



NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN ANTONIO HERB SOCIETY
 APRIL 2021



ART IN THE GARDEN

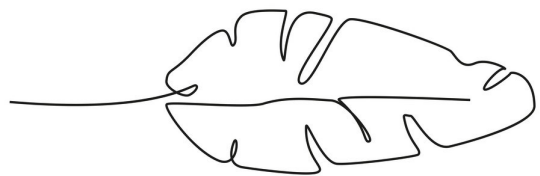
Wish you could bring the essence of your plant into the house with you? You can! This month we will explore techniques for drawing plants and flowers. This is a very basic technique. You do not need to be artistic to give it a try. We will have a number of artists give short demonstrations. Then we will try our hands at the technique. You can choose to use either pencils or felt tip markers (fine tips work better)

Our thinking is that we can gain much through observation. Careful attention in the garden will always have a reward.

Come Thursday, April 8 Garden Center.
 Six pm is set up, 6:30 social time and
 7 p. m. is our meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you in person or
 on Zoom

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Meeting April 8 will be “In Person” for the first time in a year. We will celebrate.... but safely. Rhonda Banelos our host at the Garden Center tells us that they are requiring mandatory masks and will still be trying to social distance at six feet. We will take temperatures. There will be hand sanitizers available. The crew will have cleaned the tables carefully. We will put only two chairs per table to help everyone spread out. No food or drinks are allowed. Members may bring food or drink for their own consumption.

We hope that all who could have had vaccinations against the covid19 virus. Our new favorite thing to do is meet outside. The ‘infinite ventilation’ seems pretty healthy. Our suggestion, then, is to enjoy the center’s beautiful terrace and visit to your heart’s content outside. Inside is also an option.

On Offer: Participatory Program; Door Prizes, thanks to Gloria Ortiz; Free Table, bring your contributions; Books For Sale table, and Membership sign-in table.

IS THERE NO MAGIC?

I joined the Herb Society because I like to cook and to grow things. I was so delighted that the herbs I planted were successful. Then there were so many things to choose from: Culinary SIG (Special Interest Group), Healthy Living SIG, Red Hats group who went to different places for tea and snacks, Craft SIG that met on the weekends, Aromatherapy SIG.

Since that happy time so much has changed. We have learned so much, too much, about viruses and how they behave. We know more than ever about cleanliness and about how diseases, at least some, are transmitted. We know more about our immune systems and how they function. There is just a lot of information circulating around about science and statistics. I imagine that math and science teachers are having a field day with all that is new.

However, the more I learn about herbs and their uses, the more it concerns me. Herbs can be very powerful, even dangerous. Using some extracts must be done with great care. The impression I get is that some people seem to think there is magic to using herbs.

They believe that people who deal in science do not know what they are talking about, and that they have the true take on what to do. They often subscribe to what I call “snake oil” salesmen. Computer sites send them ads for all kinds of pills, to cure just about everything. The thinking is “if I just find the right combination, then everything will heal and I will be all right again.”

They send me long YouTube videos, holding forth about the new, improved, almost miraculous power of what it is that they will reveal to you, and they go on and on and on. Often with urgency, you must buy right now. “This is a limited time offer”, they tell you “Scientists have proved that...” without telling you which scientists. Or they drop the name of a big clinic such as Mayo, or a famous school like Harvard. And sure enough, the guy went to Harvard, is now a retired cardiologist, who knows practically nothing about nutrition. But he is here telling you that this one ingredient will cure you.

Dear friends, we studied vitamins in school, and yes, there was a time when people got scurvy and it was cured by one ingredient: orange juice. But we now know that there is vitamin C in a number of foods, they just were not available to sailors at sea.

