



CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER CRFG

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Photo from the January 2024 ed of the Leaflet

Chapter Website:

<https://www.crfg-central.org>

Facebook page:

[Facebook-CRFG-Central Coast](#)

YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@californiarefruitgrowers718/videos>

Chapter chairs contact:

central_coast@crfg.org
(underscore between l and c)

For article submissions:

crfgccnewsletter@gmail.com

Next Meeting: Annual Pruning Workshop

When:

Saturday, January 11th, 2025

Schedule:

12:30-1: Set up crew

1:00-1:30: Socializing and refreshments. Bring something healthy to share and your own water.

1:30: Chapter meeting

1:45-3:00: Pruning lesson and demonstration. Our guest speaker will give a pruning lesson for 45 minutes in the classroom. Then, weather permitting, we all walk to the orchard (approximately 1,000 ft from the classroom), where we can ask our pruning questions and practice pruning.

Announcements



Join the Planning Committee!

Current Committee Members:

Sharon Lovelady (Chairperson), Larry Hollis, and Elaine Rathburn

We are currently looking for volunteers to join our committee to help find and schedule future meetings. We meet about every 3 months via zoom.

As a volunteer for the program planning committee, you would be asked to find fun and interesting meeting places. We visit the sites to get more information for the newsletter, Facebook, and website.

Very minimal hours of volunteer time. If you are not interested in volunteering, we would love your input of places to have our meetings. Personal connections to the hosts are great and very helpful. We are also looking for presenters for our meetings.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Sharon, Larry, or Elaine.

Sharon's contact information is 805-601-2900 or

smlovelady2011@gmail.com

Upcoming Demonstration Orchard Workdays:

Saturday, January 4th, 2025:
9am-12pm

Saturday, March 1st, 2025:
9am-12pm

Bring:

Hand clippers and wear appropriate shoes and clothing for outdoor activity. You will need to sterilize your pruning tools in the orchard before using them to prevent spreading diseases. Spray bottles of isopropyl alcohol will be provided for this purpose. Also bring snacks to share. Water and coffee will be provided.

People are welcome to bring garden tools that need sharpening. Marv will sharpen them for a donation.

Don't bring pets! *Please remember your "Best CRFG Manners While Visiting Homes, Nurseries, Growers, etc. We never bring pets to meetings or tours and we never even ask if we may!"*

Where:

Cal Poly Crops Science Classroom 17-101/102, corner of Highland Dr and Mt. Bishop Rd in San Luis Obispo.

Additional Info:

The public is welcome! Please bring a friend.

Restrooms will be available.

Our guest speaker, Dean Harrell, will provide instruction on winter pruning and scion collection in the classroom, followed by a hands-on demonstration at the CRFG Demonstration Orchard at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Rain will not cancel the classroom portion of this event.

Location & Parking:

No permit is needed.

Due to construction, parking will no longer be available at the Crops Unit. The H1 lot on Mt. Bishop Drive is the only option for parking (see map next page).

We will have signs out to help guide you.

Directions on next page.

Directions:

1. In San Luis Obispo, take Santa Rosa St. (aka Hwy 1) to Highland Drive.
2. Turn east onto Highland Drive.
3. Turn left at Mt. Bishop Rd.
4. In approximately 900 feet, you will see the H1 parking lot on your left. Park in the parking lot and walk back down Mt. Bishop Rd. to the Crops Unit at the corner with Highland Dr.

Parking for January Meeting:

There will be CRFG signs to guide you.



2024 December Holiday Party & Plant Exchange

By Dara Manker

Our December meeting was held at the Oceano Train Depot, the first time many of our members had seen this charming historical museum. The Depot had been decorated for Christmas the previous week by the Oceano Depot Association, and we were the happy beneficiaries by having our meeting amidst two decorated Christmas trees, a family of cheerful glowing snowmen, and strings of festive Christmas lights.

Our party started with members bringing in trees to donate to the plant exchange. They also brought in a plethora of tasty potluck side dishes, Tucker provided a ham, and Manny provided roasted chicken.

For the first time in a long time we had T-shirts for sale. We have our secretary, Terri, to thank for working with a local vendor to get them made, and our Program Chair, Sharon, for agreeing to bring them and handling sales at the December meeting.

Inside the train depot, members dined and mingled, catching up on gardening stories and sharing tips and advice.

After lunch, Manny transitioned into the business portion of our meeting, expressing gratitude to the 2024 Chapter officers and chairs. Jenny handed out 17 beautiful thank-you cards she had personally crafted.

Tom took bids for two compost bins that had been donated by Larry. Nell and Jenny, heading up the plant exchange, called out the lucky plant winners. While the weather was rainy and windy at the start of the gathering, we got lucky to have the sun come out when it was time for folks to go outside to choose the plants they had won.

