

## Everything's Coming Up Rosaceae By Sally Roberts

(with special thanks to Steve Schmelling for historical information about the site)



**The Rose Family Garden site at the Santa Fe County Extension campus on Rodeo Road  
Courtesy Kathy Haq**

One of the SFEMG's demonstration gardens at the Santa Fe County Extension campus on Rodeo Road is getting a much-needed makeover this year. The renamed Rose Family Garden will be headed up by master gardeners Sally Roberts and Elaine Giovando, with advisory support from the Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP).

The project will bring new life to the space currently occupied by the now-dormant Earth-Kind® Rose Field Trial garden between the upper and lower parking areas. It will feature primarily native plants in the Rosaceae family to demonstrate their variety and use as waterwise choices in Santa Fe. It will also show that there is a way to have an attractive garden without using exotic species, though some of the surviving Earth-Kind® roses may remain. The new plantings will provide resources for native bees, butterflies, other pollinators and beneficial insects.

The plantings may include, for example, Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*), Woods Rose (*Rosa woodsii*), Cliff Rose (*Purshia stansburiana*), Fern Bush (*Chamaebatiaria millefolium*) and Apache Plume (*Falugia paradoxa*). The final selections will depend on the availability of plant species and irrigation water. Since this area is adjacent to the Native Plant Demonstration Gardens established by SNaPP, the intent is to complement these gardens and further beautify the Extension campus for those walking between the Extension Office and the Exhibit Hall.

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International Master  
Gardener Conference



June 18 – 22, 2023  
Overland Park, Kansas

## Save the Date!

Join the Johnson County Master Gardener Program and Kansas State University Research & Extension for the [2023 International Master Gardener Conference](#). [Click here](#) to check out concurrent sessions.

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Join the [Santa Fe Seed Stewards](#) for a  
**Community Seed Packing Session**  
**1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 8**  
Santa Fe Public Library Southside Branch  
5229 Jaguar Road, Santa Fe

### Our Mission

Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners is a nonprofit volunteer organization whose mission is to learn, teach and promote locally sustainable gardening through reliable, current research-based practices.

[sfemg.org](http://sfemg.org)

SFEMG is one of more than a dozen county-based master gardener programs run under the auspices of New Mexico State University's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.  
[aces.nmsu.edu](http://aces.nmsu.edu)

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The Santa Fe County Sustainability Division is installing a small rain garden between the new Rose Family Garden and the show barn as part of a number of 2023 Earth Day activities planned at the County Extension campus on April 22 (see page 5). The Sustainability Division has consulted local permaculturist Reese Baker about using runoff from the tarmac, show barn and exhibit hall to irrigate the rain garden, and the SFEMG is collaborating with Baker on how best to direct runoff from the rain garden to the Rose Family Garden. Other irrigation possibilities are being considered as well.

Master gardeners and interns who work in the Rose Family Garden will be able to fulfill volunteer requirements for operational support (OS) and continuing education (CE) credits; they can also earn public education (PE) credits during special events such as the annual plant sale and the County Fair, for example. The initial setup will create ample opportunities for “how-to” sessions on planting, pruning and harvesting water for gardeners. The SFEMG plans to have signage and offer literature on request for visitors. Funding for this project was made available by the Santa Fe Master Gardeners Association.

About the site:

The national Earth-Kind® Rose Field Trials were established in 2010 by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service at Texas A&M University. The SFEMG embraced the Earth-Kind® project in 2013, and the SFEMG demonstration garden was the first trial site in the arid Southwest. Earth-Kind® is a special designation given to select rose cultivars based on the results of extensive research and field trials; it is awarded to only those roses demonstrating superior pest tolerance combined with outstanding landscape performance. Other varieties of roses were planted alongside the Earth-Kind® roses to serve as comparison plants. This field trial was organized by the late Beverly Adkins, a master gardener who persuaded the county to construct the white iron railings around the site and to dig out the old, poor-quality soil and replace it with an improved soil mix.