Where is my rant leading me? There is definitely some ‘magic’ still around. It isn’t in the food we eat, as much as it is in the fellowship we share. It is not in the tea we drink but in the chatter that goes along with the cookies. It is not in the type of vegetables we plant and nurture but in the friendships that grow as we weed in the garden together. As we come back together, let’s drop some of the old ways and look forward to a new improved Herb Society. I would love to resurrect the Craft SIG with new ideas and ways to work mostly outside. That is why we scheduled this type of meeting for our first live meeting. Let’s think about Healthy Living in terms of healthy practices, rather than curing disease. Let’s hone down our commitments and sharpen our focus.

Our meeting on April 8 will feature video tapes of a number of artists presenting a simple technique for capturing the contours of a plant. We will watch the creation, then try our hands at the same technique. Everyone will get to play, but we will also have lots of time for catching up and visiting. We will make every effort to have zoom join us for the meeting.

All offers of help in set up and conduct of meeting will be greatly appreciated.
Wear your name tags, and see you on the 8th.

Culinary Contributions

Leslie Bingham wrote: I saw where you wanted some rose recipes and this one I use a lot – it came out of our little rose booklet and I think – although I no longer have the book - that it was from Marguerite Hartil. During this horrible time of Covid, it is a little indulgence and goes so very well with fresh scones...

Rose Jam

2 cups sugar

4 ½ cups of distilled or bottled water

Juice of 2 lemons allseeds removed (this time of year Meyers should be available)

2 ½ cups dried rose petals -or 4 cups fresh from the garden – always organic!

Place first 3 ingredients in a saucepan. Dissolve the contents over a slow heat until thickened.

Add rose petals and simmer 20 minutes

Bring mixture to boil for 5 minutes until there is a jam-like consistency

At this point you could add 1 drop of essential oil of roses (*Rosa damascene*) just to intensify flavor but this is optional

Pour jam into hot sterilized jars and store in fridge or if storing longer, process for 5 minutes in a water bath canner

NO APRIL FOOLING! TWO TYPES OF EASTER EGGS

All-Natural Easter Eggs

The decorated egg, a symbol of rebirth in many pagan cultures, made its first appearance in Europe when the Crusaders brought the idea from the East. Natural dyes are fun and easy for kids to work with, and they'll learn about plants in the process. In general, the more coloring agent you use and the longer the egg remains in the dye, the darker the color will be. Arrange these pastel eggs in a basket with snips of rosemary, thyme, sage and fuzzy lamb's ear (*Stachys byzantina*) and use as a table decoration.



1) Red - In a large pot of water, simmer eggs for up to an hour with the skins of red onions.

Our friend, visiting from Germany, used natural dyes for these eggs, and knitted a brown bunny for the basket.

2) Pink - Soak hard-boiled eggs overnight in cranberry or beet juice.

3) Yellow - Add 2 teaspoons of turmeric and 1 teaspoon vinegar to 2 cups of hot water; soak hard-boiled eggs overnight.

4) Brown - Add 2 tablespoons of instant coffee and 1 teaspoon of vinegar to 2 cups of hot water; soak hard-boiled eggs overnight.

5) Tan - In a large pot of water, simmer eggs for up to an hour with the skins of yellow onions.

6) Lavender - Pour hot water over violet blossoms; soak hard-boiled eggs overnight.

7) Blue - Simmer eggs for up to an hour with a few leaves of red cabbage, or soak hard-boiled eggs in grape juice.

All Natural Eggs:

Pictured are Ameraucanas, (blue) Leghorns (white) Rhode Island Reds. According to Michigan State University Extension, egg color is determined by the genetics of the hens. The breed of the hen will indicate what color eggs she will produce. White shelled eggs are produced by hens with white earlobes. Brown shelled eggs are produced by hens with red earlobes.

In *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, Barbara Kingsolver describes her daughter Molly's enterprising egg business. She began by buying different kinds of chickens because she liked them. When she saw that they had different color eggs, she began selling them as Rainbow Eggs. Her business became very successful.

Duck eggs and turkey eggs are not only different in shape, but in texture. Some are larger and more pointed than chicken eggs, light brown with reddish freckles.



