



## GARDENING LENDING LIBRARY IS HERE!

Courtesy of the Garden Center 2 lending library volunteer team

The Garden Center 2 lending library, stocked with books specific to gardening, is now open to all gardeners. The bird house bookcase is located at the end of the tree median at the Garden Center 2 entrance.

Gardeners may take any book from the bird house and may keep the book or return it to the bird house between sunrise to sunset. Gardening reference book donations are greatly appreciated, so please keep the garden center lending library in mind when getting rid of gardening books or magazines.



## REMOVE WEEDS WITH VINEGAR

Removing weeds by hand is hard work; spraying them is much less of a chore. But vinegar is not as effective on older weeds, and it's not safe to spray on weeds along borders, as it may affect other plants. Apply on dry, still days with no rain forecast. Weeds should die off within 24 hours.

## HOW TO GROW PEONIES IN CALIFORNIA

Courtesy of [wildyards.com](http://wildyards.com)



## REMOVE WEEDS CORRECTLY

Why you've been doing it wrong your whole life

Controlling weeds requires vigilance, persistence and time. According to **Dear Avant Gardener**, pulling weeds by the roots disturbs the soil, activates seed germination and perpetuates a never-ending cycle.

Alternatively, cutting weeds does not disturb soil and generates far fewer replacement weeds. If weeds are cut below the foliage in a dense, intermingled ground level, where there is little to no light, the resprouting weed is unlikely to break through into the sunlight. Also, it must compete with the extensive root systems of plants that have not been cut and are continuing to photosynthesize and become stronger. A particularly vigorous weed may break through once or even twice, but it will not likely survive beyond that.

Cutting is most effective with annual and biennial weeds; perennials may require a longer cutting period. This practice also may not work on weeds with large capacities to store food in roots, or rhizomatous or tap-rooted species, such as mugwort/nettle. **New York Invasive Species Information** advises encircling mugwort/nettles with a trench/root barrier to stop its spread. The root system can be extensive (though shallow) and will regenerate from rhizome fragments as small as 2 centimeters.

An invasive plant eradication best practice is to rescue more pristine areas first before tackling the worst infestation.

## GLEANNING PROGRAM

The garden center gleanning team offers assistance with harvesting fruit or vegetables that plot holders know will go to waste. Harvested produce will be donated to Village residents who may not have access to organic produce.

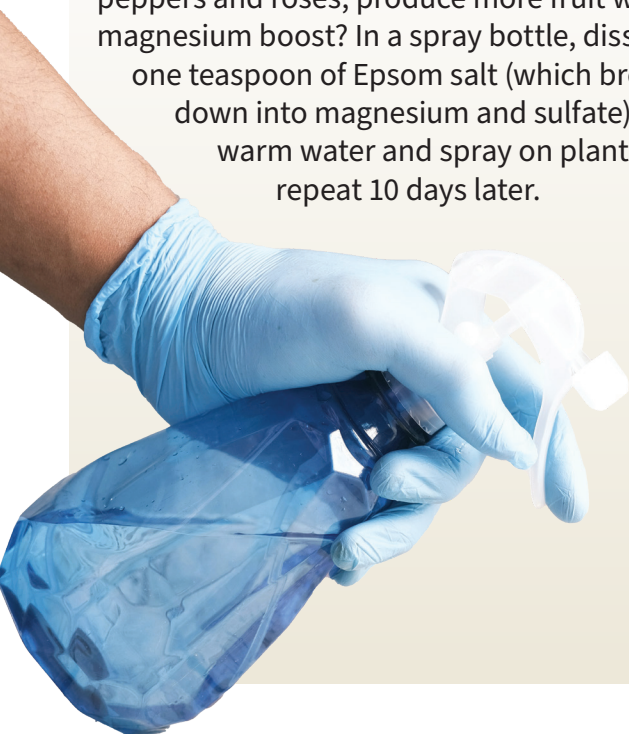
To request gleanning assistance, call the garden center office at **949-268-2387**. Volunteers will contact the gardener to coordinate harvesting. All gardeners requesting assistance will be expected to be present during gleanning to direct how much is to be harvested.

## POLLINATOR GARDEN UPDATE

A volunteer team recently presented a design for a pollinator garden that is to be located at the Garden Center 2 entrance. Once the proposal is approved, the team could use additional volunteers. If you are interested in participating in this exciting project, please call the garden center office at **949-268-2387** or email [kristy.sakal@vmsinc.org](mailto:kristy.sakal@vmsinc.org).

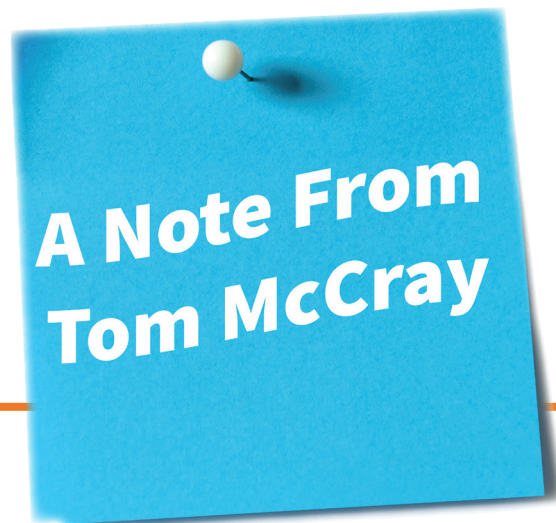
## GARDEN HACKS

Want to help plants, especially tomatoes, peppers and roses, produce more fruit with a magnesium boost? In a spray bottle, dissolve one teaspoon of Epsom salt (which breaks down into magnesium and sulfate) in warm water and spray on plants; repeat 10 days later.



## MANY THANKS ...

- To those gardeners who have remembered to return tools and wheelbarrows to the barns after use.
- To volunteers who have consistently cleaned and maintained garden center grounds, making them more beautiful every day.
- To volunteers working on projects to benefit the gardens and those who tend plots.



The garden centers need volunteers to assist in general upkeep and helping other gardeners. Please call Kristy Sakal at **949-283-2387** if interested.