

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/@californiararefruitgrowers718/videos>

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Next Meeting

Saturday, October 11th, 2025
Global Family Farm

Schedule*:

- 12:00: Set up crew.
- 1:00: Socializing & Refreshments
- 1:30: CRFG Meeting
- 1:45 Presentation and Tour
- 3:00 Clean Up

*Times are tentative and subject to change. Please check the chapter calendar webpage close to the event for updates:

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

Bring:

Snacks to share, chairs, water, and shoes for walking.

Announcements



Upcoming Demonstration Orchard Workdays:

Saturday, November 1st,
2025: 9am-12pm

Location & Parking:

1221 Calle Joaquin Rd, San Luis Obispo, CA

Take the Los Osos Valley Road exit off Highway 101 and turn onto Calle Joaquin frontage road heading north beside the freeway. At the cul-de-sac drive onto the dirt farm road and continue to the fenced in area. Parking is available along the fence, both on the front and side as well as parking along the front of the adjacent field.

There will be CRFG signs to guide you.



Additional Info

Our Global Family Farm is a Demo Permaculture Farm that features a Food Forest that showcases food crops from the four corners of the globe. Permaculture is based on the idea of observing nature and learning from it. It combines pragmatism with philosophy, and its three ethics are Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Shares.

For more information, see the Global Family Farm website.

Announcements

Booth At AG Harvest Festival
Friday, September 26th 4 - 9 pm
Saturday, September 27th 10 am - 4 pm

Come enjoy the fun, support our chapter, and lend a hand at the Harvest Festival!

We'll be selling plants to raise funds for scholarships, and connecting with our community—and we'd love for you to be part of it! Whether you can help greet visitors, talk about our mission, or lend a hand with sales, your time and energy will make a big difference. This is a wonderful opportunity to share who we are and what CRFG is all about.

If you have plants to donate, please contact Manny Magaña at manny25@gmail.com by Wednesday, September 24th. If you'd like, Manny and Dara can arrange to pick up your plants in advance.



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.

Announcements

Chapter Officer And Committee Chair Openings In 2026

We are a non-profit organization. We count on volunteers to make our chapter fantastic. Please join us volunteering at our meetings and/or on a committee. We do not ask for a lot of your time. Feel free to reach out to any of the board members or committee chairs. Voting for nominees will take place at our December 13th meeting for members only.

Remember, you won't be handling these tasks alone. If you can't make every meeting, there will be others who can take over for you. If you have questions while doing these jobs or run into any challenges, just reach out for support. We're a team, and everyone is ready to help each other out!

If you are interested in any of these positions or have questions, please contact our Co-Chairs Linda and Manny at crfg_central@crfg.org.

Program Committee Co-Chair: Who doesn't want to work with Sharon Lovelady and friends? We are especially looking for someone who lives in SLO or south county area. Find great meeting places, presenters, help organize the general meetings, collect information about the presenters and then do a follow up with them, write a summary and send it to the newsletter editor and webmaster for submission. You will be well-mentored by the best!

Newsletter Editor

This is for the tech savvy/Word proficient member! Do you have a gift of design, layout, picture insertion, information sharing which can be copied and pasted, work on a timeline, and are willing to spend time creating a newsletter that is reflective of the CRFG-CC? Put your skills to work and show off your talents!!!

Announcements

Hospitality Co-Chair

Drina Burns is looking for a co-chair! This is exactly what it means: you are the hospitality team. You coordinate with Drina about bringing the chapter supplies, set up, make pretty, clean up and during all of this provide drinks and snacks which are often brought by members themselves.



Welcoming & Membership Chair

If you can smile, you can do this job! Welcome members and guests, set up name tags for people to retrieve, collect them at the end of the meeting, have everyone sign in who attends, encourage becoming a local and state member and tell everyone how wonderful a chapter we have!

Nominating Committee

You would be looking for nominees for the various committees but actively seek out potential volunteers from July-November. By mid-November, we want to seal the deal with all volunteers! You will be provided a copy of the current descriptions of each committee so you can encourage volunteerism.

September Meeting: Sage Ecological Landscapes

Notes and photos by Jenny Weaver



CRFG Co-Chair Linda introduced Todd Davidson, the owner and general manager of Sage Ecological Landscapes, a sustainable landscaping design and build service based in Los Osos.



Todd gave us some of his family history. He graduated from Cal Poly Ornamental Horticulture Department. He gave us an overview of the Display Garden, designed for clients to see plants when they are full grown.

A mistake some people make is putting plants too close together because they look small in the pot. They will spread out!



He introduced us to his wife, Rita, and Sam.

Rita Flores serves as the financial manager for the company. She generously gave CRFG attendees a 20% Off Gift Certificate good at Sage Design and Construction Departments. Thank you Rita!

Sam Morgan, the Assistant General Manager with a Materials Engineering degree from Cal Poly, led us on a tour of the garden and gave the highlights of some of the plants.



September Meeting

The plants Sage uses are all from the Mediterranean areas of the world and are low water users. Sage tries to find the right plant for the microclimates of San Luis Obispo County. Rita orders the plants.

