



CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER CRFG

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Chapter Website:

<https://www.crfg-central.org>

Facebook page:

[Facebook-CRFG-Central Coast](#)

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@californiarefruitgrowers718/videos>

Chapter chairs contact:

central_coast@crfg.org
(underscore between l and c)

For article submissions:

crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com



Photo by Seth Waite

Next Meeting:

When:

Saturday, June 8th, 2024

Schedule:

12:00 pm: Setup for those setting up signs, tables, etc.

1:00-1:30pm: Attendees arrive and bring their side dishes

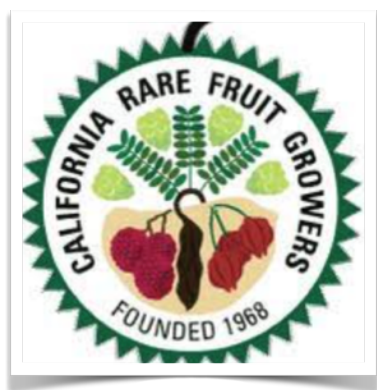
1:30pm: BBQ, meeting, guest speakers, tour of property

4:00pm: Clean Up

Bring:

Your folding chair and a side dish to share. Please bring your own plate and utensils. Also a hat and shoes for walking on dirt.

Announcements



Pheromone Loops are Available!

See [page 8](#) for more details

Join the Planning Committee!

Do you have ideas about where we should have our meetings? Sharon would "love to have more members' input."
If you're interested please email her at smlovelady2011@gmail.com

Upcoming Demonstration Orchard Workdays:

Saturday, July 6th, 2024: 9am-12pm

Saturday, October 26th, 2024:
9am-12pm

Where:

1428 La Quinta Dr., Nipomo, CA

Additional Info:

Tucker will be BBQing, we will all bring side dishes. Seth will tell us about his property. Erin and Gilberto will tell us about Goldifarms, and we will tour Seth's property.

Erin and Gilberto will be talking about Goldifarms, permaculture, worms, and will be available to answer any questions people may have.

Here's what Erin and Gilberto have to say about Goldifarms:

"Goldifarms is the most magical food forest on the Central Coast. Our website is: Goldifarms.com where you can sign up for our newsletter, and where we let others know of in-person events we host at Goldifarms. You can subscribe to our YouTube channel: Youtube.com/goldifarms to see our farm, Instagram: Instagram.com/goldifarms for little updates, and browse our products on our Etsy shop: Goldifarms.etsy.com."

Location & Parking:

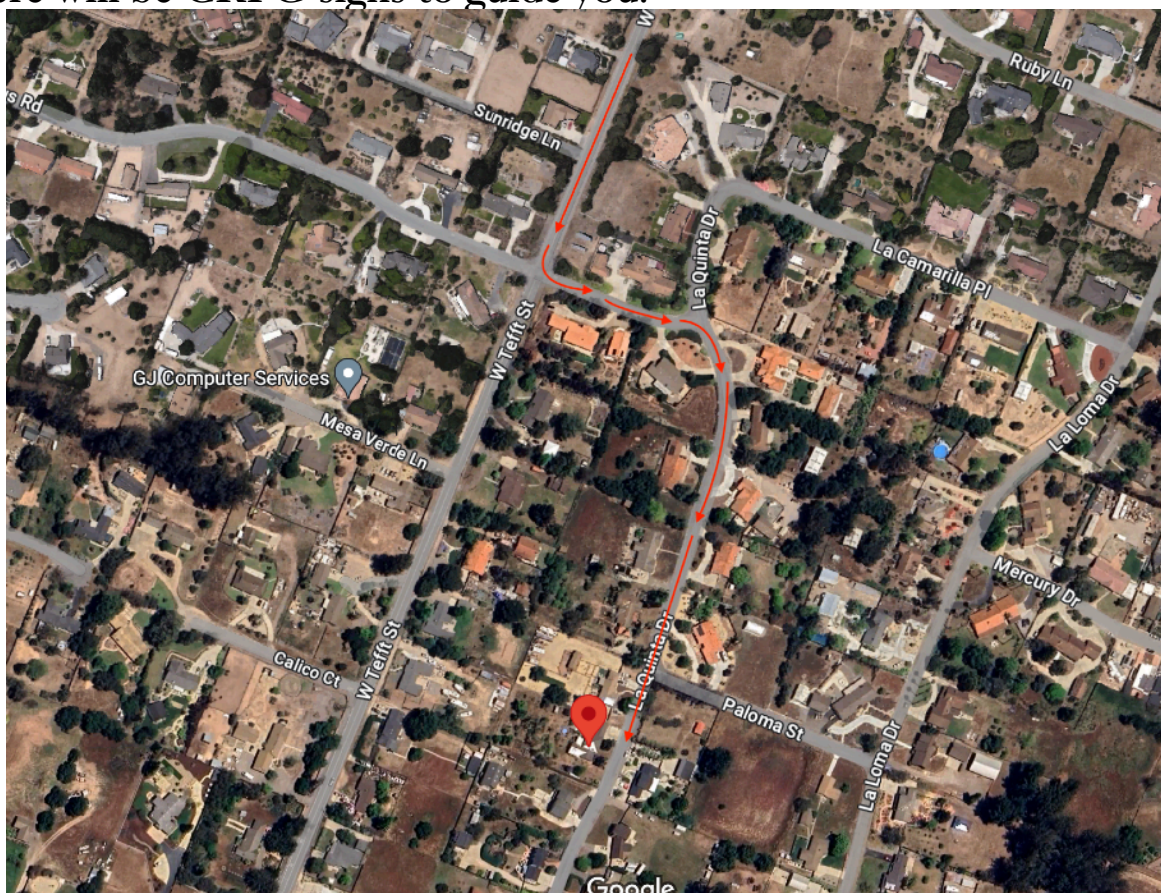
From Hwy 101, turn west of Tefft St. Proceed on Tefft for 1.5 miles, then turn left on Eucalyptus St., then right on to La Quinta Dr. Ample parking is available up and down the street.



