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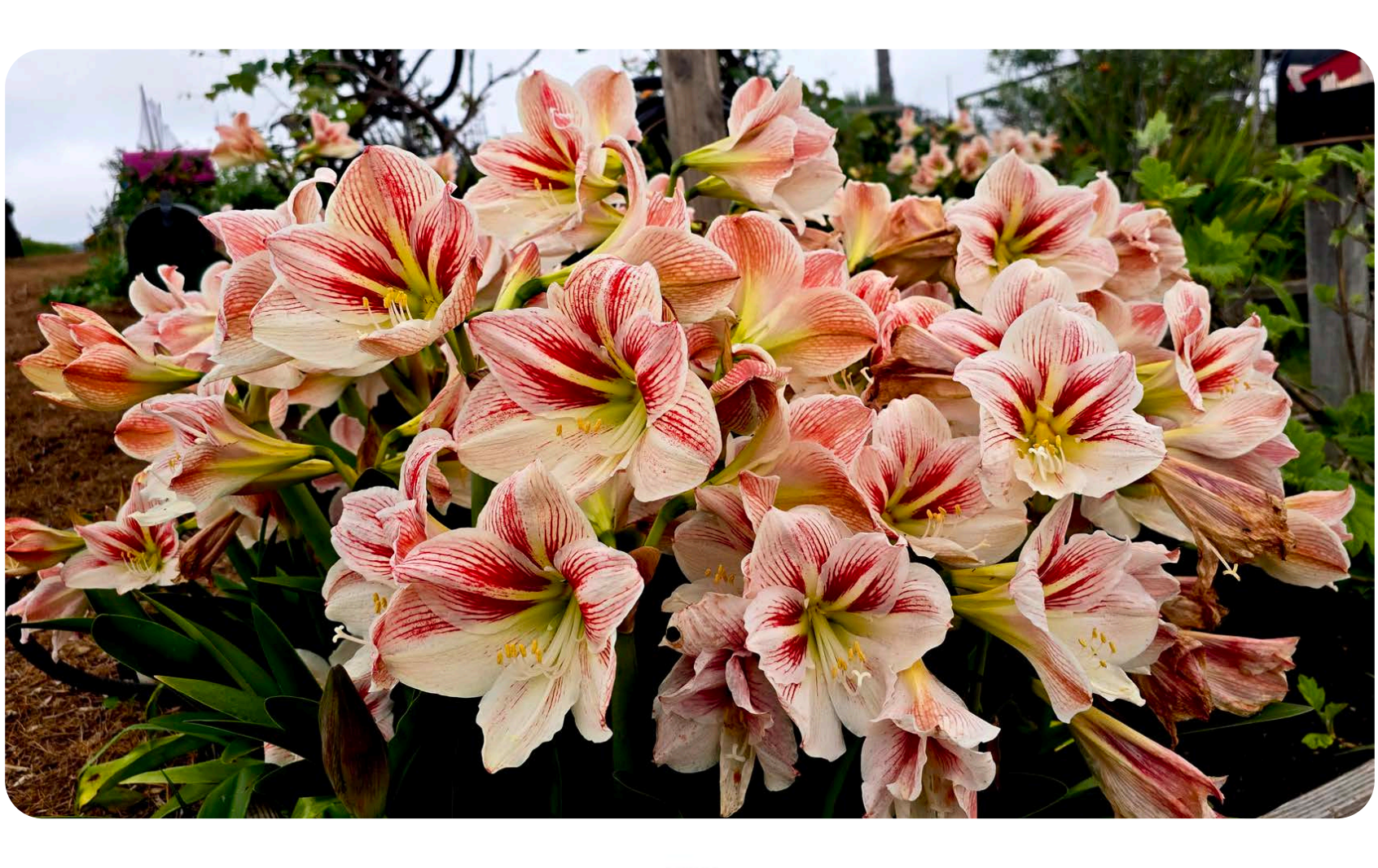
OVF NEWS

May/June 2026



Garden Master's Message

Hi everyone,

There's a lot going on in the garden. We're moving forward on multiple projects in the interconnected system that is OVF. If you'd like to get involved with any of these projects, please contact me.

New Developments

1. New Porta-Potty: The same porta-potty sat at OVF for twenty years, and members asked for a new one. OVF President Shirley made that happen – a new improved porta-potty has been installed. Special project workday crews and the high school interns cleared the space for the new porta-potty. We're moving forward with building a new entryway, which will have railings and a storage shelf.

2. New Wheelbarrows: Three new types of wheelbarrows were purchased as well as four of the small red wheel barrows. Several old wheelbarrows have been removed from service. We're exploring interesting ways to recycle them.

3. Office Renovation: Dry erase boards have been installed in the office and will now provide current notices and updates. We are moving forward with plans to refurbish the office, including patching, painting and installing new storage and seating.

4. New Donation Area: The wood stand around the Big Pine has fallen into disrepair. This stand is used for multiple purposes, including Tuesday shredding breakfast, member get-togethers, green donations and IP contributions. That's a lot of functionality jammed onto a couple of square feet of wood stand. We're going to make it easier for the Tuesday shredding crew and members to use the Big Pine stand by moving donations to another space. We'll be building a storage space for just green donations and IP contributions, leaving the stand surrounding the Big Pine for member use (we'll also be rebuilding this stand).

5. New Worm Composting: A neighbor donated a large worm bin, which will be the foundation for the new OVF worm club. On June 20, there's a class on worm composting, where we'll talk about the new worm club (see notice below). This is an exciting new way for us to recycle our green waste into enriched worm compost.

Ongoing Projects

6. Gourmet Compost Renovation: The new shredding stand installation is moving forward. The hopper is also being refurbished.

7. Maintenance Yard: We're continuing to develop the area while also using the space for projects, facilities operations and storage.

8. Little Pine Seating and New Deck: The old storage cabinets have been removed and preparation for the new deck area is moving forward. The Little Pine seating area continues to take shape.

9. Community Grow Garden: The site parameters have been established and the final garden design is being finalized.

10. Orchard Pollinator Garden: The site clearance has begun.

11. Driveway Garden: The OVF Native Plant Club continues to develop the site (see article below).

12. Gate 1 Rest Area: The installation of the brick pad for the new rest area at gate 1 is scheduled for the near future.

13. Centinela Brush Clearance: The sidewalk and parkway (hellstrip) have been cleared (with some help from the City Council member's office) and clearance of the Centinela berm continues.

Addressing The Flawed Status Quo: Fences and Mailboxes

At the last Board meeting, I initiated a discussion regarding the status of fences/barriers and mailboxes. Each of these issues has existed in the garden from the beginning, but they both now, today, present challenges for how we move forward.

Fences/Barriers: Members are not permitted to build fences around their plots, but the recent rabbit invasion has provoked members to build wire barriers around the perimeter of their plots. The reason is understandable as rabbits are extremely damaging. However, every member, every plot, has at least two neighbors, so anything built on the plot perimeter impacts the neighbors. And the threat of rabbits provides a justification for a potential barrier building arms race of a bigger and bigger barrier until it is indisputably a fence.