Blue Agave (shown here) is cold hardy. The company also uses Blue Chalksticks because they are fire resistant.

The lion's tail plant, or *Leonotis leonurus*, is a native of South Africa known for its striking, whorled orange flowers that resemble a lion's tail. This fast-growing evergreen shrub attracts pollinators like hummingbirds and butterflies and is resistant to deer.

Lion's tail needs to have a third of the woody growth cut back each year to keep it looking green and lush.



September Meeting



By the dry creek there is a blooming Octopus Agave with a tall flower spike. *Agave vilmoriniana* is a species of agave endemic to Mexico that is known for its untoothed arching and twisting leaves. The flower stalk of *A. vilmoriniana* can reach up to 9 m high, and the plant dies after flowering. Luckily there are usually "pups" that have grown next to the flowering plant. Trying to cut off the flower stock to save the Agave does not work.

September Meeting

The red leaved plant in the forefront is a relative of the soft an fuzzy upright Woolly Bush. *Adenanthos cuneatus*, or the Coastal Jug Flower, is a spreading Australian native shrub from the south coast of Western Australia, known for its attractive silvery-grey, wedge-shaped leaves that turn bronze or pink when new.



September Meeting



A good plant to put under Coastal Oaks is the succulent in the genus *Cotyledon*. It can survive the dry summers that oaks have evolved to endure. The fallen oak leaves do not get caught in the flat *Cotyledon* leaves.

Be cautious if you plant *Cotyledon*. *Cotyledon Orbiculata* is reported to be toxic to pets, particularly cats and dogs. The plant contains compounds that may cause mild to moderate toxicity if ingested. Common symptoms of toxicity include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, and, in some cases, more severe reactions.

September Meeting

Jenny's Additional Notes

Laboratories for analyses

Todd said one of the most important things to know about is the soil. Samples from landscape sites are sent to Wallace Laboratories in El Segundo, CA. The sample costs about \$110. Their agronomic soil testing covers pH, salinity, soluble salts, sodium, all 14 essential nutrients, and testing for toxic metals such as arsenic, cadmium, lead, and mercury at no extra cost. Their reports include recommendations and clear interpretations of results to guide you in improving soil health and plant growth.

More information can be found on their website: <https://wllabs.com/>

(There are also many other labs that do other analyses including water, leaf, compost, pathogens, pesticides and nematodes. A comprehensive list is provided by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources.)

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/default/files/2019-03/300627.pdf>

The Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery in Walnut, Creek CA is a worthwhile place to visit.

Their website says this about their outdoor botanical garden and retail nursery:

“We specialize in climate-adaptive plants that are well-suited to the East Bay microclimate. The plant collection includes agaves, aloes, cacti, California native plants, succulents, yuccas, and more! Ranked ‘The Most Beautiful Garden in the World’ by Tripadvisor!”

Gater Dust

There are many products to put between flagstones such as sand, gravel, concrete or polymerics such as [Gater Dust](#). According to Perplexity AI “Gater Dust is typically cheaper than using concrete (mortar) for filling flagstone joints, especially for small projects and joints up to 6 inches wide. Flagstone joints filled with Gater Dust require less labor, no mixing, and less material than concrete-based mortared joints, which are more labor-intensive and require both mortar and sometimes a concrete base for best results.”

Gater Dust is slightly flexible and partially permeable.

Gopher Control

For control of gophers in their display garden, they use a product called [Critter Maxx](#).

The active ingredient is Castor Oil which repels gophers, voles and moles. It does not kill them. Sage injects it into the irrigation system and therefore is applied to every plant to help protect it. Critter Maxx can also be mixed and applied by a sprayer.

Critter Maxx is made by EZ Flow Injection Systems. The product contains 10% Castor Oil and 90% water as inert Ingredient. Although the producer claims it is “100% Natural”, there is no evidence or listing of Critter Maxx being registered with the CDFA State Organic Program or included in recognized organic input registries for use in certified organic crop production.

Upcoming Events



Family Free Day: The Secret Life of Plants @ SLO Botanical Garden

October 20 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Come join us at the SLO Boo-tanical Garden! Decorate a pumpkin, go on a photo scavenger hunt, get your face painted, and listen to a story!

There will be a crafts, activities, balloons, and a tasty treat or two.

Costumes encouraged!

We hope to see you there – no ticket or registration needed.

While everything is free, your donation will help us support future free programs for families.

Please note: there's a \$3 fee to enter El Chorro park. Having cash will speed up park entry!

<https://slobg.org/event/free-family-day/>

SLO Master Gardeners Upcoming Workshops and Events:

[September 2025 | Oceano | Victory Garden Workshop Series:](#)

September 28, 2025 | Week 4: Composting, small-space gardening, raised beds, program graduation

[October 2025 | Paso Robles | Victory Garden Workshop Series:](#)

October 4, 2025 | Week 1

October 11, 2025 | Week 2

October 18, 2025 | Week 3

October 25, 2025 | Week 4

[October 18, 2025 | San Luis Obispo | Workshop: Fire Prevention Strategies for Home Landscapes](#)