Photo by Seth Waite

Parking for June Meeting:

There will be CRFG signs to guide you.



Our Best CRFG Manners While Visiting Homes, Nurseries, Growers, etc.

1. We never bring pets to meetings/tours and we never even ask if we may!
2. We do our best to use public facilities or our own restroom before the meeting.
3. We do our best not to ask to go inside the hosts' home.
4. We never pick fruit, flowers, foliage, weeds, seed pods and we never even ask.
5. We do our best to car pool and park with great respect to our host and the neighborhood.
6. We never talk when our host is talking. We do our best to stay up close when given a tour.
7. We never "take over" the tour and tell everyone how we do it at our home!!
8. We have thoughtful questions but try not to ask questions that embarrass our host.
9. We do our best to help our host feel good, feel appreciated. We clean up our mess.
10. We stay on the path, with our host ...and never go walking around on our own unless given permission by the host.
11. At the end of the tour, we make a special effort to thank the host. We "gather up" and have some sort of "closure" to the tour.
12. We even write thank you notes when we get home, especially if we asked a lot of questions, were impressed, were surprised, were treated well. We write thank you notes even when we are not the leader.

June Meeting Information:

Seth Waite's Bio

My love and exposure to nature and the garden started very early on with my Dad being a landscaper in Beverly Hills and my Mom and Dad's love for the garden. I've grown up in yards that always had fruit trees and beautiful spaces ultimately guiding me down my path of learning and expanding my love and interests. Originally moving up to this property with my parents in 1992, the yard has seen many changes. Dad's dedication and love for his yard allowed him to win Nipomo's Chamber of Commerce most beautiful yard awards consecutively many years in a row. Now that I've taken over, the yard looks much different but nonetheless still loved on. I've been developing our 1-acre lot into a permaculture food forest. I've been busy focusing on soil, plant diversity, organic food production and sustainability. I am looking forward to seeing everyone and sharing a little piece of the what the Central Coast has to offer.



Photo by Seth Waite

May Meeting Notes

Original article by Dara Manker. Edited by Terri Monell.

Black Diamond Vermicompost is located in rural Paso Robles. Vermicompost is compost made by worms. The worms' "digestive enzymes break down chemical bonds that otherwise tie up nutrients and prevent them from being available for plant roots to use." It is filled with beneficial microbes.

This company's vermicompost is of such high quality that after an extensive trial nationwide, it alone was selected as the best for experiments (and succeeded) in growing chickpeas in moon dust for astronauts.

The quality is much higher than that you will find at most box stores: our host told us that 2 tablespoons of BDV vermicompost equates to a 10 pound bag sold by Costco.

Cristy Christie, the company's owner and our very dynamic and engaging host, told us how she got started in the business, and then gave a tour explaining all aspects of producing this compost made by worms.

About a decade and a half ago, Cristy said she had absolutely no interest in gardening when her sister Patty sent her a book on worms. Receiving a box of worms from a friend, Cristy became a believer once she used their castings to grow broccoli. The broccoli grown with the castings turned out strong, green, and tasty, while those in other pots were yellow and eaten by aphids.

Cristy invested a lot of time and sweat-equity in figuring out how to scale her business to produce a high-quality product. The result is that while most industrial worm farms farm their worms outside on flat ground, she uses an indoor continuous Flow Through Vermicomposter.

First we walked outside to see several large bins filled with a combination of cow manure and bedding from dairy farms. Cristy says the cows' 4 stomachs produce vast amounts of aerobic microbes. This compost is "pre-composted" before it is given to the worms. Covered and aerated via a pump for about a week, the heat from the composting kills off pathogens and seeds. The temperature is then lowered for about another week to promote fungal properties which Cristy says, "drive the worms crazy with joy!"

Inside the barn, we gathered around the Vermicomposter. This long, deep, rectangular metal trough is filled with compost. Red wiggler worms move through this bin, processing the compost. The newest compost is at the top, the oldest at the bottom. An inch or two of the pre-composted material is spread across the top of the Vermicomposter. The worms rise up into it. Over a 3 month period, as the compost is processed by the worms, it gradually sinks to the bottom of the Vermicomposter.

A string of misters run overhead along the composter's length misting every 2 hours to keep the product wet. Also running just above the misters are a string of lights. When the barometric pressure drops, worms will rise to crawl on the surface (a process called "worm crawl"). Left to their own devices they would fall out of the bin. However, since worms abhor light, Cristy switches on the light string when storms are brewing, and that keeps them in.

The vermicompost is harvested via a wide, 1/4" tall blade within the container, situated a few inches above the bottom. A motorized winch pulls the blade along the length of the trough via a cable. The blade slices through the compost, which falls through a grate in the bottom of the Vermicomposter and onto the concrete floor. The product is pulled out manually via a long-handled squeegee. A long cylindrical trommel then sifts out wood chips from the product.

BVD sells their products at the farmers' market in Templeton on Saturdays, as well as local Ace Hardware stores and nurseries (see their website <https://www.blackdiamondvermicompost.com/where-to-buy>) for details.

Cristy invited us each to take home our own jug of concentrated compost tea, brewed for us from vermicompost and to which she had added liquid fish hydrolysate and organic liquid kelp.

May Meeting Photos



About Black Diamond Vermicompost - Photo by Dara Manker



California Blister Balm - Photo by Dara Manker



Vermicompost and worm display - Photo by Dara Manker

Photos continued on Page 12

You Can Still Buy Rootstock, And It's Already Been Potted For You!

Send your purchase request to Manny:
mannym25@gmail.com

Please include your full name, phone number, and type and quantity of rootstock.

Price: \$5/potted rootstock.

Apple: M.7 EMLA

Semi-dwarf rootstock, Produces trees about 50-60% of standard. Good resistance to collar rot and fireblight and adapts well to a wide range of soil types and climates. Has a tendency to sucker.



Rootstock ready for sale - Photo by Dara Manker

Sweet Cherry: Prunus avium, "Mazzard"

The most-common standard-size sweet-cherry rootstock. Produces a very vigorous tree with good anchorage. Some tolerance to root fungus. Will grow on a wide range of soils.

Plum/Apricot:

Prunus Marianna 2624

Compatible with plums, apricots, some almonds. Not compatible with peaches and nectarines. Produces a semi-dwarf tree well adapted to many different soil types. Can be shallow rooted the first couple years and susceptible to leaning until established so staking may be necessary. Somewhat prone to suckering. Tolerates wet soils. Resistant to root knot nematodes, lightly resistant to phytophthora, but prone to bacterial canker.

Prunus mariana GF 8-1

Produces a standard sized tree (10 – 15 ft). Is very robust and adapts to all types of soil. Mariana produces good crops of plums, but doesn't anchor well when it is young and tends to produce root suckers. It resists root knot nematodes, root asphyxia, oak root fungus, crown gall, and prune brown line, but is susceptible to bacterial cankers.

Rare Plants for Sale!

