery and other related merchandise.

- Experts on hand to answer your questions
- Plant Hotel available for your convenience
- BYOB! Be GREEN and bring your own box

For the latest information on volunteer opportunities, membership, and COVID requirements, please: visit <https://csssj.org>.

Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook @SJcactussucculents | Instagram @sj_cactus_succulent

Good Golly - We're Back With Poly!

Guest Vendor Cal Poly Horticulture is bringing amazing house plants and tropical plants to our

Succulent Plants and Pottery Sale

OCTOBER 1 (SAT.) & OCTOBER 2 (SUN.)

10AM - 5PM

2016 9TH STREET, LOS OSOS

Rare and unusual plants for the water wise garden

Steve Super Gardens - 805.801.9973 - stevesupergardens@gmail.com
stevesupergardens.com - on Etsy: **SteveSuperGardens**

Functional & decorative ceramics; unusual tillandsias

Richard Rowe Clayworks - 805.235.9721 - roweclayworks@gmail.com
387 'B' Quintana Road in Morro Bay - roweclayworks.com - on Etsy: **RoweClayworks**

Unique, well-grown succulent plants for the Central Coast

The Succ Shack - 805.602.7817 - calcoastsucculents@gmail.com
Find our pop-up locations on Instagram: **TheSuccShack**

Amazing succulent plants for containers and landscape

GROW Nursery/Botanica Nova - 805.305.9292 - nick@grownursery.com
grownursery.com - 2024 Main Street in Cambria (enter through The Garden Shed)

GUEST VENDOR bringing gorgeous, robust tropicals and indoor plants

Cal Poly Horticulture
polyplantshop.com

FREE - We'll pot up your new plants in their Rowe pots!

NEW - Demonstration/education table!



A portion of proceeds benefits Pacific Wildlife Care, a 501 (c)3 organization - San Luis Obispo county's only licensed rehabilitation center that cares for injured birds, mammals and reptiles.

FOR UPDATES:
#wegrowslo



ON SALE THIS SATURDAY, SEPT. 3RD 9AM!

ART IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, Nov. 5th 10AM - 5PM

Sunday, Nov. 6th 10AM - 4PM

35+ juried artists display and sell colorful glass work, paintings, pottery, succulent arrangements, exquisite jewelry designs, photography and more!

Live Music featuring The Jill Knight Duo!

Tickets \$5 (*includes Garden Admission - normally \$10!*)



Succulents & Cacti Festival Open Greenhouse Sale

134 TRABING RD, WATSONVILLE, CA
SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2022 9AM-4PM

- 🌸 Saturday 10:30am - Specimen and Rare Plants Auction
Live Music and Picnic (bring your own food)
- 🌸 Functional and decorative pots by Kitoi
- 🌸 Vendors with rare and unusual plants for container and water wise landscape
- 🌸 Amazing ancient plants on display

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd



Join us **Saturday, September 3rd at 10:00 a.m. PDT** for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Ernesto Sandoval:

Tricks and Techniques for Propagation of Succulents from Stems, Leaves and More!

[Registration link](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

Program: Ernesto Sandoval:

Tricks and Techniques for Propagation of Succulents from Stems, Leaves and More!

Ernesto and company at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory have been propagating succulents in a variety of ways for many, many years and he'd like to share some of his experiences and advice. This seminar will focus on vegetative propagation techniques using stems, leaves, grafting and more. Timing, media, environment and orientation also matter. so these will be covered as well!

Short Bio: Ernesto Sandoval has been seeking answers to as why plants grow and look the way that they do for nearly 40 years. He frequently lectures to a variety of western garden clubs throughout the year and particularly to succulent clubs throughout California. He was a speaker at the 2017 CSSA convention. Desert plants are his particular passion.

Ernesto Sandoval has been the director/manager of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory for many years. He shares his enthusiasm and knowledge with new student interns each year. He explains and interprets the world of plants to people of a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and master gardeners.

He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. Although he loves the technical language of botany, he prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication.

Greetings CSSA Affiliate Clubs

This information is being provided to the CSSA affiliate clubs to distribute to your membership and for publication in your organizations newsletters.