Volunteer master gardeners collected data as they maintained the garden within the Trial requirements with the goal of determining if [Earth-Kind® environmentally friendly sustainable landscaping principles](#) were applicable to Santa Fe's challenging gardening environment. For the first few years, volunteers working on this project made regular measurements of the size of the plants, the number of blossoms per plant and similar parameters.

Beverly worked with people at Texas A&M to be sure Santa Fe volunteers collected the right data. Another master gardener, Sandy Shaw, acted as the assistant project leader. Sometime around 2017 or 2018 [Beverly](#) moved back to the Dallas area. She passed away in Plano, Texas, in February 2022, and Sandy Shaw moved to Abilene, Texas. Former master gardener Dori Jones took over the project, but by then most of the significant measurements had already been made, and the project became more of a maintenance effort. The Earth-Kind® Roses did remarkably well, particularly given the fact that there was almost no pruning, deadheading or watering. They were mulched periodically.

## **References:**

[National Earth-Kind® Rose Research Study](#)

[Earth-Kind® Rose Cultivars](#)



## A Message from SFEMG Board President Anne Rivas

When I was growing up in Michigan my mother was always grabbing her bird book to identify birds she didn't recognize. In Ohio, my daughter showed me hawks. I was fascinated by loons in Minnesota and looked for them on the lake every day during the summer. I saw eagles on their migration through Minnesota and Nebraska.

When I moved to Santa Fe, I saw birds I'd never seen before and bought my own "Sibley Field Guide to Birds." I looked for ways to attract more birds to my property. Some stay year-round, some through the summer and some stop over on their migration to somewhere else.

A rich bird habitat contains as much biodiversity as will grow happily in your space. It's important to have clean water, preferably moving water and a puddle stone for butterflies and other insects. You want different heights of plants to provide birds with places to hide from predators and to find food. Native trees, bushes, flowers, grasses and ground covers are essential. Leave the stems and litter over the winter to provide food for birds and shelter for insects. Leave pithy stems standing for native bees when you cut back plants in the spring.

Birds, insects and native plants evolved together over millennia. Native flowers provide birds with nectar and pollen in the spring. Trees, bushes, grasses and flowering plants provide birds with insects to feed their chicks in summer. Berries, nuts and seeds will see them through fall and winter.

Oaks are top food producers, supporting roughly 500 species of butterflies and moths in North America alone, making them a great place for birds to raise their families. There are 15 species of oak native to New Mexico, including the iconic Gambel oaks (*Quercus gambelii*). Other bird-friendly native plants include desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), native grasses, sunflowers (*Helianthus* spp.), milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), purple coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*), goldenrod (*Solidago* spp.), chamisa (*Ericameria nauseosa*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.), wild plum (*Prunus americana*) and New Mexico olive (*Forestiera neomexicana*).

To see examples of bird habitats, check out the Randall Davey Audubon Center and Sanctuary, 1800 Upper Canyon Road, where the SFEMG partners with Audubon to promote education through the Wildlife Native Plant Garden. There are native plants in containers, in gardens and a meadow. I also encourage you to visit the Native Plant Demonstration Gardens, established by the SFEMG's Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP) at the Santa Fe County Extension Office, 3229 Rodeo Road. There you can see a native plant meadow beginning its third year and a colorful, more formal garden at the front entrance and to the east of the office.

Sources for information about native plants that will do well in your neighborhood include:

["A Guide to Native Plants for the Santa Fe Landscape"](#) (SNaPP)

["Plants for Birds"](#) (National Audubon Society)

["Pollinator-Friendly Native Plant Lists"](#) (Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation)

["Native Plant Finder"](#) (National Wildlife Federation)



# EARTH DAY 2023

*Celebrate with us!*  
*Saturday, April 22*



## **Celebrate Earth Day With Santa Fe County and the SFEMG!**

This Earth Day, the SFEMG joins the Santa Fe County Sustainability Division to offer a full morning of earth-friendly information sessions, hands-on gardening activities and live music at the Santa Fe County Extension campus at 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507.

The day begins with a light breakfast at 9 a.m., followed by a series of brief remarks from county officials and Tom Dominguez, director of the Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension Service Office. Local permaculturist Reese Baker will describe the new rain garden installation adjacent to the new Rose Family Garden.

