

Garden Talks

Talks are organized by City, and listed by Garden Number.

Pinole

- #1 2:00 “Native gardening—fun for the whole family”
by Jeff Jerge
- #2 11:00 and 1:00 “Victory over ivy! Yes, it is possible!”
by Jessica Kolman

El Cerrito

- #6 11:00 “Coming to terms with clay soil and drainage issues in the garden: Redirecting the flow of water and incorporating wetlands and dry creek beds as landscape features” • 2:00 “How to build a dry-stacked stone wall” by Lois Simonds
- #7 At 11:00 and 2:00 irrigation consultant and educator extraordinaire Lori Palmquist will demonstrate the design and function of this garden’s drip system. Curious about how you can conserve water in your own garden? This is the right place—bring your questions! Lori will be available to answer questions throughout the day



Kensington

- #8 3:00 “Designing a hillside garden: How to make useful, comfortable, and beautiful places on technically challenging sloping terrain—how to establish easy access and an inviting natural flow using steps, walls, terraces. Learn methods of hillside drainage, and explore ways to shape beautiful new spaces with appropriate plants” by Michael Thilgen

Berkeley

- #11 Dr. Frankie and his students will be available all day to answer questions. Throughout the day Dr. Frankie and his students will lead “How to garden for native bees” tours.
- #13 11:00 and 2:00 “How to create a wildlife habitat garden using local native plants” by Glen Schneider

More Garden Talks

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Oakland

- #15 11:00 and 1:00 “Replace your traditional lawn with a low-water use, sustainable, low-to-no-mow native sod. Come and hear about three kinds of turf replacement—bentgrass, Delta grassland, or ‘Native Mow-Free’”—by staff from the Delta Bluegrass Company • 12:00 and 2:00 “How to transition from a non-native garden to a native plant garden” by Joe Maffei
- #17 2:00 “How to design gardens with native plants: An inspired and practical approach to creating lovely spaces attractive to wildlife and people” by Liz Simpson
- #18 1:00 and 2:00 “How to transform your garden from ivy and juniper to native plants” by Sue Duckles
- #20 11:00 “Sudden oak death: What it is, and how to prevent it” by Janice Alexander from the California Oak Mortality Task Force • 12:00, 1:00, 4:00 “Oak-bay understory plants” (meet on the driveway where the path goes up into the woodland) • 2:30 “Restoring a hemlock thicket to a native dry stream bed” by Lyn Talkovsky and Alan Harper (meet next to the garage)
- #21 11:00 and 1:00 “How to select an irrigation system for native plants: materials, irrigation schedule, and installation tips” by a staff member from the Urban Farmer

Castro Valley

- #23 12:00 and 3:00 “How to convert your lawn into a native plant garden” by Sharon Horgan

San Lorenzo

- #24 11:00, 1:00, and 3:00 “Gardening for birds” • 12:00 and 4:00 “Ten native plants needed to create a Native American school garden and curriculum—includes handouts!” by Steve Wiley

Livermore

- #26 11:00 and 2:00 “How to convert your garden from lawn and ivy to a water-conserving wildlife-attracting native plant garden” by Janis Turner
- #27 12:00 “How to make elderberry syrup and *Echinacea* tonic for fast cold and flu recovery” by Louann Tung

Moraga

- #28 11:00 “Choosing the best native plants for a Contra Costa garden—Hot in July! Cold in December! Clay soils! Slow drainage! What about deer? Which natives grow in our inland valleys?” by Michael Thilgen

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Moraga

- #29 11:00 "How to select and plant California natives" by Al Kyte • 1:30 and 2:00 "Gardening for native bees" by Celeste Ets-Hokin • 3:00 "How to create a 'natural-looking' landscape to make natives look better" by Al Kyte

Lafayette

- #30 11:00 and 1:00 "Designing your ecosystem; plant community design for the residential garden" by Jonathan Espalin

Walnut Creek

- #31 12:00 and 3:00 "Gardening for the birds" by Nancy Wenninger
- #32 11:00 "Living with nature" by Stephen Barbata

Clayton

- #33 4:00 "How to transform your front garden into a place that is beautiful, water-conserving, and acceptable to the neighbors" by Kelly Marshall
- #34 11:00 "Save money, save time, and save water: How to lose your lawn, get a garden—and get paid for it, too!" by Chris Dundon, from the Contra Costa Water Conservation District • 12:00 "How to maintain your native plant garden" by Karen Amos

Pleasant Hill

- #36 10:00 and every hour on the hour - The Habets' electric bill is 30% of what it once was, thanks to the solar panels they installed. Brief talks on the benefits of solar panels will be given every hour on the hour. To learn more, stop by the Sunrun table, which will be staffed throughout the day. • 11:30 "How to create garden "rooms" using native plants" by Liz Simpson

Martinez

- #38 2:00 "Practical tips for installing drip irrigation in native plant gardens: Curious about how you can conserve water in your own garden? This is the right place—bring your questions!" by Roxy Wolosenko
- #39 11:00 "Practical tips for installing drip irrigation in native plant gardens: Curious about how you can conserve water in your own garden? This is the right place—bring your questions!" by Roxy Wolosenko

Oakley

- #41 11:00 and 2:00 "Lower your water bill! Attract birds and pollinators to your garden! In other words, how to select native plants that will thrive in Oakley's hot, windy summers" by Carolee James

Garden Talks at Participating Nurseries

These talks, which are organized alphabetically by City, are taking place at participating nurseries on the weekend of the tour.

Berkeley

Native Here (see page #) on Saturday, May 3

10:30-12:00 “Lose your lawn the Bay-Friendly Way.” Learn how to remove your lawn without tearing it out! This free how-to talk will provide design and plant selection advice as well as walk you through the process of converting your lawn without breaking your back or your wallet. There will be a hands-on demonstration of sheet mulching—an innovative technique of layering materials on top of your lawn, allowing you to plant right into it. Plus, learn how you can participate in your local water agency’s water conservation rebate program, which could put some green in your pocket! 12:00-1:00 Q and A with landscape professionals.

Oaktown Native Plant Nursery (see page #)

Saturday, May 3: 1:00 Blythe Adams, Western Clinical Herbalist, will give a talk on California native plants and their incredible medicinal healing powers. Native medicinal plants she will be teaching you how to use include *Aralia*, *Grindelia*, *Yerba buena*, nettles, mugwort, elderberry, silk tassel, and California poppy.

Sunday, May 4: 3:00 “Traditional Uses of Bay Area Native Plants for Basketry and Cordage” by Charles Kennard

Oakland

East Bay Wilds (see page #) on Saturday, May 3

11:00-12:00 “Greywater for your Garden” by Christina Berteau of Greywater Action. Learn about ways to keep your garden green by reusing the water that goes down your tub, shower, or washing machine drain. There will be a particular focus on the Laundry to Landscape system that doesn’t require a permit if guidelines are followed.

Richmond

The Watershed Nursery (see page #)

Saturday, May 3: 12:00-1:00 Join Claire Brown for an informal discussion on “Planting a Native Medicinal Garden: the medicinal properties of California native plants.”

Sunday, May 4: 12:00-1:00 Alaina Lipp will host a presentation on the “History of Edible Native Plants and Trees.”