As you may know, the CSSA publishes a quarterly e-newsletter "To The Point". CSSA is pleased to announce the Fall 2022 edition of our quarterly newsletter,

To download the *To The Point* e-newsletter, [click here](#).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

MA Bjarkman
4119 Inglewood Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90066
317-850-5111

CSSA Members: If you have not yet done so, please renew your membership now. [CSSA membership](#)
Not a member? Join now! [CSSA](#)

NEW! 2022 Inter-City Show Trophy Table Video Highlights with Woody Minnich and Crystal Eckman

Link

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

Homemade Fertilizer with Aloe Vera: Soil Drench or Foliar Spray

You can use it in your garden as a soil drench or foliar spray. You can even use it on **houseplants!** Homemade aloe vera fertilizer is **quick and easy to make** with fresh aloe vera leaves. The result is a gentle but effective superfood-like solution that your plants will love.

Aloe vera (*A. barbadensis*) is absolutely loaded with nutrients. **Studies** show that aloe vera contains **over 75 beneficial compounds** including amino acids, antioxidants, complex carbohydrates, calcium, magnesium, zinc, vitamins A, C, E, B-vitamins, and more. When blended into a homemade fertilizer, your plants receive a gentle but potent boost of nutrition. Aloe vera fertilizer can encourage seed germination and rapid root development, improved cell strength, and contribute to overall **superior plant health, growth, and vigor!**

In fact, aloe is so great at promoting growth that it's commonly used as a **natural rooting hormone**, used to help plant cuttings establish new roots. To use aloe vera as a rooting hormone, either: 1) dip a cut stem in pure aloe gel and then plant it, 2) soak the cutting in aloe fertilizer for 6-12 hours before planting, or 3) soak the potting medium/soil in aloe vera fertilizer. We've also squeezed fresh aloe vera into a broken fruit tree limb, bandaged it, and it healed!

Aloe vera also contains enzymes and plant hormones that help to reduce transplant shock, and boost the plant's resilience to drought, stress, and disease. For instance, the high levels of **acemannan** and **saponin** found in aloe vera both provide antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral properties. This helps to **protect plants from pathogens** including harmful microbes, fungus, yeast, mold, or blight.

Last but not least, the high levels of salicylic acid naturally found in aloe vera plays a big role in its healing powers! You've probably heard of salicylic acid before; it's commonly found in skincare products to fight blemishes. In a similar manner, **salicylic acid** enhances the plant's version of an **immune system** (known as the systemic immune

response or SAR) that will help them fend off disease.

The combination of all these things leads to happier, healthier plants that are more resilient to disease, pest pressure, as well as **environmental stresses** like transplanting, drought, chilling, heat, soil-borne contaminants, and more.

How to Make an Aloe Vera Soil Drench

Harvest one to several aloe vera leaves, depending on the size batch you're making. To harvest fresh aloe vera, take the oldest, outermost leaves from the plant. Holding the leaf near the base of the plant, gently pull while rocking back and forth until it peels away. Or, use a knife to cut the leaves off near the base.

- Cut the aloe vera leaves into several chunks and add them to a **blender** half-full of water. (The solution has a tendency to foam up, so leave some space for expansion.) Blend until thoroughly combined.
- Next, pour the blended aloe vera solution into a larger volume of water to **dilute it** to the desired concentration. We typically add one blender full of aloe into one or two 5-gallon buckets of water.
- Much like **compost tea**, apply approximately **half a cup up to 2 cups** of aloe vera fertilizer to each plant, scaling up or down depending on the size of the plant. When planting a new tree, we'll give it up to a gallon! There is no risk of overdoing it, so "eyeballing it" is perfectly acceptable. Sometimes we add the finished solution into a watering can to apply to the garden. Other times, I use a large beaker or 2-cup measuring cup to scoop portions out of the main bucket.
- **Tip:** I find it's best to water with aloe vera soon after the plants receive their routine water (the same day or next day) so that the **soil is moist**, readily accepts the aloe drench, and won't need to be watered again for another couple days – giving the aloe some time to soak in and do its thing!

It is best to use *Aloe barbadensis* if possible; the only edible and most medicinal variety of aloe

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Cont'd

When to use aloe vera soil drench

We use homemade aloe vera fertilizer to water young **seedlings**. It's so gentle and mild that it poses no risk of burning seedlings like other fertilizers can! Additionally, you can pre-moisten seed starting soil with aloe vera solution to aid in germination.

Another ideal time to use aloe vera fertilizer is **after transplanting** – for new seedlings, shrubs, or even trees! Simply water them with the aloe solution after planting. **Mycorrhizae** is another fantastic aid for plant growth and transplant shock, which we also use when transplanting seedlings. You can also use aloe vera fertilizer to nourish **established plants**, especially for any that seem stressed

Mixing the foliar spray

Just like the soil drench, you can create an aloe vera foliar spray using either fresh aloe vera leaves, pure bottled gel, or powder mixed with water. Use the same **dilution ratios**: about ¼ cup of pure aloe vera gel per 1 gallon of water, or 1/8 tsp of **dry aloe powder**. We mix the powder and water right in the **sprayer**, shaking vigorously to combine.