Master gardener Lesley Janis (formerly Mansfield) will share information about the Santa Fe Native Plant Project, and master gardener Linda Hinckley will encourage attendees to join her as she demonstrates how to harvest compost. There will also be informational tours of the SFEMG's on-site demonstration gardens, with master gardeners on hand to answer your gardening questions.

Representatives from Santa Fe County and community organizations such as the Santa Fe Botanical Garden will share resources at booths throughout the event, which is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 22. Visit [this website](#) for updates about the event.

**Registration is encouraged.** [Click here](#) to sign up.

**What to bring:** Come dressed to spend the morning outdoors learning and gardening! You are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle or mug. For those participating in any gardening activities, you are encouraged to bring gardening gloves and wear a hat, long pants and closed-toe shoes.

**Safety:** Participants (adults and youths) are required to sign a waiver at the event before participating in any gardening activities.

Participants are expected to adhere to COVID-19 guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and New Mexico Department of Health regarding social distancing and use of masks. Please stay home if you are not feeling well or have recently been exposed to COVID-19.

**Save these dates!**

**Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13**



# PLANT SALE

The SFEMG's annual plant sale returns as an in-person event the second weekend of May, giving shoppers the opportunity to pick up plants just in time for Mother's Day!

Wendy Wilson, lead organizer and immediate past president of the SFEMG board of directors, says, "Most plants will be native to the southwest and all are expected to do well in Santa Fe County." The plants are being obtained from the Santa Ana Native Plant and Tree Nursery, which is operated by Santa Ana Pueblo. Reunity Resources will have a pop-up at the Fairgrounds and will be selling vegetable starts and annuals.

Selections in 4-inch and 1-gallon containers will include perennials, shrubs, trees and cacti. Saskatoon Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) will be sold in 5-gallon pots. A complete list of available plants will be posted on the SFEMG website prior to the sale.

In keeping with the SFEMG's education mission, volunteers from the following SFEMG projects will be on hand to answer your gardening questions: [Ask a Master Gardener](#), the [Santa Fe Native Plant Project](#) and the [Yard Habitat Certification](#) program, first piloted in 2021 and 2022.

The plant sale is the SFEMG's primary fundraiser and helps support all SFEMG education-based projects in Santa Fe. For a list of projects, see <https://www.sfemg.org/projects>

## Where?

Santa Fe County Fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe

## Open to the Public

3-6 p.m. Friday, May 12  
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 13



**"The greatest fine art of the future will be the making of a comfortable living from a small piece of land."**

– Abraham Lincoln



## **Fendler's Barberry (*Berberis fendleri*)** **Narrative and photos by Laurie McGrath**



**A honey bee visits the copious flowers of Fendler's Barberry**

Fendler's Barberry is a non-invasive shrub that enhances your native garden habitat. Native to New Mexico, Utah and Colorado it is sometimes referred to as Colorado Barberry. It has a nice form in all seasons, displaying yellow spring flowers then bright red berries in fall that stay on all winter. Similar in many ways to the more upright Fremont's Barberry, the flowers are small but much more dramatic and its arching form adds graceful notes to the landscape.

**Landscape use:** In a garden planned to provide food sources for pollinators throughout the growing season, barberries are early blooming shrubs. Fragrant flowers provide nectar for pollinators and the thorny stems create a safe place for nesting birds. It can be used as a barrier plant but is also attractive enough to be used in a more planned landscape. Keep in mind that it has thorns and keep it back from walkways.

**Planting and care:** With medium water this shrub can grow quickly. It prefers moist, rich soil but adapts to a more xeric and lean environment once established. Full sun is typically recommended

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but morning sun and afternoon shade work well and protect the blooms and berries from drying out in our intense sunlight. It can be planted in spring or fall and requires very little care. Give it room and leave it unpruned to maintain its natural form. In fall the small leaves become an attractive mulch.