Drawing the line between what is an acceptable barrier and what is an unacceptable fence is the challenge before us. We face a new reality of coexisting with rabbits (the coyotes can't catch them all), so our rules and procedures need to be updated to account for this new reality.

Mailboxes: Historically, plot mailboxes functioned as, well, mailboxes. Today (and for years), email is the presumed way to communicate and consequently mailboxes now serve as a name and address label. Pursuant to the OVF Rules, each plot is supposed to have a mailbox with the plot number and the member's name on it. If you look around, however, you'll see that many, many plots don't have a mailbox that meets these criteria. The number of mailboxes currently violating the OVF mailbox rules is vast. It's true that some members love their mailbox and creatively decorate it, but many members' mailboxes reflect an utter indifference to it.

Aggravating the situation is the fact that traditionally OVF provided a service to members of installing and/or fixing the installation of the mailbox. This has not been available for at least the last year, however, because no member has volunteered to take on this task. (I have been raising this issue since I became GM last year; for example, in the July 2025 newsletter.) If OVF doesn't have volunteers to take on the responsibility for the service, OVF cannot provide the service.

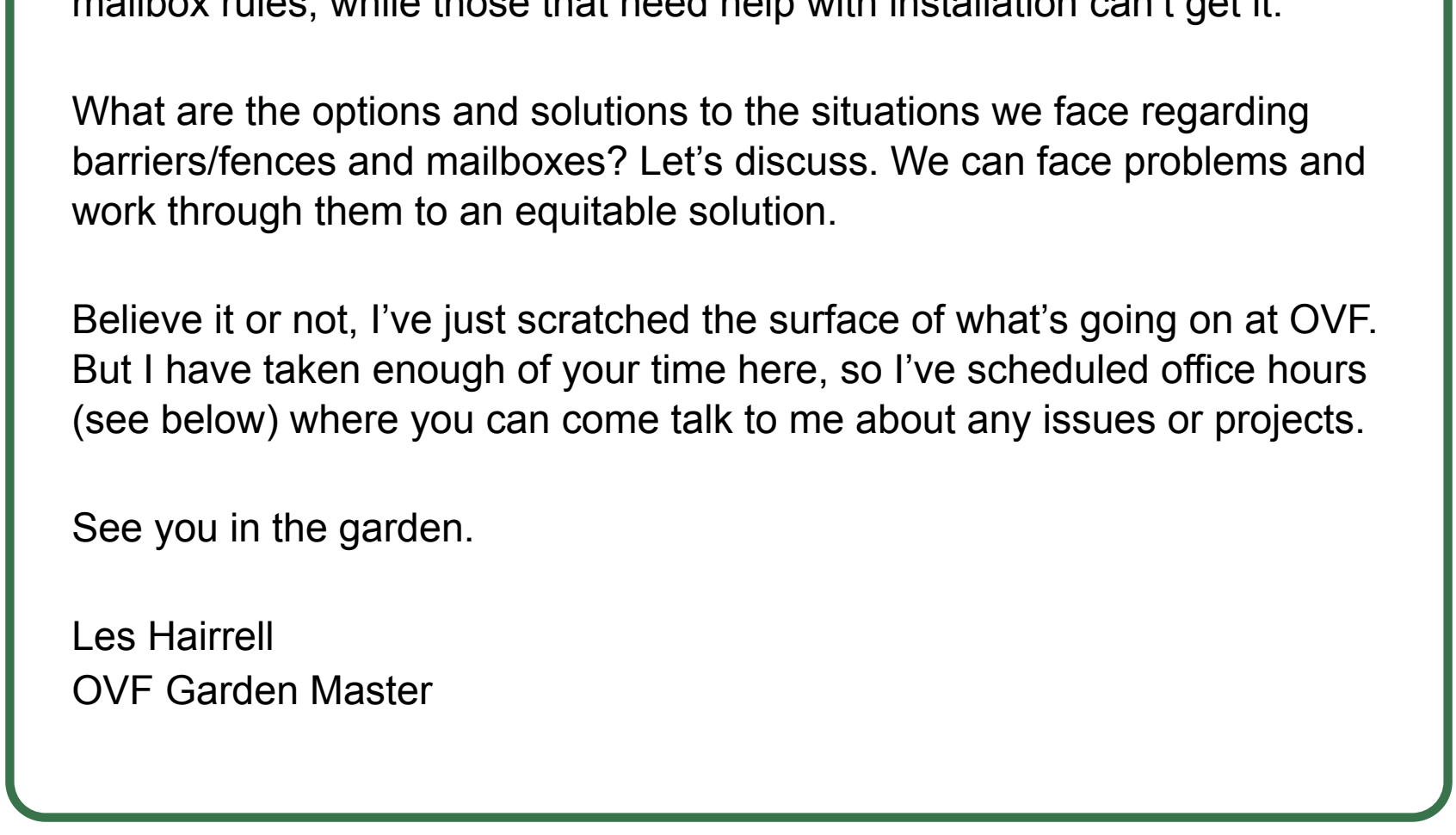
We are thus left with a problem - a majority of members are violating the mailbox rules, while those that need help with installation can't get it.

What are the options and solutions to the situations we face regarding barriers/fences and mailboxes? Let's discuss. We can face problems and work through them to an equitable solution.

Believe it or not, I've just scratched the surface of what's going on at OVF. But I have taken enough of your time here, so I've scheduled office hours (see below) where you can come talk to me about any issues or projects.

See you in the garden.

Les Hairrell
OVF Garden Master



Vice President's Message

Hello fellow gardeners and members of the amazing community that is Ocean View Farms!

At the beginning of the second year of my tenure as vice president to this amazing body of land and people, I wanted to share a bit of my experience and of what I have learned so far.

I have been a member of OVF since 1995, affording me the pleasure of meeting many of you. I very much look forward to getting to know those of you whom I have not yet met.

OVF originated as a seed thought in the minds of a handful of dedicated people. In the beginning of OVF there weren't enough people to garden those plots -- which is why so many early gardeners were able to get several plots and why rules were lax.

Now, so many years later, we are a mature body of about 500 gardeners, with organized work groups, meetings and clubs. OVF now includes a governing body that administers the garden, mediates the demands of the surrounding community and is held accountable to the Department of Recreation and Parks and the state of California. All of this has resulted in the need for OVF's closer attention to oversight than ever before.

OVF's new administration has launched us into a new stage of growth and change. Because change is difficult and unsettling, the reception among OVF gardeners has been varied and provides fresh challenges to our community.

Watching this, I have tried to spend more time conversing with many of you and it has become clear that OVF gardeners hold a variety of views about the policies and the communication of those policies as well as gardening styles. All this sometimes has led to friction and bad feelings, with the potential to divide and polarize us.