IN THE APRIL GARDEN TO DO LIST

In Our Herb Garden: It's not too late to set out transplants of perennial herbs.

* From now and throughout the summer, plant basil, which likes the warm weather.

* Cool weather annuals planted late this month will go to seed near the end of June (examples are dill, cilantro, parsley Save the seeds for fall planting).

* Weed and water as necessary.

* Enjoy your garden, everything is taking off! - *Herbs: A Resource Guide for San Antonio*. Visit our web site @ www.sanantonioherbs.org.

VEGETABLE GARDEN Plant beans, sweet corn, summer squash, radishes, carrots and beets in the organically prepared vegetable garden. Previously recommended tomato varieties are Merced, Celebrity, Carnival, Surefire, Jackpot, Whirlaway, Sun Master or Heatwave (some new, some discontinued). Celebrity has done well recently. Heirloom tomatoes breed true, so you can save the seeds and grow next year. Many garden shop tomatoes are hybrid, which means that they have been grown by vegetative methods rather than from seeds. The seeds do not 'breed true" Plant okra and pumpkin seeds and sweet potato transplant (slips)

Keep pulling weeds- don't let them go to seed. April showers (any rain for that matter) bring nitrogen (more lightning, more nitrogen) and vitamin B-12 to the earth with the rain, that's why plants respond better to rain water than aquifer irrigation. Use rainwater whenever possible.

MULCH Around roses, lightly stir the mulch. Many mulches pack down and need to be fluffed up for better insulation and better water penetration. For any part of the garden, add to your mulch. If it is allowing weeds to grow or seems to be thin, more mulch will help kill weeds and keep the ground cooler.

Tomatoes can be planted in the garden now. Mulch them with leaves, cocoa shells, lawn clippings or other material to avoid blossom end rot.

Vegetable gardens need fertilizer every 3 weeks. Use a product with a 19-5-9 (3-1-2 ratio of nutrients). **3rd WEEK** Use spinach and cole crops. All except Brussels sprouts are declining quickly from heat and aphids. Plan southern peas and ornamental cotton

It is time to fertilize tomatoes when the first fruits set. Spread a half-cup of slow-release lawn fertilizer around the drip line. Check stems of tomato plants just below the soil line in search of cutworms. Remove the cutworms by hand. If you fertilize your tomato plants heavily with a nitrogen fertilizer at planting time, you will likely get very large plants but few tomatoes. Instead, wait until your plants have produced small tomatoes (about the size of a large marble) and then apply a handful or so of fertilizer to each plant every week during the growing season. You may not have 10-foot-tall plants but you should have buckets of vine-ripened fruit to enjoy and share with friends and neighbors.



When onion tops fall over, it's time to harvest. Put the bulbs on the surface of the garden bed for a day to harden off, and then store them in mesh bags in a dry room.

FLOWERS Junior petunia is a hardy re-seeding plant for color in cool and hot weather. It can be planted now.

Wisteria must be pruned after their flowering season, even in years when they fail to bloom. To prune them significantly at any other time would reduce or prevent their blooms the next spring. Keep the plant's natural shape and avoid excessive cutting



where necessary to control size. Apply iron/sulfur material to wisterias to combat iron deficiency caused by South Texas soils. (Carolina jessamine, spiraea, quince, Indian hawthorn and Lady Banks roses are some examples of shrubs that should also be pruned back after they have bloomed.

Stake *Gladiolus* as their flower spikes are forming or grow them close together for mutual support. For *Amaranthus* that are finished blooming, peel off the decorative wax and find a cool spot to plant or repot in the yard. The will be dormant, then come back next year. It is time to put bougainvillea, plumeria, hibiscus and other tropical plants outside.

This would be a good time to take "all" your potted plants outside and either repot with fresh soil; or with a garden hose flush all those mineral salts from the old fertilizers out of the potting soil and start a new feeding program with them, maybe even give their leaves a little bath.



Keep Easter lilies moist and in a bright room for long, indoor life. After the flowers decline, place them outside in a location with morning sun.