**Propagation:** from seed or cuttings taken in spring after bloom

**Plant type:** deciduous shrub

**Bloom time:** spring

**Size:** 6 feet tall by 6 feet wide

**Sun:** full sun to part shade

**Soil:** compost-enriched garden soil; tolerates some clay; needs good drainage

**Water:** low to medium

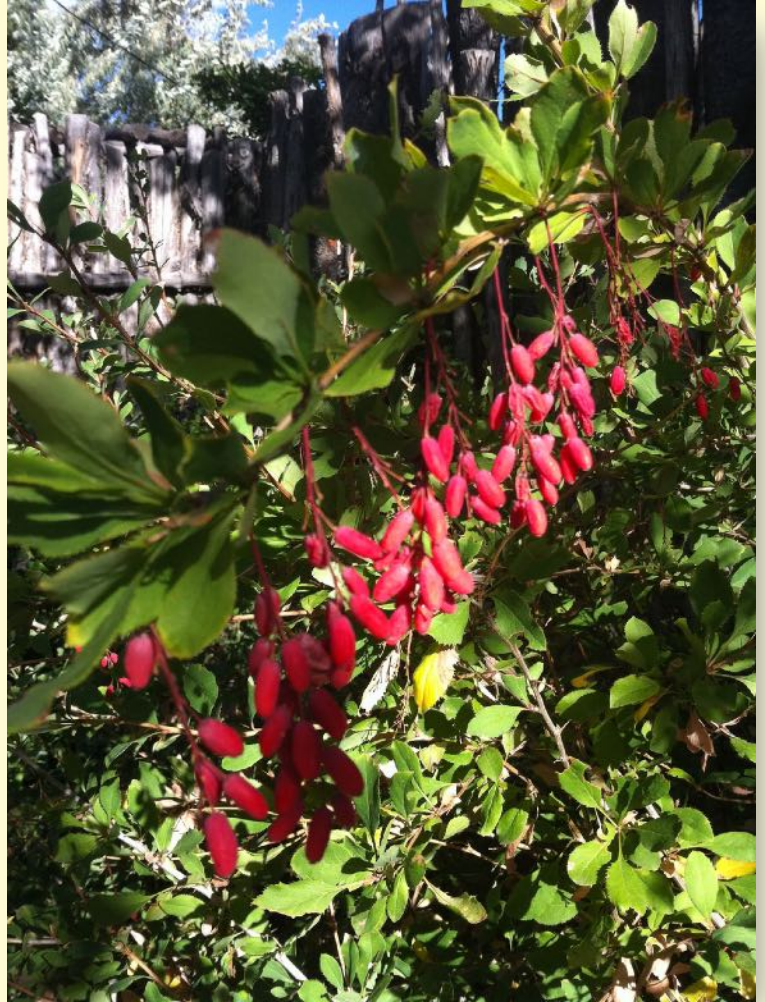
**USDA zones:** 4-8

**References:**

["A Guide to Native Plants for the Santa Fe Landscape"](#) (SNaPP)

[Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center Plant Database](#)

["Pollinator Plants: Albuquerque and Santa Fe Region"](#) (Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation)



**Gorgeous fruit will persist through the winter.**



*Let's Grow is a **free public education series** for home gardeners and the garden-curious who want to learn about soil, compost, native plants, creating habitat for pollinators and more!*

*Look for more Let's Grow sessions on our website ([sfemg.org](http://sfemg.org)) and in future issues of the SFEMG Newsletter.*

**Clinic: How to Correctly Prune Roses | 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 1**

**Harvey Cornell Rose Park, 1315 Galisteo Parkway**

**instruction from 9-9:30 a.m., hands-on pruning from 9:30 a.m.-noon**

**Bring hand-held pruners, gloves and drinking water. Wear long-sleeved clothing.**

**Hats and sunscreen recommended. No registration required.**



## Backyard Bugs

### Purslane Moth (*Euscirrhopterus gloveri*)

By Pam Wolfe



The adult forewing is 15-20 mm.  
Courtesy Pam Wolfe



Caterpillars are highly variable in coloring.  
Courtesy Lesley Janis (formerly Mansfield)

*Euscirrhopterus gloveri* is in the family Noctuidae (owlet moths), the largest family of moths. The noctuids make up 25 percent of all lepidoptera in the United States. *E. gloveri* was named for Professor Townsend Glover, the first entomologist at the United States Department of Agriculture, a fine illustrator of insects who was more interested in drawing than collecting.