As a result of my lived human experience and training as a psychotherapist, I'm painfully aware of how very difficult it is to live and work in a community with our fellow humans. This is abundantly evident as we consider the state of the nation and of the world. It is equally evident that each of us consider our own view to be the good and right one.

First, let's focus on a strong feeling we all share: our great appreciation for this wonderful place and the privilege of being here.

We have a unique opportunity and challenge right here and now, to bear the unease of finding our way to each other, with all our differences, and to stretch beyond our individual views despite the discomfort and turbulence.
Perhaps my wish is naive or idealistic but it is heartfelt, and I believe is necessary for our well-being and ultimately for OVF's survival.

I want to conclude by expressing my deepest appreciation for all those who have contributed to this garden in the past and for those who continue to show up at work days, work groups, board meetings, and those who perform oversight and administrative functions tirelessly and in good faith, without recompense.

I invite all of you who have not yet stepped up, to do so. We need all of you and we are eager for you to join with us in developing and maintaining this next phase of our garden community's growth throughout this next year.

With hopeful and tender regard to all,

Judith Morris
OVF Vice President

Membership Secretary's Message: Associates

Members are on probation for a period of 6 months after the entry date into the garden. During this time, a member may bring in their family/friend as an associate, but during this probationary period the Membership Secretary will not connect an associate from the waiting list for the member.

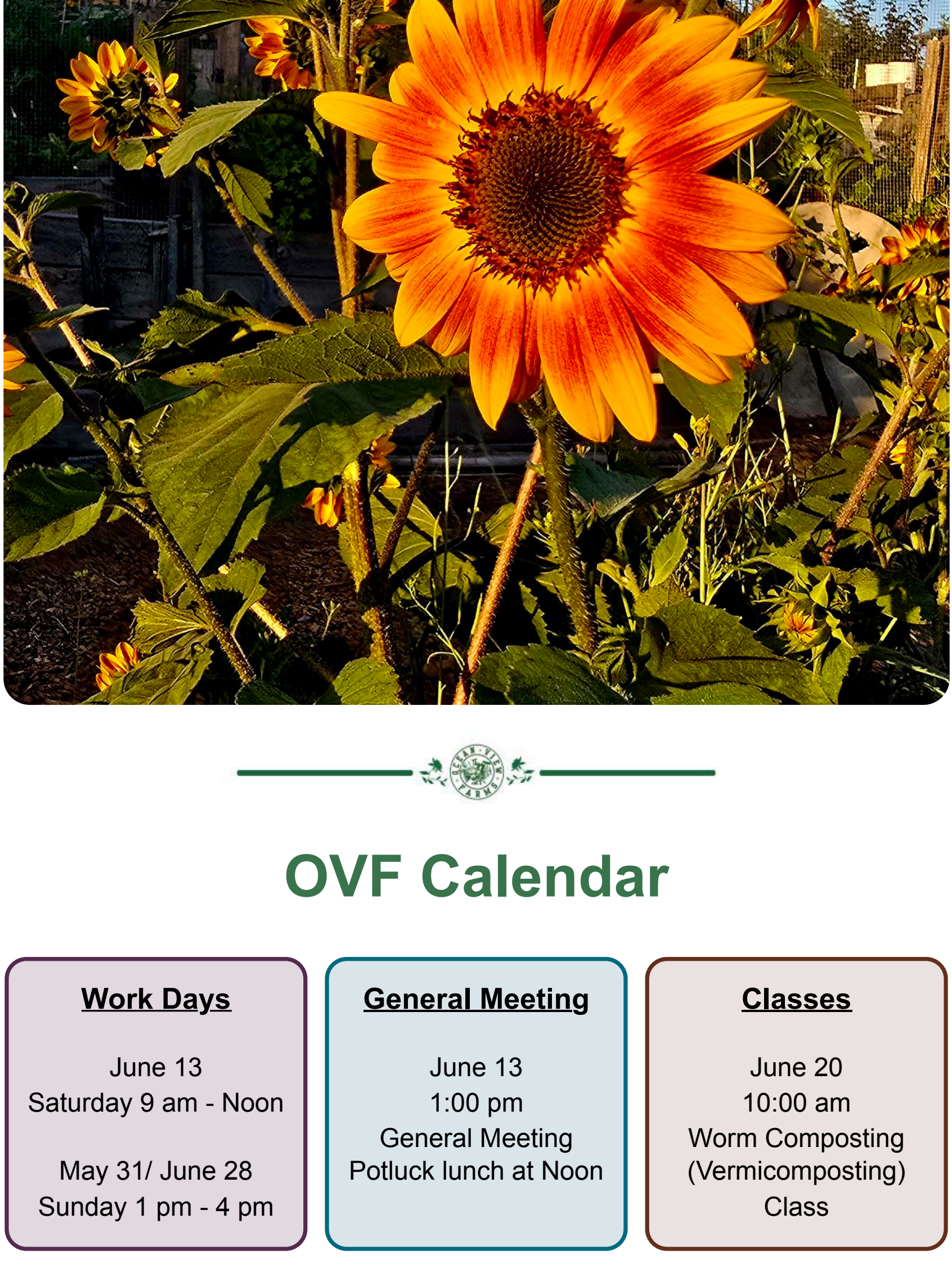
Additionally, full members who have been matched in the associate matching program, will not be able to use the Membership Secretary for a another match inside of one year from the original match.

Due to the focus of the Membership Secretary on the Annual Membership Renewal and the amount of time required for this activity, associate matching will not be provided by the Membership Secretary from December- February of each year. Again, members can bring in an associate on their own, and work through the Phase Rep for orientation, but the matching service will not be provided by the Membership Secretary during this time.

Members are reminded that an associate MAY perform up to half of the member's hours but is NOT REQUIRED TO DO SO. There must be a clear understanding between the member and the associate about the work expectations of the associate. The member has the responsibility to ensure that the community service hours (12 per plot per year) are accomplished. It is not the Phase Rep's or the Membership Secretary's responsibility to ensure that the member's hours are accomplished. If a member is temporarily unable to do work at the garden due to illness, personal emergency, incapacity work schedule, etc., the Phase Rep must be informed and must approve of such absence. This is stated in the OVF Rules and Regulations.

Thank you for your attention and understanding of these rules.

