

GREEN ACRES
Garden Talk By Greg The Plant Guru
DGC July Meeting

Highlighted notes from his talk

Ecological gardening works with the environment. The more variety of plants you have the wider variety of insects you will have which will self-correct issues without adding toxins to the environment.

Plant Pollinator Plants and mulching is a big help.

Butterfly Bush, lavender and herbs love being pruned back. Prune more, get more flowers. “A glass of wine will encourage you in your pruning”

Scabiosa, (pincushion plant), brings in butterflies as they offer good landing spots.

You can't go wrong with Salvia. Salvia Greggii, (Autumn Sage), is a native plant. It grows well, has a great fragrance. Needs pruned back often to not grow leggy. Grows in full sun to partial shade.

Bees - there are 1,600 native bees. A honeybee is not a native.

“The Cuphea Vermillionaire, widely known as the Firecracker Plant or Cigar Plant is named for its vivid cigar-shaped orange-red tubular blooms.” The hummingbirds love it. Hummingbirds get rid of aphids. When an aphid lays an egg the aphid within the egg can already be pregnant.

Merlin App is a free app that tells you which birds are in your yard. It identifies them by sound.

Red Shoulder Hawks will kill gophers.

“The Cone Flower- (Echinacea), An easy to grow perennial known for its daisy-like flowers with spiny centers, attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies.”

Red Hot Poker - Very tough plant. Full sun. Drought tolerant.

When planting your new plants dig the hole two times as wide, but only 90% deep to allow the crown to stay higher than the surrounding soil. This allows for water to drain away from the base. Always water at the leafline, not at the base of the plant.

Soil is alive. Adding mulch twice a year helps to build up the microbes in it and helps the root ball get established. Don't use miracle grow as it is synthetic and kills the fungi in the soil. My favorite fertilizer is E.B. Stone blood meal. True Organics is coming out with a new fertilizer line for Green Acres in another week or so.

Rudbeckia Plant grows like crazy the more you cut it back the more it blooms.

“Give your plants the finger” Meaning stick your finger in to feel for moisture to know if you should water or not.

Wait to plant trees. Now is not a good season for tree planting. You can never have enough trees. More trees, more birds. More birds, more insect control.

He recommended Tickseed and Coreopsis Plants. Both are a bright yellow daisy type of flowering plant.

Lavender is drought tolerant.

Ferns that will grow in Pollock Pines woods are Sword ferns and Chain Ferns.

CA native pollinator seeds to sow in the fall are Lupin, Tidy Tips and Golden Lupin

If you contact Greg he will answer your plant questions.

Just click on the link on the Green Acres Website to ask a question of The Plant Guru.