The purslane moth's larvae specialize on plants in the Portulaca family. Our specimen was collected in the native grass restoration area to the west of the Santa Fe County Extension Office on a weeding day last July. Volunteers found the purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) more or less skeletonized by these animals. The information page at [Bugguide.net](http://Bugguide.net) reports that the larva have been reared on several native and introduced Portulaca species as well as common beet (*Beta vulgaris*). The [reported range](#) of the purslane moth is the American Southwest and Mexico.

# Calendar

## Please read the fine print!

- Master Gardeners must complete 10 hours of continuing education (CE) by Nov. 30 and are encouraged to record CE credit hours in [Track It Forward](#) as soon as possible after completing the activity.
- If there is a dollar sign, there is a fee.
- **Many of these courses require pre-registration.**
- The acronym "phc" means Master Gardeners can earn 1 credit hour of continuing education for each hour attended.
- If there are other opportunities, suggestions, or questions please send them to Stephanie Deutsch: [deutsch.stephanie@gmail.com](mailto:deutsch.stephanie@gmail.com)

### **6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5**

Bees in the Garden with Kate Whealen of the New Mexico Beekeepers Association  
Santa Fe County Extension Exhibit Hall, 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe  
Santa Fe Rose Society / 1 CE / no registration required

### **Saturday, April 8**

[Trees for the Santa Fe Area with Tracy Neal](#)  
Santa Fe Botanical Garden / \$ / 3 CE

### **Tuesday, April 11**

[Restoration of fire-adapted forests of the Southwest with Mateo Pomilia](#)  
Santa Fe Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico / 1 CE

### **Saturday, April 15**

[Bumble Bee Ecology and Conservation for Atlas Volunteers](#)  
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation / 2 CE / registration required

### **Tuesday, April 18**

[Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Club Monthly Meeting](#)  
Free and open to the public / 1 CE

### **Wednesday, April 19**

[Approaches to Addressing Troublesome Wildlife in Your Garden: Deer and Pocket Gophers](#)  
with Dr. Sam Smallidge, NMSU Extension Wildlife Specialist  
NMSU Ready, Set, GROW! gardening webinar series / 1 CE

### **Saturday, April 22 (see page 5)**

Earth Day celebration at the Santa Fe County Extension campus, 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe

### **Thursday, April 27**

[Herbicides: A Double-Edged Sword? What We Know about Herbicide Impacts on Pollinators](#)  
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation / 1 CE / registration required

### **6 p.m. Wednesday, May 2**

Bindweed Mites with Del Jimenez, NMSU Agricultural Specialist  
Santa Fe Public Library Southside Branch, 6599 Jaguar Drive, Santa Fe  
Santa Fe Rose Society / 1 CE / no registration required

### [Growing Wild: Gardening for Birds and Nature](#)

A self-paced six-session course with an estimated completion time of three hours  
The Cornell Lab Bird Academy / \$ / 1 CE phc

## New & Noteworthy

Have you recently read a gardening-related article or book, visited a horticultural website or blog, listened to a podcast, or seen a nature show or documentary you think other gardeners would enjoy or find useful? Send a link to the newsletter (news.sfemg@gmail.com) and we'll try to include the information in the next issue. The articles were published in 2023 unless otherwise indicated. **Note that some of these sources may have paywalls.**

[“Exotic blooms for winter color”](#) by Emeritus Master Gardener Laurie McGrath, shared with permission of *HOME/Santa Fe New Mexican* (March 1)

[“Woman Explains What It Was Like To Fall Into The World’s Most Dangerous Plant”](#) by James Felton, *IFLScience* (March 27)

[“Monarch butterflies lose sanctuary in Mexico as climate changes”](#) by Naomi Schanen, *The Washington Post* (March 26)