OVF Membership Secretary



OVF Calendar

Work Days

June 13
Saturday 9 am - Noon

May 31/ June 28
Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm

General Meeting

June 13
1:00 pm
General Meeting
Potluck lunch at Noon

Classes

June 20
10:00 am
Worm Composting
(Vermicomposting)
Class

Garden Master Office Hours

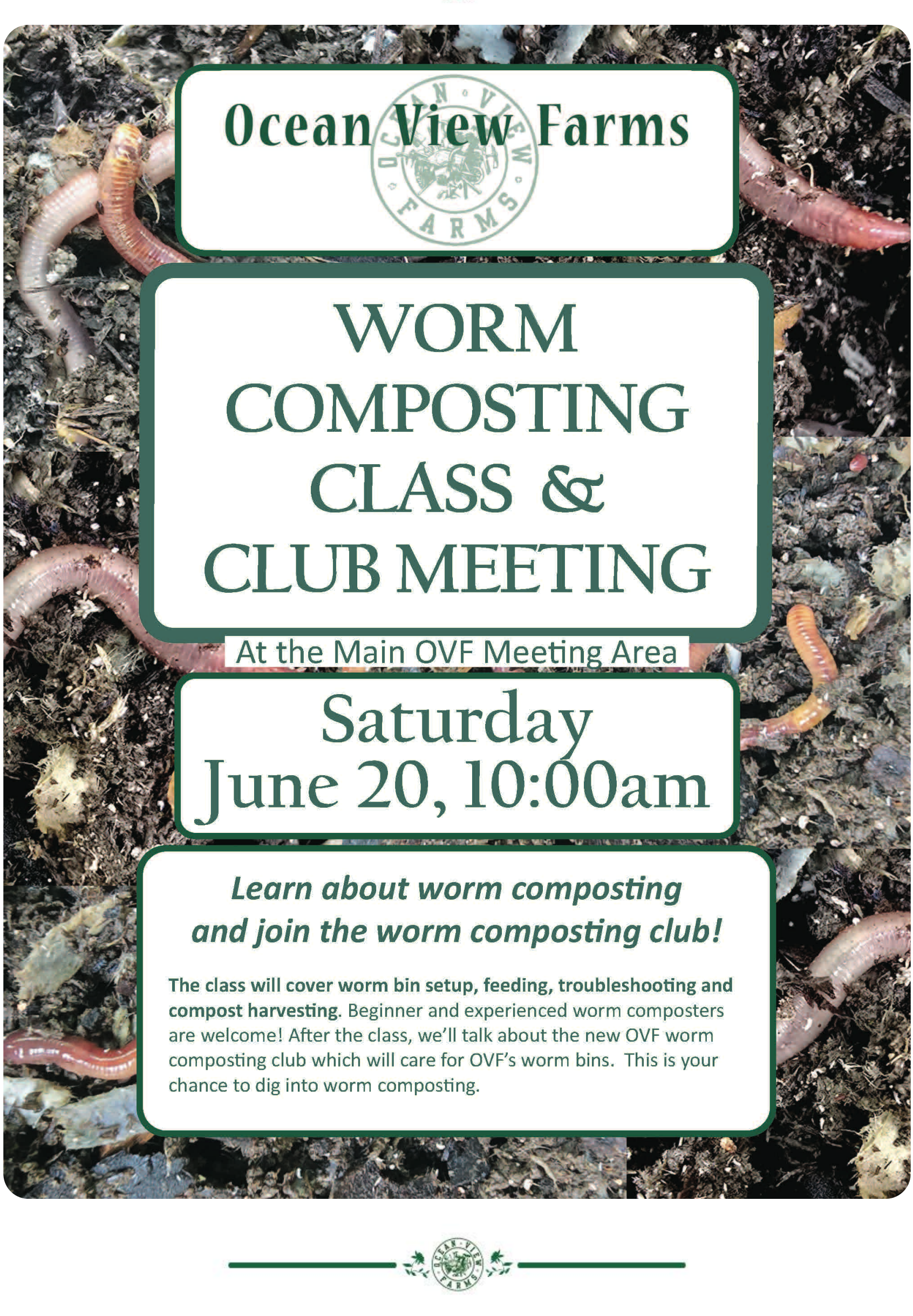
June 2, 9-10am
June 6, 12-1pm
June 16, 9-10am
June 23, 9-10am
July 14, 9-10am
July 19, 11-12pm
July 25, 11-12pm
July 28, 9-10am

Greenhouse Fundraiser

The newly refurbished greenhouse will hold a fundraiser on Saturday, June 6, starting at 10 am. The sale will feature its usual assortment of seedlings, priced at $3 for a six-pack and $2 for a 4-inch pot. Cash only - small bills appreciated!

The sale will include 12 varieties of tomatoes, many of them late-blight resistant. Also for sale are varieties of eggplant, peppers, cucumbers, beans, lots of basil and lots of flowers. New to the greenhouse sale are green and red okra as well as cantaloupe.

An updated list of available seedlings will be published on the OVF website two weeks in advance of the sale.



Ocean View Farms

WORM COMPOSTING CLASS & CLUB MEETING

At the Main OVF Meeting Area

Saturday
June 20, 10:00am

Learn about worm composting and join the worm composting club!

The class will cover worm bin setup, feeding, troubleshooting and compost harvesting. Beginner and experienced worm composters are welcome! After the class, we'll talk about the new OVF worm composting club which will care for OVF's worm bins. This is your chance to dig into worm composting.

OVF Native Plant Club

The first Sunday of every month from 1 pm to 3 pm, the OVF Native Plant club meets at the general meeting area. Attendance varies, and anyone is welcome at any month's get-together. The club is anchored by four self-identified native plant nerds -- Precious Aiyeloja, Arthur Elzy, Sarah Harroff and Philippa Moore – and activities include hands-on work with California native plants within OVF garden as well as presentations on native plants, watering and other topics. Members do not earn hours but have a chance to expand their knowledge and help add and care for native plants at OVF.

The club, which was initiated in January 2025 by president Shirley Vernale and then education chair Les Hairrell, inherited a site along the driveway, which had been xeriscaped and managed by current OVF vice president Judith Morris. The goal is for the site, also known as the "Driveway Garden," to represent three local plant communities of the LA Basin, specifically Coastal Strand, Coastal Sage Scrub, and Mixed Chaparral.

The plants selected provide year-round habitat for native insects and bird species as well as showcase the horticultural diversity and beauty of native plants in a garden setting. The group started the project with the Coastal Strand plant community at the top couple of tiers, and is steadily moving down to the other two plant communities. The leaders estimate that the site is one-third planted.

At the May club get-together, members weeded, moved rocks and planted natives. During the summer, the club will focus on future steps, including finalizing the plant selection for the two remaining plant communities, soil grading, and creating pathways. Summer is a great time to ready the site ahead of the California native planting window, which begins in the fall and ends in the spring. There will also be a fundraiser since all the plants and supplies are paid for by members of the club.

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As summer winds down, the club members will search for plants that are in stock, starting at the Theodore Payne Foundation, Plant Material, and Artemisia Nursery, three go-to nurseries for native plants.

The core leadership brings deep knowledge and interest: Precious learned about native plants on hikes with the California Native Plant Society LA/Santa Monica chapter and volunteering with the Theodore Payne Foundation; Arthur is inspired by his wife who worked at UCLA's Botanical Gardens; Sarah's enthusiasm for native plants ignited while getting a horticultural certificate from UCLA extension, and Philippa trained in botany and, after converting her lawn into a native plant habitat, continues to educate herself on native plants, including a recent class on native plant propagation.