For color in the shade, use coleus, begonias, pentas and annual salvia.

To increase the germination rate on Texas mountain laurel seeds, collect and plant the seeds after the pods reach full size but before they dry out (still green). Prune spring-blooming plants as the last blooms fade. An exception is Texas mountain laurels, which don't respond well to pruning; just remove any dead wood from the tree.

Sow seeds for sunflowers and gomphrena (bachelor buttons). Rotate houseplants so each side receives its share of light. This encourages even growth and a balanced shape.

As the sun's rays strengthen and daylight hours lengthen, plants such as African violets may need to be moved from southern facing windows to prevent leaf scorch.

3RD WEEK Plant basil, begonia, caladium and impatiens in prepared beds. Warm-weather annuals such as zinnias, lantana and purslane can be planted now. The semperflora begonias (wax begonias, available at most nurseries) can be grown in sun or shade. Plant them now in sunny locations so they can put on growth before the heat arrives.

YARD Resist the urge to fertilize your lawn until you have mowed "lawn" grass (not annual grasses and weeds) twice. Aerate lawns at least once each year; use a core-extracting aerator. Top dress it with compost or a compost/sand mix to revitalize the grass. 2nd week of April It's time to fertilize your lawn. Most soil tests in the area reveal high levels of phosphorus and potassium. If you have not tested your soil for several years and you have applied 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio fertilizers (example: 15-5-10, 16-4-8 or 19-5-9) for several years, use a high-nitrogen fertilizer such as 21-0-0 this year. (*Do not feed Buffalo grass - CF) - 3rd WEEK Mow St. Augustine grass at 3", Bermuda at 1", Zoysia at 2" and buffalo at 4". Mowing frequently reduces weeds. Water the lawn only when it needs it (walk across the grass, if your footprint springs up, the grass has plenty of water). -

Early May is the best time to plant caladiums in our region (resist planting them too early if the ground is moist and cool). Select caladium tubers while ample stock is available.



Pests Keep a look out for LEAFROLLERS on cannas, that tie leaves together, resulting in rows of holes across surfaces of leaves. Use Orthene with 1 or 2 drops of liquid detergent to hold spray on leaves

WEED AND GLOAT

**Come weed with us at the
Botanical Gardens!
Feel welcome to come to join us
this month in the sunshine.**

Next Weed and Gloat is scheduled
for Monday, April 26

We have decided to meet around 9:30.A.M.

Contact robinmaymar@gmail.com for simple safety
measures we need to take .

See you then.



Meeting Minutes

HERB SOCIETY March 11 Minutes

San Antonio Herb Society March 11, 2021 Zoom Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm. Participants enjoyed a brief exchange of ideas for rocks as art prior to the meeting and enjoyed catching up.

Anne Mcauley was our guest speaker. From High County Community Garden she is the master gardener volunteer. She presented an informative overview of what to plant now. Bush and pole beans, Chinese cabbage, cantaloupe, radishes, various peppers, leeks, cucumbers, Swiss chard, collard greens, Crawford lettuce (an heirloom re-seeding lettuce once it is established. Survived the freeze this year and survives Texas heat. Fast growing.), and other lettuces, black eyed peas, squashes, mustard greens and beets can be planted from seeds or transplants. She recommended transplants for broccoli and eggplant due to the lateness of the season.

Plant tomato plants in pots so that the side roots can develop and be prepared to plant them in the garden in late March. Many herbs can be planted now, but dill does best in the fall. For the best results feed plants every seven to ten days during the growing season. The garden can be seen through the chain link fence anytime but volunteers are usually on hand between 11:00 and 4:00 and on Saturday. It is located at 16418 Cypress Path near Judson Rd and Lost Creek.

Gardeners can go online for lists and additional information including phases of the moon at these sites:

Bexar County Agriculture Extension Office – Seasonal guidelines

Travis County Agriculture Extension Office – Yearly guideline

Fanicks, Rainbow Gardens, and other garden centers have handouts.