[“ ‘Witch bee’ riding tiny broomstick to features in Attenborough’s Wild Isles”](#) by Nadeem Badshah, *The Guardian* (March 26)

[“They planted a forest at the edge of the desert. From there it got complicated.”](#) by Josie Glausiusz with photos by Danielle Amy, *National Geographic* (March 23)

[“How to Make Compost Tea – and Use It to Encourage Plant Growth and Prevent Pests”](#) by Madeline Buiano, *Martha Stewart Living* (March 20)

[“He planted a seed from a grapefruit 61 years ago. Now, the indoor citrus tree is part of his family.”](#) by Kendra Meinert, *Green Bay Press-Gazette* (March 20)

[“Gardener reveals ‘secret weapon’ for attracting pollinators to your garden: ‘The bees are going crazy for them’”](#) by Becca Inglis, *The Cool Down* (March 19)

[“How to grow quinoa – all you need to know about this popular supergrain”](#) by Janey Goulding, *Homes & Gardens* (March 19)

[“10 best botanical gardens across the nation for 2023,”](#) *USA TODAY* Reader’s Choice Awards (March 17)

[“This new species of pink orchid looks like delicate glasswork”](#) by Laura Baisas, *Popular Science* (March 17)

[“No shortage of tax breaks in New Mexico’s drought”](#) by Savannah Peat, University of New Mexico press release (March 15)

[“Is ‘No Dig’ Gardening Really Possible?”](#) by Margaret Roach, *The New York Times* (March 15)

[“Growing My Own Food Helped Me Heal After Loss, and Now Science Says It Can Help You Too”](#) by Ashia Aubourg, *Food & Wine* (March 10)

[“NMSU, AIBE part of \\$2 million grant to support Native American farmers, ranchers”](#) by Hashem Aliedeh, NMSU press release (March 9)

[“ ‘Famous’ 300-year-old bur oak was saved from development. Windstorm knocked it down.”](#) by Karla Ward, *Lexington Herald-Leader* (March 6)



# The Garden Journal Radio Show



Every Saturday  
10 to 10:30 a.m. on KSFR 101.1 FM

## **April 1: Slow Food Santa Fe Outloud Edition**

Slow Food Santa Fe's Lissa Johnson and Nina Rosenberg interview Brett Rapkin-Citrenbaum, Slow Food USA's Farm Bill Community Organizer, and Robb Hirsch of the New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group and Climate Change Leadership Institute about this year's renewal of the federal farm bill and impacts here in New Mexico.

## **April 8: SFEMG Edition**

Hosts Christine Salem and Alexa Bradford talk with local permaculturist Reese Baker about his inspiring vision of ways to harvest, capture and infiltrate rainwater and urban storm water runoff, following patterns of nature to create lush and abundant biodiversity in a desert city.

## **April 15: Food, Farms and Friends: Black Health New Mexico Edition**

Join host Sunshine Muse and producer Carrie Core for this premiere episode of Black Health New Mexico Edition, featuring discussions on food, diet, traditions, culture and equity through the lens of the Black experience. This new "Garden Journal" edition is a conversational plate of intentional food for thought. You may never look at history, the present, or the food you eat the same.

## **April 22: SFEMG Edition**

Alexa Bradford hosts Wendy Wilson, immediate past board president of the Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners, and Tom Dominguez, director of the Santa Fe County Extension Office. Topics include an update on the SFEMG's highly anticipated annual plant sale and community outreach events on May 12 and 13. Tom will update listeners on Santa Fe County Extension Office developments and introduce new team member Michelle Stizza, Family Consumer Science Agent – Adult Educational Services.

## **April 29: Giant Veggie Gardener Edition with Jannine Cabossel, "The Tomato Lady"**

Jannine shares tips and techniques for backyard vegetable gardening and a to-do list for May. See more at [Giant Veggie Gardener](#).

You can find past episodes of The Garden Journal here at [sfemg.org](http://sfemg.org).



## **We are here to help!**

If you have gardening questions, Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners are available to help.

You can pose your questions online [here](#). We'll do some research and get back to you.