All volunteers are welcome, regardless of knowledge or skill level. Just show up the first Sunday of the month, come regularly or not, and start the journey to appreciating native plants.

Bluebirds Fledge

By OVF Gardener Nick
Photos by Nick and Michelle M.

I'm suffering from empty nest syndrome. After several weeks of watching young Western Bluebirds and House Wrens hatch, grow, and leave their nests, I'm left with empty bird houses. And my youngest grandchild will soon be attending a college that is TOO FAR AWAY!! Ugh. Well, this is about birds, so first the bluebirds...

Members are often surprised to learn that bluebirds live at OVF year-round. The best place to see them is in the Phase 4 parking lot, where they often perch on the fence to look for insects in the grass. The male has a blue head, back and tail -- often most obvious in flight -- while the colors of the female are more muted. Both have rusty brown chests.

Finding a place to build a nest is one of the many challenges faced by urban bluebirds. They prefer cavities in dead trees, but cities remove these, making it harder to find a place to raise young. In part due to the efforts of many Southern California volunteers who build and install wooden nest boxes, though, the number of bluebirds in the region is increasing. Last year in Los Angeles and Orange Counties alone, more than 1,700 nest boxes produced almost 5700 bluebird chicks, according to the California Bluebird Recovery Program.

In 2025, Orchard Supervisor Gale Jones and I hung a nest box in the apple tree in the North Orchard, and four bluebird chicks were raised there. (Read an account in the June 2025 newsletter.) This year, after consultation with the Garden Master Les Hairrell and the IP supervisor Teague Weybright, we installed nest boxes in the North Orchard, in Upper Phase 3, and in Lower Phase 4. We monitored the boxes and are reporting the results to state and national bird organizations. Monitoring means visiting the box once or twice a week to assess the progress of the young.This information reveals the stresses that impact bluebirds and alerts you if the chicks need assistance.

When I was a kid, I was told if you touch a bird's nest, the adults will abandon it and the chicks will die. It turns out that's not true, at least for bluebirds. They generally tolerate the presence of humans, and we follow the protocol of Cornell University's NestWatch program: approach slowly, do not startle the adults, and keep the visit very short.

Because of the position of the nests in the boxes and the height of the boxes, it was tricky to see the contents of the nests, so we only opened the boxes a few times. In most of our visits, we just observed the behavior of the adults.

Bluebirds started building a nest in the North Orchard box almost immediately, but before completing it they found the box in Phase 4 and elected to nest there instead. (The North Orchard box remained empty.) By early April, their nest was complete and held five beautiful blue eggs. After that, things happened quickly. About two weeks later the chicks hatched. Both parents brought them food, arriving every few minutes. The chicks' fuzzy coats were soon replaced by the quills of feathers.

Bluebird chicks leave the nest (fledge) before they can care for themselves. They hide in bushes and their parents bring them food for several weeks as they build up strength to fly and to live independently.

And so, in just a few more days, the nest was empty; the five fledglings were gone. They will not return to the nest box and we can only wish them well.

Notes from the Orchard

Do you think you know when an apple or a nectarine is ripe? Orchard supervisor Gale Jones does and she shares her knowledge in this two-part article, based on her experience,YouTube sites and, importantly, information gleaned from Herb Macleder, a prominent Los Angeles County Master Gardener who specializes in home orchards and fruit tree cultivation. This article was written with the assistance of Nora Dvosin.

For all trees in the orchard, a **READY** sign will be next to the tree, which means you can harvest **one or two pieces of fruit** to enjoy. The orchard is small and the membership is many - please remember to share.

Apples are generally ready to be harvested in late summer through the fall, depending on the variety and the weather.

One trick to figuring out if apples should be picked is that the apple releases easily from the branch with a nice clean pop. If you need to exert a lot of pulling pressure or twisting of the stem too many times to free the apple - the apple is not ready. It wants to remain on the tree until you can release it easily.

The bottom of the apple, opposite the stem (top) should be dark brown to black. That means the seeds inside are dark brown. Dark brown seeds mean the apple has reached maturity. If the bottom is still a faint green color or a light brown, the apple isn't ready.

Finally, if there are fallen apples around the tree that usually means the apples are ready to harvest. But remember there are lots of us and only a few trees so don't be greedy!

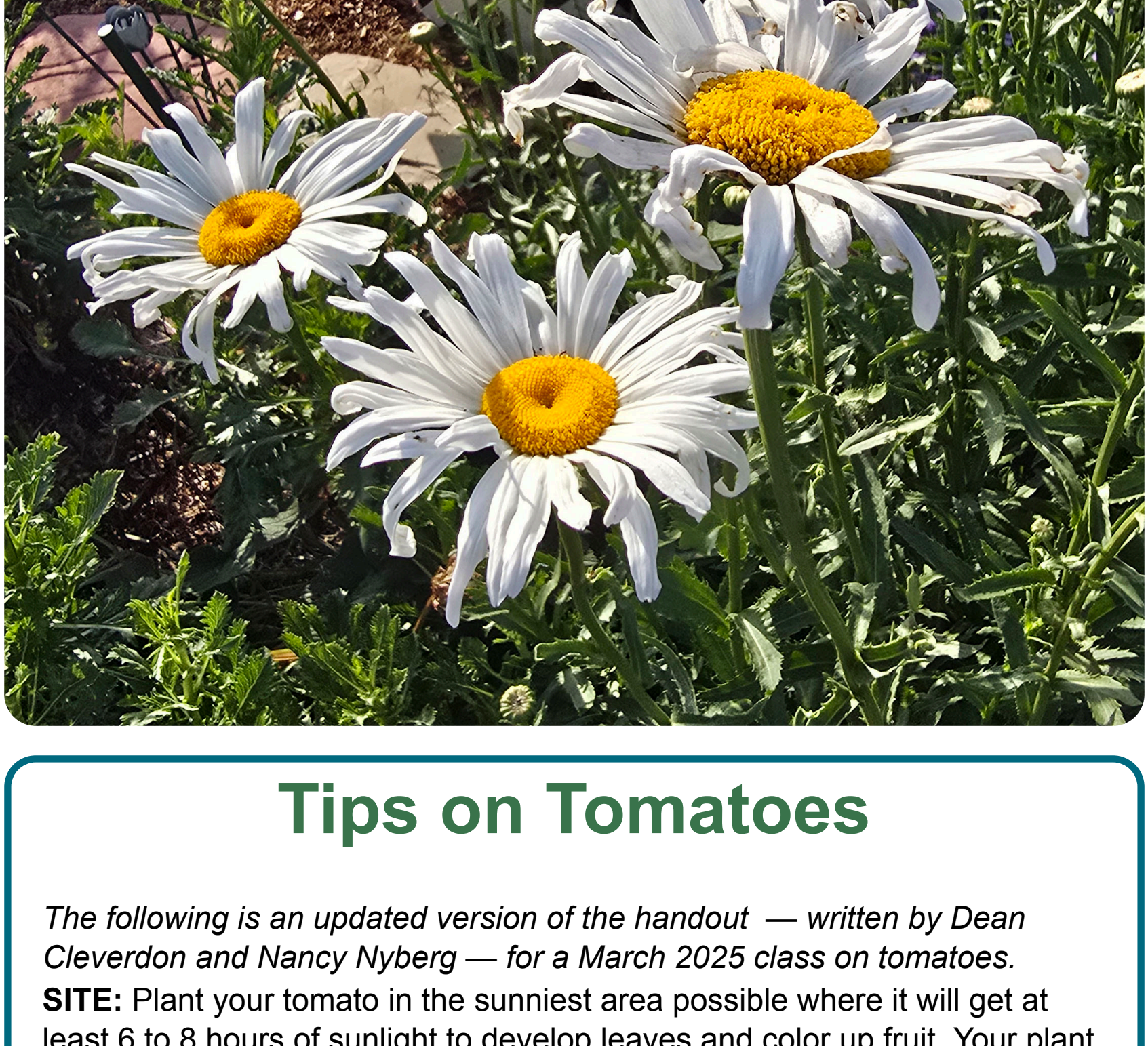
Stone Fruit Harvesting - All stone fruit have should have lovely, sweet, fruity aromas when harvested!