A question and answer period followed and Robin presented a series of images of plants immediately after THE freeze and the same plant a week to ten days later to show how quickly some plants and trees are recovering from the shock and even a few fruit trees are blooming.

Announcements:

March 16 – 1:00 pm on KSAT 12. Jane McDaniel presents a look at Irish herbs and gives great mention to the Herb Society.

March 20 - 9:00 - 4:00 – Plant Sale, San Antonio Garden Center

March 25-27 – 8:00 – 4:00 - Men’s Garden Club Sale, Hollywood Park, 226 Yosemite Dr. Find great buys in tomato plants, other vegetables and flowers. “Regulars” say to go early.

March 29 - 9:30 – 11:00 - Weed and Gloat – San Antonio Botanical Center.

April 8 – 6:30 – In person meeting! Zoom access will continue.

6:30 Socializing. 7:00 meeting. San Antonio Garden Center. No food or beverages at this time due to COVID regulations. Mask required. Social distancing still in place.

Program: “Art in the Herb Garden” - Bring sketch pads and pencils or pastels. Led by an artist to be announced. The **Share Table** needs donations of books, magazines and related items, as well as any plants you have to share. Bring 5 copies of any recipes you may have created or tried during your time indoors that you think others will enjoy.

Submitted by June Hayes, acting secretary.



43rd Annual Show & Sale

SACXS Cactus Festival

April 24-25, 2021
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

At The San Antonio Garden Center
3310 N. New Braunfels Ave.

- **Cactus and Succulent Vendors**
- **Silent Auction - both days**
Bidding ends daily at 3:00 p.m./pickup daily by 5:00 p.m.
Card preferred
- **SACXS Fiesta Medals**

Text SACXS to 56512 for more information.
Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

Masks are required for entry.
COVID Safety Protocols will be in place.

SPRING CLEANING

“Spring-cleaning season is in full swing, “says Mary Parisi in NBCNews.com. But once you’ve “cleaned, de-cluttered and Marie Kondo-ed your house,” you’re left with an age-old conundrum: “What do I do with all of this stuff?” Throwing it away can feel wasteful, and local charity bins are often “overflowing with more hand-me-downs than they know what to do with.” Head online first: It’s likely that are Facebook groups in your area that either give away or sell gently used things. Rather than send unwanted electronics to the landfill, donate them to organizations that can fix them up recycle or repurpose them. For unwanted clothing, several retailers such as H & M and Madewell offer donation coupons that can be put toward some clothing “you’ll actually wear.” (from The Week magazine)

We add: Recycle your gently used business clothes to Dress For Success, books to Half Price Books, kitchen towels and newspapers to Pets Alive, gently used bedding and bath towels to Battered Women’s Shelter.

Herb Society will have a “Free” table for anything that has to do with gardening, kitchen, or whatever.

LOCAL HEROES!

Many thanks to Woodland Baptist Church Vaccination Ministry. Anyone eligible can email them at woodlandvaccine1@gmail.com They have a link to an online form that puts a person on a Signup form. They will be assigned to a team member who will attempt to schedule you. The only thing they ask is that if you find an appointment on your own, email back so they can update their list. Our treasurer, Debarah Wilson, connected me. If you are frustrated and still looking for vaccination, use this email. Again, our gratitude to those helping in this ministry and especially to Barbara Higdon, who was my special angel.

