Plant Hormones: Knowing & Managing Them for Better Results

Have you ever wondered why your plant has a sudden burst of growth after transplanting? Or how the plant “knows” to grow new parts when pruned, or how a cutting “knows” to make roots? Maybe you’ve pondered how a banana “knows” to ripen or why leaves suddenly turn yellow when you bring a new plant home. The Southern California Horticultural Society will bring you answers to these questions during our monthly webinars for August, presented by Ernesto Sandoval, Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and why they do so for quite a long time. When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way, and the answer was simply “because that’s the way you do it.” Ever since then he’s been learning and educating himself about the answer to that pruning question and so many others, first by getting a degree in Botany from UC Davis, and then through working for over 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory in jobs beginning with student weeder/waterer, and culminating in his current position of Conservatory Director.

In addition to his job at the conservatory, Sandoval is often explaining and interpreting the world of plants to audiences of all ages and experiences, ranging from K-12 to professionals. He regularly lectures to a variety of western garden clubs throughout California whenever possible, as desert and drought-tolerant plants are his specific passion within his general passion for plants. Sandoval describes himself as a “Jose of All Plants, Master of None” and thoroughly enjoys helping others, gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

Please tune in on August 13 to discover why your plants grow as they do during this informative yet not so technical program, as Sandoval guides us in learning the ins and outs of how hormones affect plant growth. By gaining a better understanding of our plants’ physiology we can maximize their healthy growth - and in turn their benefits to us - with much less effort. And don’t forget to think about specific questions you may have for the Q & A session following the program.

Visit www.socalhort.org for registration information and we’ll “see” you in August!
JULY WEBINAR RECAP • SCHS ACTIVITIES • GARDEN SHARE

Last month, during another hot July, we were served with a refreshing webinar by SCHS board member and Master Gardener Yvonne Savio, speaking on the topic of growing your own vegetables.

Savio began with an overview of fruits and vegetables that are native to the Americas, including beans, blueberries, corn, cucumbers, grapes, potatoes, squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, and prickly pear fruits. She then moved on to the vegetables that can be grown during either the “warm” or “cool” seasons. For detailed growing information broken down by month, you can check out Savio’s website.

As we are typically slowing down in our gardens during July and August, Savio spoke about “cool” season vegetables first, which we can begin to plant in a few months. Interestingly, unlike warm season vegetables, the edible parts of the cool season vegetables are typically not their fruits (with the exception of peas). We eat their roots (beets, carrots, parsnips, radishes), stems (asparagus, potatoes), leaves (cabbages, celery, lettuce, onions), and immature flowers (broccoli, artichoke). Best growing conditions are air temperatures of 55 - 75 F, and a minimum 4 to 6 hours of direct sunlight.

By contrast, during the “warm” season, we eat the mature fruits of the plants (melons, squash, tomatoes), as well as the immature fruits (beans, corn, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash). Best growing conditions are air temperatures between 65 - 95 F, with a minimum of 8 hours of direct sunlight. (More sunlight relates directly to increased flavor development.)

Savio suggested that growing variety selections might depend on specific micro-climates, or on whether you want plants that either all ripen at once (good for canning, and preserving), or over a prolonged harvesting season so you can enjoy them fresh for an extended period. She also provided tips on germinating seeds, transplanting shoots, soil preparation, installing raised beds, sowing seeds for succession harvesting, companion planting, proper spacing, trellising (to take advantage of vertical growing), how to lengthen seasons, irrigation (frequency and methods), mulching, harvesting and saving seeds.

She concluded her program by encouraging us to “eat our yards”, and then stayed online to field questions from viewers, both before and after the prize giveaway. If you missed the presentation you can download a copy of the handout she provided to accompany her talk by going to: www.socalhort.org and accessing Past Meetings, or you can watch the entire program via the link below.

Sabine Steinmetz

Click on the following link to see the entire presentation on SCHS’s YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZV8ikg1Zc0

SCHS MONTHLY GARDEN SHARE

During August, we recommend protecting your plants from sun-scald on scorching days and continuing to monitor your plants’ water needs, adjusting your irrigation accordingly; otherwise, grab a cool drink and

TAKE A BREAK!

Sabine Steinmetz

The SCHS is proud to announce that our organization has been fortunate to receive a very generous endowment from the Anna and Harry Borun Foundation to fund a horticultural speaker series in memory of Ruth Borun. She was a long-time member and supporter of our organization, and we are pleased to be able to honor her legacy by offering exceptional programs for our members. SCHS president John Schoustra and board member Carol Aronson have been working closely with the Borun estate to establish the parameters of how the endowment will be utilized, and more information will follow. We are grateful for the Boruns’ support, and are looking forward to sustaining this speaker series for many years to come. The SCHS is also planning on rescheduling the tour of the Borun garden (postponed this last spring) as soon as it is safe to do so.