Nectarines ripen from May to September with the most flavorful, peak harvesting coming later in the season. When harvested the fruit should be firm, not soft, and the background color of the skin should be yellow or yellow-white while the dominant colors should be strong and lush. The fruit is ready when it essentially falls into your hand; tugging and pulling will only damage the fruit and it won't be at its sweetest and juiciest state.

Peaches can also ripen on the tree – they'll be tender to the touch – or they can be ripened on your kitchen counter. They are a climacteric fruit, which means they will continue to ripen after being picked. Look for a deep, uniform color on the skin. You want to avoid any green undertones, and like the nectarine you want to look at the background color which should be yellow or cream, not white.

Apricots are usually harvested June to August. The color should be a deep golden-orange, sometimes with a pink or red blush, and texture should be slightly soft but still have some firmness. They are best harvested by gently twisting them off the branch. Once again, a greenish tinge on the skin means the fruit is not ready for harvesting.

The orchard wishes you a happy taste come summer!



Tips on Tomatoes

The following is an updated version of the handout — written by Dean Cleverdon and Nancy Nyberg — for a March 2025 class on tomatoes.
SITE: Plant your tomato in the sunniest area possible where it will get at least 6 to 8 hours of sunlight to develop leaves and color up fruit. Your plant may grow to be 4 to 7 feet tall.

Allow at least 30 to 36-inches in diameter for optimal growth. (Think of an adult turning with hands on hips.)

If planting in a container, use large 10 to 15 gallon-size and water often. Supplement or replace its soil annually. That old soil will contain roots/ detritus which are depleted of nutrients.

TRANSPLANTING: Use a good organic TOMATO supplement, such as Dr. Earth. Yes, you will really need 2 to 3 cups per plant! Mix with one quarter cup of these dry ingredients: washed chicken pellets, calcium/bone meal/crushed egg shells and gypsum. Include a half cup of worm castings. (Mix in bulk, then set aside some of this mixture for later. Side-dress it around the base of plants in 3 to 4 months when each plant needs a boost.)

You only need the top 6 to 8 inches of the plant above the ground after planting. Remove the lower leaves and soak the root ball in a solution of diluted fish emulsion and seaweed extract before planting.

If the plant is "leggy," plant deep by digging a shallow trench and plant the seedling at a slight angle. Mix the dry ingredients listed above with the soil you dug out before refilling the hole. The entire stem will then become the root system. The root ball is also closer to the soil surface where water can get to it more effectively.

Use a cage for support. IF you plan to drive stakes for support, do it now while you know where the root ball is. (Do not drive it through the root ball later and kill the plant!)

WATER: Hydrate seedlings 2 to 3 times over the first hour, allowing at least one gallon per watering per plant. Water at the base of the plant every 2 days for the first 2 weeks, every 3 to 4 days for the next 4 weeks. Do not overwater. Tomato plants draw their oxygen from the soil, and overwatering suffocates the roots. Gradually increase the hose's distance from the plant stem to force the roots to spread out. The tomato plant's soil wants to be moist and stay fluffy. Do not let it compact or stand on its soil.

The plant is a giant vascular system. If leaves are drooping in the morning it needs water. Leaves will curl slightly in hot weather to conserve water; this is where most people make the mistake of drowning them. Use soil moisture meter to see if they are really in need of water. BUT…do not drive the meter through the root.

Q: How many times a week should I water?
A: Never. Water when the plant needs it, not on your personal schedule.