Our club was fortunate enough to receive donations of unique plants from Jack Swords and Seth McMillan that are now being offered for sale to our members! Sales from these plants will help the club provide more scholarship opportunities!

Send your purchase request to Manny: mannym25@gmail.com

Please include your full name, phone number, and type and quantity of plant requested.

Plant	Quantity Available	Pot Size (gallon)	Price
Capulin (Mexican Cherry)	9	1	\$5
Cherry of the Rio Grande	15	1	\$5
Cherry of the Rio Grande	7	5	\$10
Feijoa (Pineapple guava) "Triumph" New Zealand selection	unknown	3	\$5
Feijoa (Pineapple guava) "Triumph" New Zealand selection	unknown	5	\$10
Grumichama (purple)	1	1	\$5
Guabiju	2	1	\$5
Jaboticaba Red	2	2	\$5
Jaboticaba Sabara (black)	16	1	\$5
Jaboticaba Sabara (black)	6	2	\$10
Lucuma	14	1	\$5
Macadamia	10	1	\$5
Pitangatuba	18	1	\$5
Pitangatuba	1	5	\$10
Pomegranate	9	2	\$5
Raisin Tree	2	1	\$5
Starfruit	5	5	\$10
Surinam Cherry	10	5	\$10
White Sapote (White)	17	1	\$5
Sapote (Dwarfed: Yellow grafted to White)	6	5	\$15

Pheromone Loops and Scion Store Items Still Available!

If you missed the scion store or realized you forgot something, now is your chance to get it before it is gone!

Here is what is still available:

Bird netting 35x50 ft extra heavy grade Raschel knitted \$80

Bird netting 17x100 ft medium black and white netting \$70

Pruners \$15

Budding knives \$15

Green grafting tape \$2

Aluminum tree tags \$4/10ct.

Pheromone loops have arrived! Codling moths are key pests of apples and pears. Pheromone loops deceive the male moth, thereby helping to disrupt the mating cycle. Place 2 to 3 loops in the top third of your apple and pear trees. Petals should be about 90% off and small fruit setting before you loop your trees!

Please contact Terri Monell at 805-546-8981 if interested or you have questions.

Pick up is in SLO.



Upcoming Plant Festivities

Land Conservancy SLO

Invasive Plant Removal

Wednesday, June 12 from 9am-11am

The LCSLO staff helps you identify invasive species and will teach best practices on removal.

Make sure you fill out the waiver before you arrive:

<https://app.waiverforever.com/pending/DoRJ5BynRS1697822715>

Click here to see more volunteer opportunities:
<https://lcslo.org/volunteer/>

Master Gardeners' Workshops

Citrus and Avocado

Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 10:00 am to noon

Garden of the Seven Sisters in San Luis Obispo
2156 Sierra Way, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Details: This workshop will cover care for growing a successful crop. We will discuss how to deal with common pests of these trees and this season's challenges with citrus and avocado. Plenty of time for Q & A.

Click here to register:
<https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=42534>

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<https://farmsteaded.com/>



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Article Submissions

Would you pay \$395 for a pineapple?

Submitted by Erica Williams

Read article here:

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/california-395-pineapple-highlights-spike-144820621.html>

Local Blueberry U-Pick

Submitted by Sharon Lovelady

Read article here:

<https://www.dragonspringfarm.com/u-pick>

June Garden Checklist

Submitted by Erica Williams

This article gives great suggestions on tasks that can be completed in June.

Read article here:

<https://kelloggsgarden.com/blog/gardening/june-garden-checklist/>

Fruitwood Nursery

Submitted by Larry Hollis

Fruitwood Nursery is a business that supports CRFG by advertising in the Fruit Grower Magazine. They have an extensive selection of plants available on their website, as well as informative videos.

Check out their website here:

