The Urban Homestead

Garden Design & Installation Team:
Mannah Gbeh
Terry Chamberlin
Greg Hunter
Karen Krugman

Volunteers:
Pat Kroll
Georgana Winters
Linda Canada

Sponsors: We would like to thank the generous support of the following San Diego plant nurseries:

Moosa Creek
(http://www.moosacreeknursery.com/)

Evergreen Nursery
(http://www.evergreennursery.com/)

Briggs Tree Nursery
(http://www.briggstree.com/)
In May 1862, the U.S. government signed into law the *Homestead Act* which provided public land grants to small farmers for settlement in the western United States allowing land claims up to 160 acres of federal land. A homesteader’s life on the prairie taught the need to learn sustainable practices to provide the basic necessities of life.

Fast forward to the 1960s and the “Urban Homesteading” movement which promotes living a simple, purposeful life in a city environment. An “urban homesteader” practices sustainable living through home agricultural production with a goal of reducing environmental impact while increasing self-sufficiency.

**Principles of Urban Homesteading**

1. Convert as much of your yard to grow organic vegetables, fruit, herbs, nuts.
2. Use of raised planting beds and companion planting help organize and expand crop potential such as the “Three Sisters” interplanting of corn, beans and squash. Check out Native Seeds/SEARCH website ([http://www.nativeseeds.org/learn/nss-blog/415-3sisters](http://www.nativeseeds.org/learn/nss-blog/415-3sisters)) for detailed instructions on “Three Sisters” planting.
3. Keep chickens or bees if allowed for your neighborhood. Fresh eggs and honey can help save money or can be sold or bartered. