

The Meadow Oaks "Leaflet"

Just Getting Started...

In an effort to bring together the community and keep our homeowners more informed, I have volunteered to be the first official editor for our new 'Meadow Oaks Leaflet'. I hope to include important news as it relates to your Meadow Oaks HOA, as well as, helpful hints & tips for living on the Plateau, and important phone numbers & dates to remember. This is also a great place to get to know some of your neighbors. I hope some of you will allow us the opportunity to interview you for future features. I am anxious to get to know more of my neighbors. Looking forward to hearing your comments, suggestions...and yes, volunteers for ideas and articles.

Suzan Sommer



*Your Equestrian Community
on the Santa Rosa Plateau*

*Issue #1
March 2017*

Spring Planting

Spring is just around the corner. Are you thinking about planting a country vegetable garden? Trying to decide what is best to plant in this time of year? Here is a list of some of the best options for Southern California. Basil, beans, beets, carrots, chives, cilantro, corn, cucumber, dill, eggplant, green bunching onions, lettuce, onion, parsley, parsnip, peas, peppers, radish, spinach, strawberries, squash, sunflower, swiss chard, tomatos, and thyme.

Straw bale gardening is a new trend that seems to be working quite well. Avoid tall, heavy plants like corn and tomatos, but it works quite well for many of the others mentioned here. If using 'new' bales, they will need 2 - 3 weeks of conditioning prior to planting. Soak the bales daily. You can speed up the process by adding 4 oz of lawn fertilizer sprinkled over the bales and then thoroughly water down. Be sure to check the inner temperature of the bale. If still 'hot' give it more time to breakdown...you don't want to 'cook' your seeds.

Create little pockets approximately 2 to 3" deep. Add some good planting soil and/or ask your horsey neighbors for some well composted horse manure (I am sure they will be happy to help with your project). Water well and plant as you would in your regular garden. Trailing plants will do best along the side of the bales freeing up the center for plants with compact or bushy growth. For example, a bale can have one or two cucumbers planted closer to the edges and 2 or 3 peppers or 1-2 bush beans planted in the center. The importance of regular watering cannot be stressed enough. Water percolates quickly down the straw layers, so you need to make sure that there is enough moisture in the root zone. You can ensure this by installing drip irrigation or using soaker hoses. If you don't want to invest in such arrangements, use soda bottles or milk bottles with tiny holes as water reservoirs near each plant. You can fill them 2-3 times a week and they will ration the water to the plants.

You can plant either seeds or seedlings. Many gardeners prefer to seed their straw bales because the root system gets a better chance at spreading extensively into the straw bed. Straw bales provide good insulation and the slowly decomposing straw bales keep the roots warm, so you can sow the seeds earlier than you would do in the ground. This extends the season, so there's no need to start the seeds early indoors and then transplant them into the bales. You don't have to deal with root bound seedlings and transplant shock anymore. You can find more detailed information on the web...just google "straw bale gardening". Hope we've peaked your interest.

On a final note, be sure to use real "straw" bales. Hay and other bales of forage (livestock feed) contain seeds that will compete with your new garden.

Enjoy & have fun!



YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

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Next Board Meeting
March 21st at 4 p.m.

Vincent Residence
19251 Calle Teresa

NEXT PYMT DUE DATE OF
HOA FEES: April 1, 2017

DID YOU KNOW...

** We will open & count the recent ballots for CC&R changes at our 3/21/17 board meeting. It was delayed due to required Lender notice. If you have not already done so, please forward your ballots to Ralston or contact Suzan to obtain a new set.

** Meadows Oaks land was once part of Ronald Reagan's 778 acre ranch. Reagan once publicly commented on his frustration regarding lack of access to power and water at the site and eventually purchased in Santa Barbara. But he always had a great love for our beautiful area.

** There are a total of 53 lots inside Meadow Oaks.

** We are looking for statistics regarding predator attacks within our community. Please forward any information or reports of losses to our editor (see below).

Important Numbers

Ralston Management (951) 296-9030

Gary Grieve (Gate House) (951) 698-1536

Lake Elsinore Sheriff (951) 245-3300

Local Bear Creek Fire Station (951) 698-8338

Edison (800) 655-4555

Rancho CA Water (951) 296-6900

Frontier (800) 921-8101

GRR Waste Mgmt. (800) 826-9677

KC Propane (951) 757-6756

Editor: Suzan Sommer sommergal@gmail.com
Suggestions, articles welcomed!