As you may imagine, using whole aloe leaves can easily clog your sprayer. Therefore, it's necessary to **remove the skin and use only the inner gel portion** of the leaf. Watch the video below to see how to easily extract the gel from an aloe vera leaf. In summary: slice off the ribs along the outer edges of the leaf, carefully peel away the top (flatter) portion of the skin, and then use a spoon to scoop out the inner clear gel. Thoroughly combine the gel with water in a blender first (blend it a lot!), and then dilute it with more water as needed in your sprayer.

Applying aloe vera foliar spray

It's best to apply foliar sprays (of any kind) in the very early morning hours, or after sunset in the evening. **Avoid wetting leaves when the plant is receiving direct sunlight**, as it can increase the risk of sunburn or scorched leaves. Give your sprayer full of aloe vera fertilizer a good final shake – and then spray away! Thoroughly wet the leaves until the point of dripping. Make an effort to get the undersides of the leaves as well. Re-apply on a weekly basis for plants you're giving extra-special attention to or monthly for general garden care. You can also add a bit of aloe powder to other foliar spray treatments, such as when applying **neem oil**.

So easy, right?

Announcements - cont'd

DID YOU KNOW?

THE BOABAB TREE

(*Sclerocarya birrea*)

and its Marula fruit - This sub-equatorial African fruit that is made into many products such as Amarula Cream Liqueur - a nutty, citrus-driven cream liqueur.



Nose: A distinct citrusy note of orange combines with rich vanilla and a toasty nuttiness.

Palate: Plush and mouth-filling, it initially hits the palate like velvet, and yet manages never to feel too heavy or overpowering. Flavors of vanilla bean, creamsicle orange, Italian nougat Torrone, and a hint of toasted hazelnuts predominate.

Finish: The predominant nutty, citrusy, and creamy flavors hang on, but the finish isn't too coating or cloying.

Amarula actually began as a clear spirit, distilled by macerating the flesh of the fruit, particular to countries in sub-equatorial Africa and a favorite treat of the local elephant populations. The size of a small apple, the flesh of this yellow-skinned fruit, sort of a cross between a plum and a melon, has a distinctive citrusy, tangy flavor; its pit contains an edible nut.

It's difficult to describe the flavor the marula fruit imparts to this liqueur. It's a bit nutty and also citrusy. The overall texture is milky, unmistakably a cream liqueur, but it's a bit lighter and less sticky-sweet than many other cream liqueurs on the market. How to use it? Sip it over ice, or try swapping it into a cocktail that calls for a different cream liqueur and taste how the resulting drink is slightly brighter than what you've come to expect.

The marula fruit falls off its tree before it has fully ripened. It finishes maturing on the ground,



and its flesh turns from green to yellow, signaling that it's ready to eat—or distill.

Culinary uses for the baobab fruit

- Eat the fresh fruit pulp on its own for a light snack.
- Grind the beans and use them as a coffee substitute.
- Combine the powder into smoothies, juices, lemonade, or tea to make an antioxidant-packed beverage.
- Roast the seeds in olive oil and salt for a healthy snack.
- The leaves can also be cooked like a vegetable or turned into a relish

Article from: <https://www.liquor.com/amarula-cream-liqueur-review-5219210>

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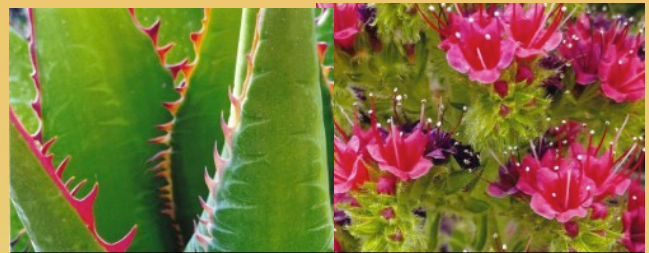


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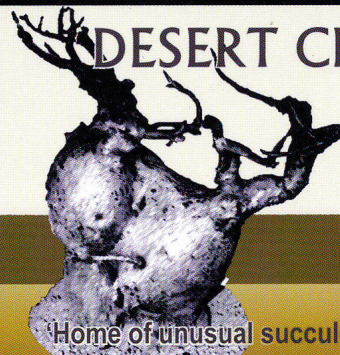
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