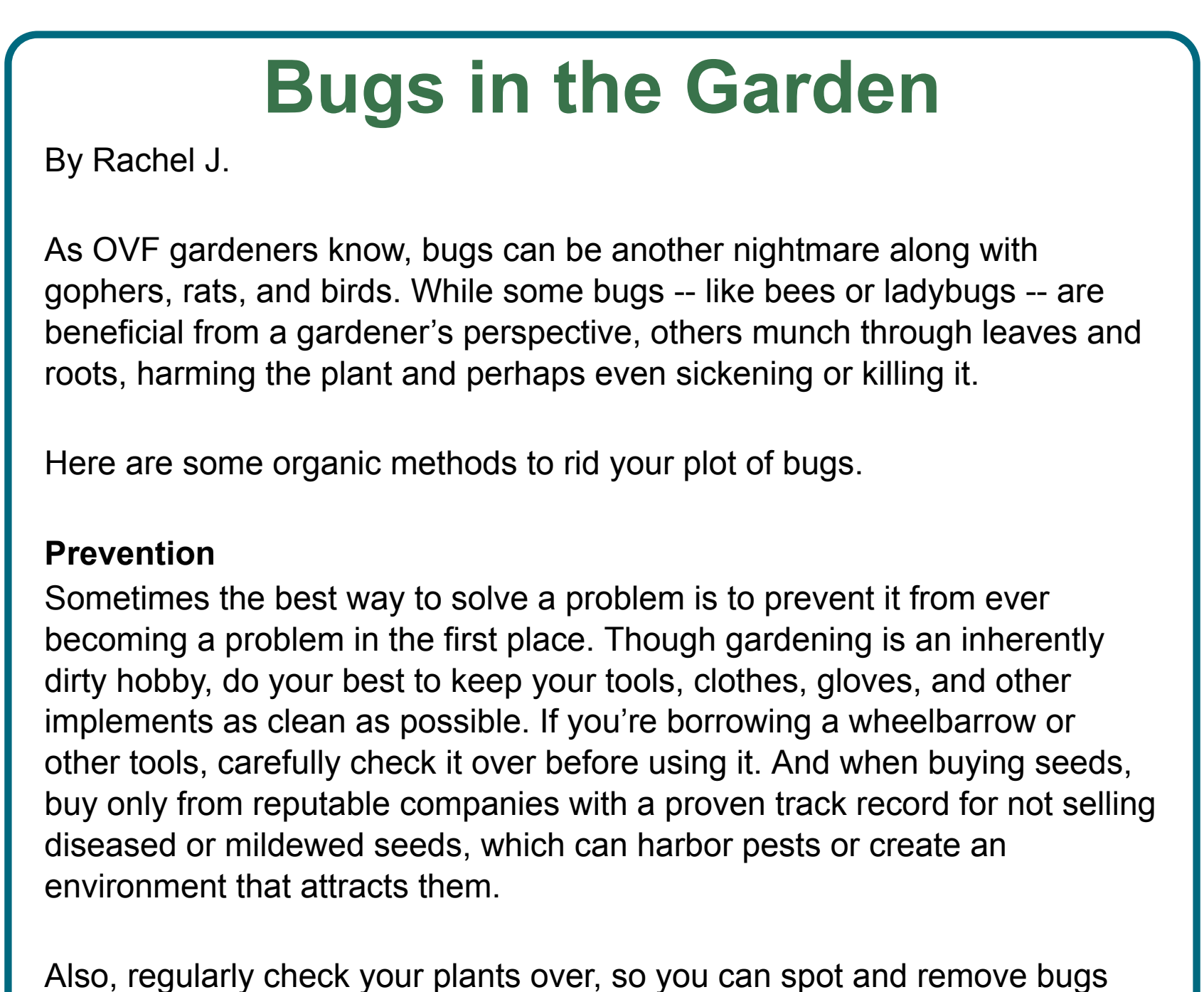
Again, use a soil moisture meter to determine if water is needed. And water the roots, not the leaves. If you are thirsty, do you wet your skin? Avoid wet foliage at night which will attract multiple diseases including Late Blight spores.

GROWTH: When the plant is 30-inches high, trim off the bottom 8 to 12-inches of leaves to increase air flow to retard powdery mildew and other shade loving diseases. Keep plants pruned so that their energy is concentrated in making more fruit rather than feeding foliage.

Once blossoms develop, give each plant a good shake to help plants self-fertilize. To maximize your crop, try using an electric toothbrush encased in cling-wrap. Apply the back of the vibrating head to each 90-degree blossom elbow for 5-10 seconds. (This technique is used in cold climates with great success.)

FRUIT: Once fruit begins to set, support branches and heavy trusses. Tie them loosely to your tomato cage or stake. Eighth-inch elastic cord comes in spools and does not cut the plants. Support the tomatoes with old pantyhose or plastic produce nets. Avoid tying too tightly which can cut into the stems or stalk.

Fruit is ripe when it feels soft on its shoulders. Harvest before watering. Tomato plants immediately start up-taking water which dissipates the flavor of the fruit. Leave tomato stems on to avoid bursting. Avoid refrigeration.



Bugs in the Garden

By Rachel J.

As OVF gardeners know, bugs can be another nightmare along with gophers, rats, and birds. While some bugs -- like bees or ladybugs -- are beneficial from a gardener's perspective, others munch through leaves and fruit, harming the plant and perhaps even sickening or killing it.

Here are some organic methods to rid your plot of bugs.

Prevention
Sometimes the best way to solve a problem is to prevent it from ever becoming a problem in the first place. Though gardening is an inherently dirty hobby, do your best to keep your tools, clothes, gloves, and other implements as clean as possible. If you're borrowing a wheelbarrow or other tools, carefully check it over before using it. And when buying seeds, buy only from reputable companies with a proven track record for not selling diseased or mildewed seeds, which can harbor pests or create an environment that attracts them.

Also, regularly check your plants over, so you can spot and remove bugs before they become a bigger problem.

If you're already dealing with a bug problem, pro-actively clear away any yellowed or overly-nibbled leaves. Your plant will keep sending resources to those leaves to try and heal them. By picking away the damaged leaves you help keep the rest of the plant healthy.

Barriers
The good news is that the fine cloth mesh which you use to protect your plants from birds may also protect them from bugs! They will also keep out the bees and ladybugs, so this may not be the best method for when it comes time to pollinate. Utilize mesh when your plants have fruited.

Oils
Some oils are natural insect repellents, including rosemary, neem, and peppermint. (Organic neem can be purchased from several providers on Amazon.)

You can purchase organic oils commercially. Or, you can make your own at home. Gently heat about a cup of washed leaves in two cups of a neutral oil such as canola. Let the leaves infuse the oil for about one hour. Strain, and then mix your oil to water in a ratio of about 1 Tablespoon to 1 gallon. Gently spritz on plants struggling with bugs. But be careful. The oil can burn the plant leaves, so don't apply when it's hot and bright out, or about to be. And while you can cook with these oils, they're not shelf-stable due to the water content of the leaves. Use them quickly in this case.

Good Bug
Ladybugs are not just cute, they're an aphid's worst nightmare. While you can purchase commercial ladybugs, a better option is to cultivate the plants they like and attract them naturally. Ladybugs sometimes eat nectar and pollen and like to hide and lay eggs on grass. From personal experience, they adore my borage plant. Other options are bachelor buttons, sweet alyssum, marigold, and geranium - all plants the bees enjoy, as well!

Cultivating Cucumbers

By Rachel J.

Cucumbers are one of my favorite summer vegetables. When it's hot out, nothing beats some slices of fresh cucumber and mint leaves gently muddled into some lime seltzer. And when the sun goes down, cucumber and rose water combine beautifully with gin and tonic water for a refreshing cocktail. Not to mention, pickles!

Here are the best ways to grow cucumber.

Seeds
Cucumbers are vulnerable to a disease called powdery mildew. The best way to avoid this is by purchasing seeds of hybrid varieties, bred for resistance. However, hybrid seeds are more difficult to save if you like seed saving. So choose your variety carefully!

Also pay attention to the optimal use for your cucumbers. English cucumbers grow large and solid and are best chopped up for fresh salads. Persian cucumbers are smaller and more delicate, suited for pickling or shredding into a nice tzatziki.

Planting
Cucumbers like growing in warm weather. Like, really warm weather. They're best suited for a mid to late spring planting, when nighttime temperatures stay well above 40-degrees F. Cucumbers have delicate root systems, making transplanting seedlings challenging. For best results, sow seeds directly into your plot, in soil fortified with OVF's gourmet compost.

Cucumbers do the best in full sunlight. Make sure you're planting them in a spot that won't be shaded by your other plants. They are a thirsty crop, it's better to water them a little bit a few times a week than give them a deep watering once a week.