Herb Society Board

President

Robin Maymar

robinmaymar@gmail.com

1st Vice-President (Programs)

Position vacant

Treasurer Debarah Wilson

Secretary Volunteer at meeting

Membership Milan Maymar,
protem

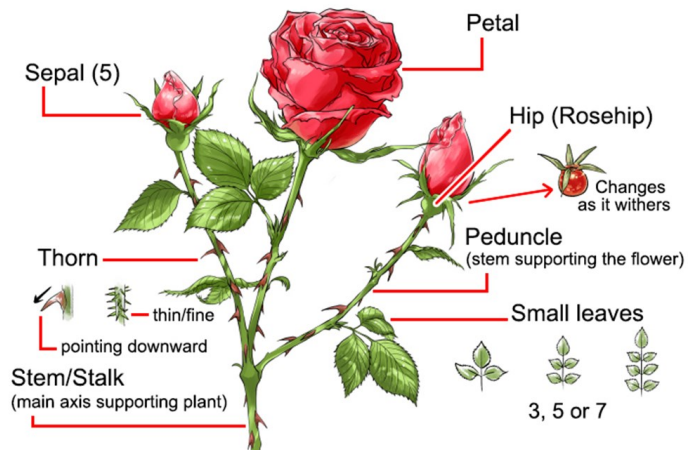
Publicity Vicki Jamvold

Herb of the Month: Rose

Roses are a huge topic. If you have deep interests, we suggest visiting with the Rose Society here in San Antonio. In this article we will include some InThe Garden Suggestions and some knowledge here and there.

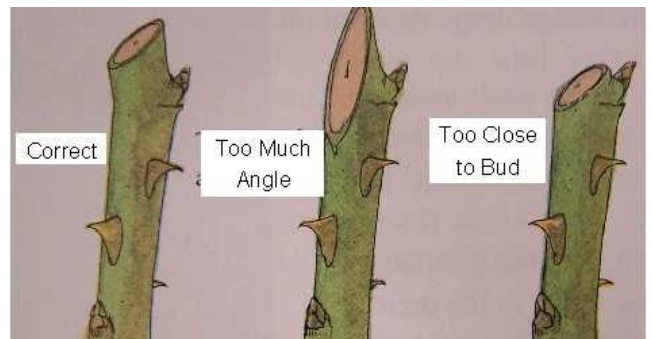
The Fine Art of Pruning - Knowing why you grow roses dictates your plan for managing the flower production. Finger pruning is the process of rubbing off unwanted new shoots so you get the shape of bush you want and the bush can be manipulated to produce a few "large" blooms or many small blooms.

If you decide to do nothing, there will be an overabundance of new stems pointed in every direction with a large number of small flowers. This is perfect for the person who wants to limit their time doing rose chores. If they just want lots of color in the landscape, a small amount of finger pruning and clipping (reducing the number of new shoots per stem) can direct the growth outward and upward developing a shapelier bush with good color and some nice, long stems for cutting. The serious exhibitor will only allow 2 or 3 new stems to develop per can to get the large, showy flowers.



New shoots that do not seem vigorous, small in diameter, short and have a brown tip rather than a bud should be removed cleanly back to the cane. These are blind shoots and will never make a flower. New shoots that are a foot long or less that form a bud should be cut in half. These types of growth will only take away precious nutrients from the other flowers, so why not recycle them to get a jump on the second cycle.

Watch for basal breaks. These are large vigorous shoots coming from the bud union or from within about 5 inches of it. They are easily broken off so arrange to tie them to a stake or another cane until they have hardened. They are valuable to the life and longevity of the bush, so take care of them.

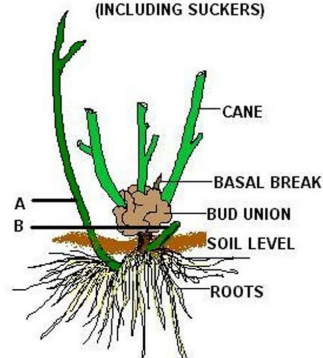


When they are about 2 feet high it is useful to pinch them off at the first blunt bud, thus encouraging strong branches and preventing candelabras.

Avoid cutting blooms with long stems from new bushes. Cut very short stems or snap blooms off at the peduncle and float in a bowl.

On established bushes, unless the bloom is needed for a show, take no more stem than necessary. Leave two good sets of leaves on the bush. If the bush is well grown this will provide ample stems for arranging (and if it is not well grown, the blooms should not be cut with long stems anyhow).