In addition to working with the Borun estate, the SCHS is continuing to expand the scope of its online outreach. As we are growing our social media presence and engaging with more visitors, we are also looking for ways to enhance content. A recent addition to our website is a virtual “Plant Forum”, exclusive to members, wherein they can submit plant photos to share, ask questions about, or seek advice from fellow members. To access this feature, members must log into their SCHS account at www.socalhort.org, then hover over the 3-bar drop-down menu at the top right of the screen, and click on “Member Only” and then “Plant Forum.”

We, as SCHS members, can all try to make the best of these times by continuing to share our horticultural interests and knowledge with one another. In many ways, this is a great time to reach out because there are more ways than ever to stay in touch with one another, so we say to you:

Thank you, and please - let us know how we’re doing!

View SCHS on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYYBy88Q361IQVnV69qgmGg
COVID-19 UPDATES FOR LOCAL GARDEN VENUES

Due to the restrictions on social engagement during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a number of our local botanic and public gardens, as well as venues providing resources and education for gardeners, continue to remain closed, or are only offering limited activities.

NOTE: Organizations below that have reopened as of press time are marked 🌿
Those with only an online presence, or holding virtual meetings, are marked 🌐

Below is contact information for organizations we feature regularly in our monthly calendar. For a more extensive list, visit: www.socalhort.org/Hort-Happenings

CALIFORNIA BOTANIC GARDEN
(formerly RANCHO SANTA ANA)
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711
909.625.8767  www.calbg.org

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
818.398.5420  www.cnps-sgm.org

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
L.A. / Sta Monica Mnts Chapter / Sepulveda Garden Ctr
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino 91436
818-782-9346  www.lacnps.org

COASTKEEPER GARDEN
1560 E. Santiago Cyn. Rd., Orange 92869
714.850.1965  www.coastkeeper.org

DESCANSO GARDENS
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011
818.949.7980  www.descansogardens.org

EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107
626.398.5420  www.ecnca.org

FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
657.278.3407  www.fullertonarboretum.org

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108
626.405.2100  www.huntington.org

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007
626.821.4623  www.arboretum.org

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF L.A.
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007
213.763.3466  www.nhm.org

RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS
6400 E. Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach 90815
562.431.3541  www.rancholosalamitos.org

RANCHO LOS CERRITOS
4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807
562.206.2040  www.rancholoscerritos.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
760.436.3036  www.sdbgarden.org

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes 90274
310.544.1948  www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352
818.768.1802  www.theodorepayne.org

UC RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS
900 University Ave., Riverside 92521
951-784-6962  www.gardens.ucr.edu

Please visit www.socalhort.org for updates on information about venues and events.

Please support your local favorites, but check with individual venues for up-to-date hours, webinars, activities and entry requirements if you are planning a visit.

Many of your favorite nurseries have also reopened and would appreciate your support!

REPORT TO MEMBERS FROM THE SCHS BOARD

At the end of our fiscal year, the SCHS usually requests the membership to review a slate of board officers for the coming year and vote to fill any vacancies. Due to the unusual circumstances this year, and as there are no vacancies, the incumbent board members have agreed to continue on in their current positions for the coming year.

The SCHS board met several times over the last few months to ensure pending business is not curtailed by current events. Some of the ongoing projects include: coordinating our annual HOTY presentation as a virtual event, compiling oral histories of notable SoCal horticulturists, and continuing to offer internship grants to horticulture students - all within the limitations and restrictions we are all experiencing.

Our focus is on having SCHS continue “normal” operations as much as possible, while also looking at new opportunities for growth. The most up-to-date information on all our happenings can be found through our website at www.socalhort.org.

If you would like to reach out, SCHS board members and committees they serve on are listed on Page 4 of this newsletter.

the SCHS Board
Until we are able to meet again in person, monthly programs will continue to be scheduled as online webinars.

**UPCOMING SCHS PROGRAMS**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>Talk on plant hormones with Ernesto Sandoval, Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory</td>
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<td>September 24</td>
<td>2020 Horticulturist of the Year Award program (Honoree TBA)</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>Florence Nishida on Growing Asian Vegetables in L.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Dennis Mudd, creator of Calscape, speaking about Native Restoration Landscaping</td>
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**GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

“A late summer garden has a tranquility found no other time of the year.”

- William F. Longgood

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- John Schoustra - President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings
- Steven Gerischer - Vice President, Oral History Committee, PR
- Laura Bauer - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee, HOTY Event Committee, Voicemail
- Pat Steen - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Greeter
- Carol Aronson - Field Trip & Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Program Committee
- Carol Bornstein - Program Committee
- Aprille Curtis - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies
- Fleur Nooyen - Program Committee
- Steven Ormenyi - Finance Committee
- Yoav Paskowitz - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor
- Yvonne Savio - Horticultural Happenings, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees
- Lili Singer - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee
- Sabine Steinmetz - Newsletter Editor, Sharing Secrets, Graphic Design
- Jill Vig - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee, Special Projects

Connect with us at: 818-567-1496 • socalthort.org • facebook.com/socalthort • instagram.com/socalthort

Newsletter Editor: Sabine Steinmetz

Contributors to this issue: Ernesto Sandoval

Next deadline: Monday, August 17 (for September newsletter)
Please contribute an article or information of interest.