Thank you everyone for attending, for bringing potluck dishes, donating plants, and for helping to set up and clean up. Your contributions made this holiday gathering truly special!

2024 Orchard Workday and Memorial Tree Planting: Saturday, January 4th, 2025, 9am-11:30am

By Dara Manker

Help cleanup the orchard at the Cal Poly SLO Campus in preparation for our annual pruning meeting. The public is welcome, bring a friend. Snacks will be provided.

At 11:30am, we will be planting a memorial tree for Pet Daniels, long-time member of the Central Coast Chapter. Please come share your memories of Pet. Everyone is invited. Please bring your folding chair if you want to sit.

We will plant a loquat tree in honor of Pet, and share our memories of her. Loquats were her favorite fruit, and Robert and Carol Scott have donated this special loquat, which is grafted to quince rootstock.

Pet was a steadfast volunteer, and rarely missed a volunteer day helping in the orchard. In 2003 Pet and Marv arranged maintenance days to spread mulch, trim the neighboring trees, clean up all the weeds, and develop a picnic area. These workdays really changed the appearance of the orchard.

In the spring of 2006 Marv and Pet connected with Bill Brandt of the Los Angeles CRFG Chapter. Bill's students made individual wooden signs with the variety of every tree. This was a major improvement as the earlier tags were hard to read, or got lost.

More information can be found on the club's calendar: <https://www.crfg-central.org/calendar>

CRFG Hats for Sale

CRFG Hats for sale:

\$20 each.

Baseball Cap colors :

Grey,

Denim,

Washed Denim,

Black,

Khaki.

Runner's Cap: White

If you are interested,

please email Dara:

dmanker@gmail.com

She can bring it to the

next meeting if you

are coming. If not,

she'll work out

another arrangement.



Rootstock Sales

Members will be able to pre-order and pay for rootstock at our December and January meetings. They must pick up their orders at the 2025 Scion Exchange on Saturday, Feb. 22nd, or the preparation event at Cal Poly the night before on Friday, Feb. 21st.

There is a members-only discount on the **apple** rootstock at these two meetings, where it will be sold for \$2 each. At the scion exchange, the price will be \$3 each.

Rootstock:

Apple: MM-III (member pre-order price)	\$2.00
Cherry: Prunus avium (Mazzard)	\$3.00
Plum/Apricot: Marianna 2624	\$3.00
Plum/Apricot: Marianna GF 8-1	\$3.00
Euro/Asian Plums; some Nectarine & Peach: Krymsk 1	\$3.00
Pear: OHxF 97	\$3.00

Perfect Blend Fertilizer

Our chapter will be placing an order for Perfect Blend Fertilizer this year. See the information below:

Perfect Blend Fertilizer (Made in the USA)

Proprietary Process! Perfect Blend fertilizers are made using a proprietary process that produces a high-quality nutrition to soil microbes that are responsible for breaking down minerals for plants while helping to maintain a balanced pH in your soil. Derived From: Chicken Manure, Raw Fish, Elemental Sulfur, Sulfate of Potash. **ALSO CONTAINS NON PLANT FOOD INGREDIENTS**
Soil Amending Ingredient: 5.00% Volcanic Ash

For more information visit : <https://perfect-blend.com>

We need to order in quantities of 40 bags (a pallet) so we can order 1 or 2 pallets based on sales.

Each bag is 50 lbs. Our cost will be \$20 a bag.

Orders are due on 1/1/25.

The bags will be delivered in January. Location will be sent to you once the order is placed.

You can email Sharon Lovelady to order.

If you made a check to David Maislen you will need to send a new check to Evelyn Ruehr, 2276 Palisades Ave, Los Osos CA, 93402.

Sharon will contact you if we have not received your payment.

If you have questions please contact Sharon Lovelady at: 805-610-2900



4-4-4

Proprietary Process!

Perfect Blend fertilizers are made using a proprietary process that produces a high quality nutrition to soil microbes that are responsible for breaking down minerals for plants while helping to maintain a balanced pH in your soil.

APPLICATION DIRECTION:

Small Garden - Vegetables: Apply 2 lbs. along the bottom of a 24 foot section of the seed furrow, then cover the fertilizer with a thin layer of soil. Place your seeds on this soil layer, then cover the seeds with an additional layer of soil to the depth recommended on the seed package. For hill plants such as squash and potatoes place one cup in the bottom and sides of the planting hole, followed by a layer of soil, then the seeds. Cover the seeds with ground level soil and then water. For legumes, such as beans and peas, less nitrogen is required. Put half as much Perfect Blend, or one cup every 50 feet, for best results. During the growing season apply an additional 2 lbs. every 50 feet after your plants bloom. Work these plant nutrients into the soil around the plant root zone. A good time to do this is when you are weeding or hilling-up your plants. Always water in newly applied fertilizer.