THE PARTS OF A GRAFTED ROSE (INCLUDING SUCKERS)



A = Sucker from the roots
B = Sucker from rootstock, below grafts



Remove blind shoots and leaf rosettes (illustrated). A leaf rosette is a cluster of leaves, usually far down the cane, which has no bloom bud. Blind shoots are stems which come out and taper down to nothing with no bloom bud. A cane which has nothing but blind shoots should be removed at the source.

A quick and simple way to cut spent blooms ("dead-head" as our British and Canadian friends say), is to snap off the faded bloom at the peduncle. The roses repeat faster and seem to grow better than if we go through and cut down farther on the stems.

To keep your ever-blooming roses flowering longer than any other in town, try this terrific tonic: dissolve 3 Tbsp. of brewer's yeast in 2 gal. water and soak the roots of each bush after their first blooming.

If you snooze, you lose . . . in summer that is . . . as hungry APHIDS, WHITEFLIES and SPIDER MITES make short work out of your prized perennials. But it's quick and easy to bug-proof your beauties with my "Summer Soap-&Oil Spray". Using 1 cup of vegetable oil and 1 Tbsp. of liquid dish soap. Mix them together, then add 2 tsp. of mix to 1 cup of water in a handheld sprayer. Mix well and spray away.

Watch for spider mites. If you think you do not have them by the end of this month it is likely you either have sprayed, washed with water or just don't see well. If the roses are not doing as well as you think they should, take another look or maybe have a Consulting Rosarian come and look

* Remember to water your bushes thoroughly before feeding or spraying! Visit their web site @ www.sarosesociety.org.

Roses are considered an herb because beyond the beautiful flower, roses produce rose hips, a fruit. This can be used in a variety of ways. The hips are an intense source of Vitamin C. According to the new FDA standards 1 cup of rose hips contains 541 mg. of Vitamin C. In comparison, broccoli is 81.2 mg per one cup chopped.

"Rose hips, 'heps' or 'haws,' the small red, orange or green berries left after the flowers wither, are the fruit of the rosebush. These colorful berries are not just ornamental but nutritious food rich in vitamin C as well as A,B, E, K and P. ' ' A half a tablespoon of or one serving of rose hip honey or syrup contains 40 mg of vitamin C. Rose hips also contain more salt, phosphorus, calcium and iron than oranges.

Rose fruit and flowers are universal. They can be found growing all over the world. Wild species rose hips far surpass the typical garden varieties. The species roses are not easily obtained as very few nurseries stock them because the fashionable showy roses are more popular. Fortunately, these varieties do not need the care that the new fashioned garden roses demand.

Varieties include: The *Rugosa Magnifica* with its deep carmine almost purple blooms produce hips the size of crab apples. *Delicata* and *R. Eglanteria* are also excellent for hips. *Eleganta* is a soft mauve-pink, the fragrance tantalizing. Others are *Frau Dagmar Hartopp* and *Hansa*, a large flat, violet-red flower of intense fragrance. Some modern roses try *Daphne*, *Wind Chimes*, *Red Robin*, *Belinda's Dream*, *Seven Sisters* and *Little Compton Creeper*. (Quotes from *Rose Recipes* by Jean Gordon, 1958)



WEED AND GLOAT:

We are welcoming Laura Laura, a new member of our weeding team. She met us on FaceBook. And offered to come join us in the garden. Her energy and knowledge are incredible. We are so blessed to make a new friend. We apologize for not taking a picture, but Laura said she was a hot mess and did not need one taken.



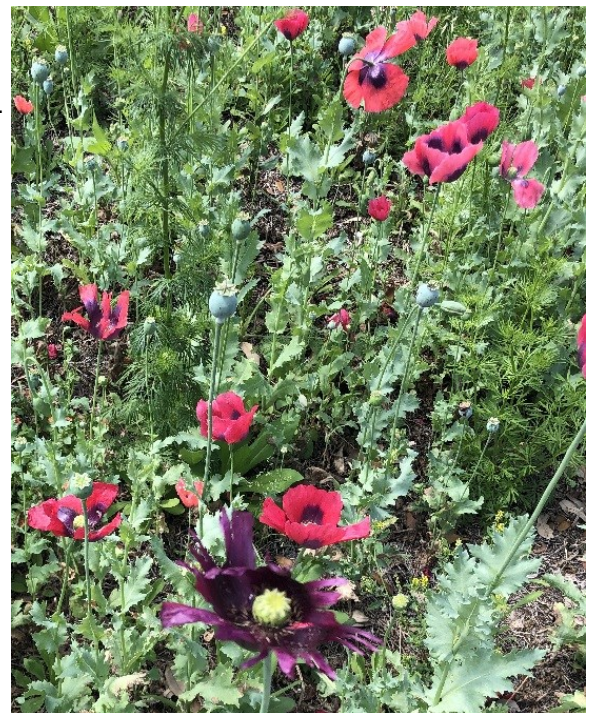
The garden looked oddly vacant. We realized that The Bot people had removed all the big rosemary plants that had died. We will need to replace them. The death of some large plants gives us an opportunity to move things around and rethink the layout. Plants had been placed close to the walkway, and then had become large over time. So, we are planning those larger ones for the back of the bed. Putting some new low growing ones closer to the path.

There are so many variables that affect the growth of plants. Light, water, temperature, wind and nutrients are the ones we usually consider. We have a tree that shades the middle of the garden, where the bench is. Our plan is always to place shade tolerant plants there. The puzzle is always: "What kind of Shade?" Is it South Texas scorching August shade, or North Carolina deep piney woods shade. As we grow plants we realize, the thyme that needs 'full sun' is infinitely happier with the afternoon shade, and only filtered morning sun. Careful observation helps us determine just the right spot.

Part of the sun/shade question is always moist/dry? Tomatoes in the early spring need moisture and sunshine. March and April wind dries them out. We wrap them with thinsulate or other covering. The light penetrates plenty to help the plant grow, but the cover stops the wind and helps keep the moisture in the plant. Plants need a certain amount of wind to strengthen their stems, but too much or too fast causes harm.

Because herbs are planted in soil, there is always the threat of fungus growth. Too much water brings out the mushrooms and a variety of fungus growth. Herbs generally do not like to 'get their feet wet' but it is a delicate balance. Again, observation is our best teacher. A very wet spring and the mint all looks rotten. Once a plant is in the ground drainage becomes paramount. If the soil does not drain the herbs sit in the water for days until the sun dries them, they often do not survive. On the other hand, lavender, sensitive to water, also is sensitive to being too dry. I suspect it is from it's French heritage, but the sensitivity makes it a difficult herb to grow here. Our best specimen is doing beautifully in the shade!

And sometimes there are just spontaneous herbs! The poppies are in bloom all over the gardens. Every year they become more crossed, so there are wonderful variants. We enjoy every phase of the poppies: plants, blooms and wonderful seed pods that look like salt shakers. You can dry them and make interesting arrangements.



BUSINESS MEMBERS

WE THANK OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

MENTION YOUR S.A.H.S. MEMBERSHIP WHEN YOU PATRONIZE THEM!



Natures Herb Farm

7193 Old Talley Road Lot #7
San Antonio, Texas 78253

Email: naturesherbfarm@att.net

Website: naturesherbfarms.com



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David's Garden Seeds

5029 FM 2504

Poteet, TX 78065

Website: <https://www.davids-garden-seeds-and-products.com/>

Did You know SAHS Members get a 10% off discount at these local businesses?



Rainbow Gardens : 8516 Bandera Road
Rainbow Gardens 2585 Thousand Oaks
Drive

Fanicks Garden Center:
1025 Holmgreen Rd 78220
San Antonio Gourmet Olive Oil
1913 S. Hackberry, 78210