



It's Easy Being Green

Whether you are obsessed with your pristinely maintained garden or have chosen 'fixing up the yard' to be the next project, working with plants can be tricky to say the least. Before you delve into the dirt-loving process of shaping the space behind the house, note some of the places we found to get guidance or inspiration.

California Garden and Landscape History Society

www.cglhs.org

A nonprofit organization designed to celebrate the diversity and beauty of California's natural landscapes and gardens, the CGLHS works to promote preservation and restoration of local landscapes that are necessary to understand the history and culture of California.

California Rare Fruit Growers

www.crfg.org

Not limited to California, CRFG is an internationally recognized organization. It is the largest amateur fruit growers community in the world and is oriented toward environmentally sound agriculture. Members of the CRFG include botanical gardens, commercial growers, internationally recognized researchers and hobbyists. The nearest chapter is located in Monterey and organizes meetings, trips to private showings and seasonal festivals.

The Garden Company

2218 Mission St., Santa Cruz, 429-8424

This is a great nursery and gift shop for both the experienced gardener and the amateur houseplant browser. It sells a variety of soils, organic fertilizers, gardening tools and a large selection of trees, shrubs, pond plants, bulbs and seeds.

Native Revival Nursery

2600 Mar Vista Dr., Aptos, 684-1811

This nursery is working to educate and assist the community in restoring landscapes with the flora and fauna of the Bay Area. Selling only native plants, the nursery also offers a variety of books to help the gardeners of Santa Cruz revive the natural ecology.

Surf City Growers

1975 Cox Rd., Aptos, 688-1088

Specializing in ornamental plants, edible flowers and herbs, Surf City Growers also offers a wide variety of annuals and perennials. The growers sell only non-toxic fertilizers and soils and use no pesticides or herbicides. As a bonus, all plants are treated with a regimen of worm-casting amendments.

UCSC Arboretum

1156 High St., Santa Cruz, 427-2998

An extension of UCSC, the Arboretum is most famous for its exotic garden, but it also has a plant library open for the public and a gift shop which sells a range of plants, gardening items and gifts and is open seven days a week. They host a rare plant sale twice a year—the next sale will be on Oct. 14.