

Help with Your Gardening – 03/11/2023

This is one of a series of articles provided by the Oakmont Technology Learning Center on the use of technology by seniors.

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As a lifelong organic gardener from Illinois, it's fortunate to be living in Oakmont, which is in Plant Hardiness Zone 9. This means we can garden year-round. Even better, there are an abundance of online resources to assist us.

Before you go to a nursery or grab your garden gloves, check with the OVA. There are guidelines on what can and cannot be planted. Either visit the Architectural Office or go to oakmontvillage.com and search on "Do Not Plant List" to find valuable links to assist with Firewise planting. Now on to other websites especially suited for Oakmont gardeners:

Sonoma County Master Gardeners (sonomamg.ucanr.edu): This is a goldmine of information for ALL gardening in Sonoma County with science-based research provided by University of California. In-depth topics include: Food Gardening, (what to plant when, best varieties), Plant Articles, Monthly Garden Tips, Soils and Composting, Waterwise Gardening, etc. If one has to choose only one online resource, SCMG would be it!

University of California Integrated Pest Management (ipm.ucanr.edu): Clicking on the photo that says "Home, garden, turf, and landscape pests" will give great information about garden pests, how to recognize, alternatives to pesticides, and more.

University of California, The California Backyard (homeorchard.ucanr.edu): This has everything you'd ever want to know about growing and caring for fruit trees.

CalScape (calscape.org): This is the California Native Plant Society. Enter your ZIP code and see the recommended native plants for your area. Click on an individual plant for a complete overview.

Sanhedrin Nursery Blog (SanhedrinNursery.com): Although written for Zone 8 in the Willits area, the month by month garden blog has lots of useful information written by Jenny Watts, a California Certified Nursery Professional.

Sonoma Ecology Center (SonomaEcologyCenter.org): This organization is working to keep "a better quality of life" for all residents.

Local Nurseries have helpful websites, with most having online catalogs, plant finders, good descriptions of plants, and more. Some of these nurseries include: California Flora Nursery (Fulton), Urban Tree Farm (Fulton), Harmony Farm Supply (Sebastopol), Prickett's Nursery (near Oakmont and in Healdsburg), Swede's Feeds (Kenwood), Emerisa Gardens (Santa Rosa), and Annies Annuals (Richmond).

Contributing to this article were: Stephanie Wrightson, Carolyn Greene, Vicki Chase, and Jenny Watts. To get an electronic copy of this article and clickable links to the listed local nursery websites, visit oakmont-learning.org under Tech Articles.