<https://fruitwoodnursery.com/>

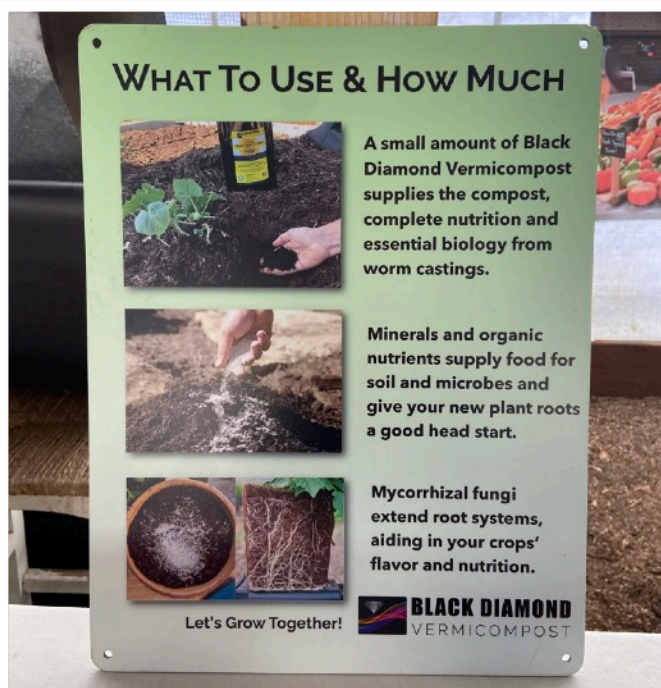
Have you read any interesting articles lately? Please submit them for the next newsletter!

crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com

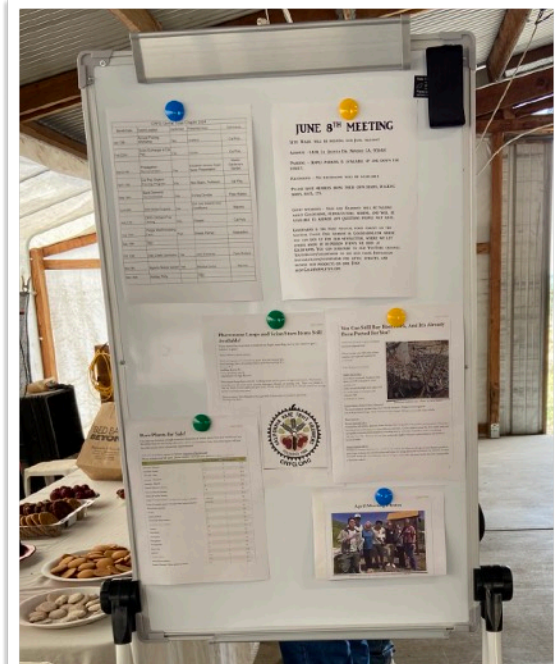
May Meeting Photos



The display is ready - Photo by Sharon Lovelady



Vermicompost information - Photo by Sharon Lovelady



The new whiteboard - Photo by Sharon Lovelady

May Meeting Photos



Linda welcomes attendees, informs about future meeting locations, and announces plants and rootstock still for sale - Photo by Dara Manker



Sharon introduces the new whiteboard: a cornucopia of info about future meetings, events, plants for sale, etc. - Photo by Dara Manker



Linda grew tomato plants and offered them free to attendees - Photo by Dara Manker

May Meeting Photos



Black Diamond Vermicompost is being used to grow plants in moon dust - Photo by Dara Manker



Plants being grown with and without vermicompost - Photo by Dara Manker

May Meeting Photos



Sharon presents our host Cristy Christie with a hat and feijoa - Photo by Dara Manker



Cristy talks about her business- Photo by Dara Manker



Vermicomposter that runs the length of the barn - Photo by Dara Manker

May Meeting Photos



Pre-composting bins and air pump system - Photo by Dara Manker



Cristy shows fungi growing in pre-composting bin -
Photo by Dara Manker



Contents of pre-composting bin - Photo by Dara Manker

May Meeting Photos



Harvest: Vermicompost falling through grate - Photo by Dara Manker



Motorized winch for pulling blade through Vermicomposter - Photo by Dara Manker



Grate underneath Vermicomposter - Photo by Dara Manker

May Meeting Photos



Unprocessed (bottom); Worm processed (top) - Photo by Dara Manker



Cristy fills our jugs with compost tea - Photo by Dara Manker



Trommel for sifting wood chips from final product - Photo by Dara Manker

May Meeting Photos



Members observing - Photo by Sharon Lovelady



Members gather around to learn about vermicomposting -
Photo by Sharon Lovelady



Cristy Christie talks as members listen - Photo
by Sharon Lovelady



Cristy Christie shows fungi to members -
Photo by Sharon Lovelady

May Meeting Photos



Outside the facility - Photo by Sharon Lovelady



Red wiggler composting worms doing their thing - Photo by Dara Manker



More red wiggler worms - Photo by Sharon Lovelady