Growing
Cucumbers are like beans, they like growing upwards. Give your cucumber plants a trellis to cling to. This keeps your fruiting cucumber out of the dirt and safe from potential disease or rot. Once they're about six inches tall, mulch around the plants for water conservation.

Before you water, inspect your cucumber for pests. Cucumber beetles will chew through the leaves of your plant and damage the fruit. Pick them off or use the organic pest control methods discussed elsewhere in the newsletter.

Harvesting
Ripe cucumbers develop a sheen to their skin. Harvest before the sheen disappears (unless you are a seed saver, in which case let your cucumber get a little overripe before picking). For best results, skip a few watering sessions before the harvest. The water will condense in the plant, giving your final harvest a sweeter flavor.

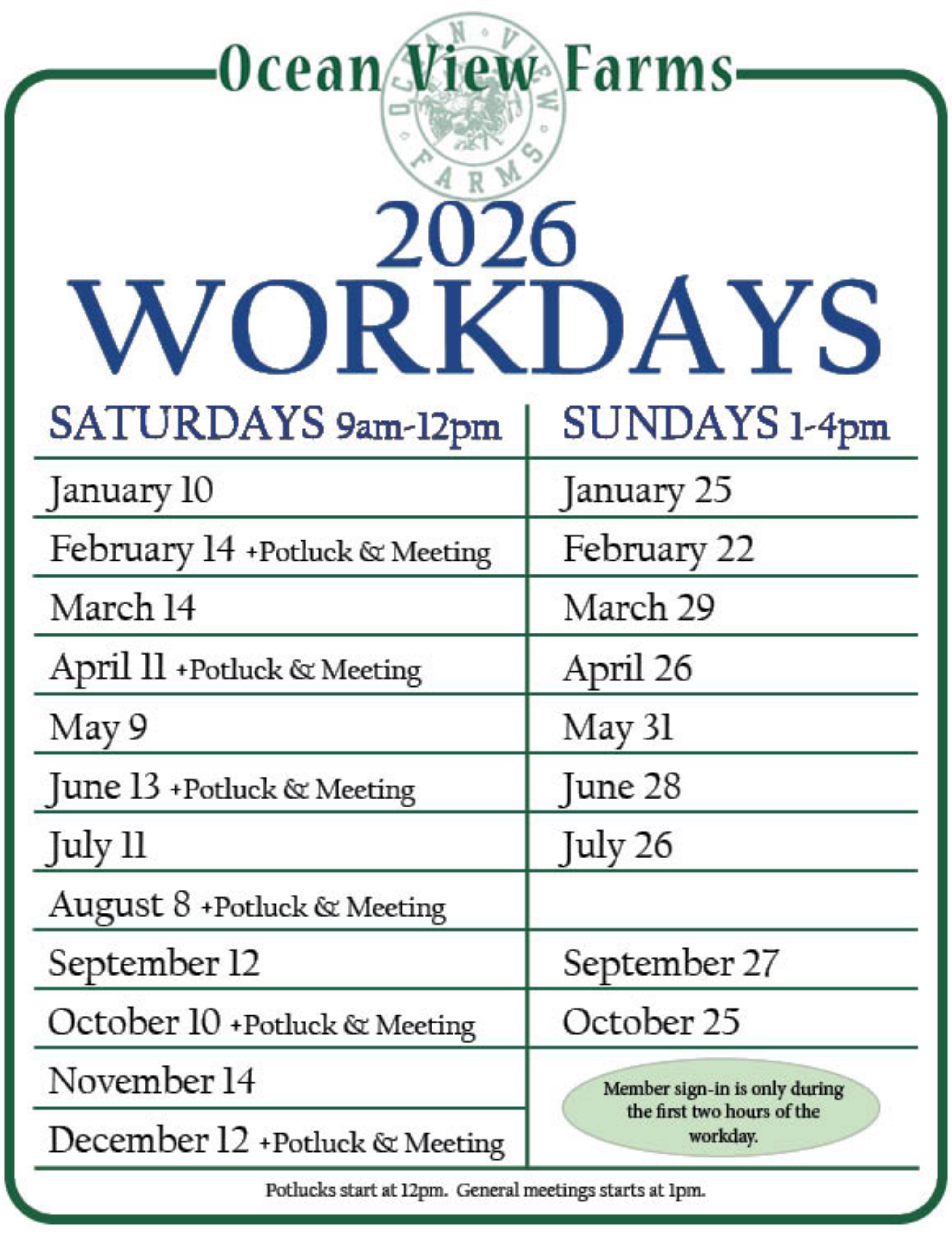
Community Hours Reminder

A gentle reminder to all OVF members that half of your annual 12 hours per plot of community service need to be completed by end of June. Please check your profile on the OVF website to verify how many hours you have and how many you need to complete by end of June. You can find this information by clicking on the My Account link on the upper right hand corner of the Home page.

Upcoming workdays include May 31 (Sunday, 1 pm to 4 pm); June 13 (Saturday, 9 am - noon) and June 28 (Sunday, 1 pm to 4 pm).

There is also a General Meeting on June 13 at 1 pm (preceded by a potluck at noon), for one hour's credit.

If you need other ways of meeting your work hours obligation, please contact the Garden Master or your phase rep as soon as possible.



Ocean View Farms

2026 WORKDAYS

SATURDAYS 9am-12pm	SUNDAYS 1-4pm
January 10	January 25
February 14 +Potluck & Meeting	February 22
March 14	March 29
April 11 +Potluck & Meeting	April 26
May 9	May 31
June 13 +Potluck & Meeting	June 28
July 11	July 26
August 8 +Potluck & Meeting	
September 12	September 27
October 10 +Potluck & Meeting	October 25
November 14	Member sign-in is only during the first two hours of the workday.
December 12 +Potluck & Meeting	

Potlucks start at 12pm. General meetings starts at 1pm.

Educational Opportunities

OVF Education Chair Debra Kaufman wants to know what sorts of programming and classes you'd like to see at the garden. Topics under consideration include native plant gardening, food preservation, organic pest control, and specific plant cultivation. Classes on worm composting and new member plot gardening are already scheduled for the future.

If you have a special request for a class, please email Debra at ovfdeb@gmail.com. If you have a special area of expertise and would like to teach a class, also let Debra know.

Independent Project Rules Change

At the January 2026 OVF Board meeting, the Board revised the Rules for Independent Projects to provide that members will no longer receive three community hours for the privilege of being assigned an IP. The duties and responsibilities of maintaining an IP remain the same.

Member Feedback / Submissions

If you have any feedback or comments on the newsletter, please contact OVF Education Chair Debra Kaufman at ovfdeb@gmail.com. Back issues of this and all other newsletters can be found on the OVF website.

Land Acknowledgement

Ocean View Farms recognizes that we garden on land originally and currently inhabited by the Chumash, Kizh, Tongva, and Serrano peoples. We respect them as the first caretakers of this land, with gratitude for their wisdom and skills.

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