Field Vegetables & Orchard Applications:

Broadcast - Broadcast up to one ton per acre using conventional spreading equipment. Fertilizer is most efficient if tilled in immediately after application.

Side Banding - Side-band at the rate of one-half ton per acre in most soils. In sandy or poor soils, this rate can be increased.

Hand Application - Applications by precise hand measure are efficient at approximately one-quarter ton per acre.

Wheat - Fertilize in front of drill during seeding at a rate of one-quarter to one-half ton per acre.

Rice - Follow above directions, however, allow at least two weeks before flooding field to provide time for soil micro-organisms sufficient air to full soil food-web integration

New Orchards - Place one pound of PB Organics 4-4-4 in the bottom of the planting hole, cover with at least one inch of dirt and then place tree.

Revitalization of Old Orchards - Drill a 2" hole approximately 12" deep at a distance of 18" - 24" from the trunk of the tree. Fill to the top with fertilizer. Permanent PVC pipes can be placed in hole to prevent the need for re-drilling the following season.

Application Rates - Most crop lands require two applications, one in the spring and one in the fall. High nitrogen crops may require up to three applications during the primary growing season.

Guaranteed Analysis

Total Nitrogen (N)	4.00%
0.40% Ammoniacal Nitrogen	
0.03% Nitrate Nitrogen	
1.50% Other Water Soluble Nitrogen	
2.07% Water Insoluble Nitrogen	
Available Phosphate (P ₂ O ₅)	4.00%
Soluble Potash (K ₂ O)	4.00%
Calcium (Ca)	7.0000%
Magnesium (Mg)	0.7000%
0.70% Water Soluble Magnesium (Mg)	
Sulfur (S)	1.50%

Derived From:

Chicken Manure, Raw Fish, Elemental Sulfur, Sulfate of Potash.

ALSO CONTAINS NONPLANT FOOD INGREDIENTS

Soil Amending Ingredient:
5.00% Volcanic Ash

Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available on the internet at <http://www.aapfco.org/metals.htm>

Perfect Blend, LLC

DBA Perfect Blend Organics
Guaranteed by Perfect Blend Organics
188 106th Avenue NE, Suite 401 Bellevue, WA 98004
Phone: 866.456.8890

www.perfect-blend.com
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MADE IN USA

MANUFACTURED IN 2016



Net Weight 50 lbs. (22.67kg)

Pheromone Loops and Scion Store Items Still Available!

If you missed the scion store or realized you forgot something, now is your chance to get it before it is gone!

Here is what is still available:

Bird netting 35x50 ft extra heavy grade Raschel knitted \$80

Bird netting 17x100 ft medium black and white netting \$70

Pruners \$15

Budding knives \$15

Green grafting tape \$2

Aluminum tree tags \$4/10ct.

Pheromone loops have arrived! Codling moths are key pests of apples and pears. Pheromone loops deceive the male moth, thereby helping to disrupt the mating cycle. Place 2 to 3 loops in the top third of your apple and pear trees. Petals should be about 90% off and small fruit setting before you loop your trees!

Please contact Terri Monell at 805-546-8981 if interested or you have questions. Pick up is in SLO.

A Request from Terri:

CRFG and friends,

If you have been collecting, or are willing to start collecting, the plastic sleeves that come with the hard copy newspapers, I would greatly appreciate them and your efforts saving them. These plastic sleeves are a perfect length and size for the pheromone loops that I sell to the masses. Bring them to any meeting or contact me if you are willing to drop them off at my home.

Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Repurpose!

That is my motto!

Kindly,

Terri Monell



Article Submissions

Vanilla is in Crisis. Producers in Mexico Are Not Giving Up

Submitted by Robert Scott

Vanilla production is threatened by climate change in Oaxaca, Mexico. If vanilla disappears, local culture is in danger, too, say local Chinantec Indigenous people.



You can read the full article here:

https://modernfarmer.com/2024/11/vanilla-mexico-climate-change/?utm_source=modernfarmer.beehiiv.com&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=what-s-going-on-with-vanilla&_bhlid=8c28064e57c13c77458f9f54436d02f17c99fa60

December Meeting Photos

Photos by Jenny Weaver



Festive decorations inside the museum



Table decorated with fruit tablecloth



Members talking

December Meeting Photos



Donated compost bin



Second donated compost bin



Sharon getting prepared for the meeting



Guests sit and chat

December Meeting Photos



Members talking



Festive decorations adorned the museum

December Meeting Photos



Members chat and eat



There was a great turnout

December Meeting Photos



Some of the potluck offerings



Top: Some of the fruit available



Right: Many handles the business of the meeting

December Meeting Photos



Sharon talks to the attendees



Dara making sure everything is clean



Railroad museum decorations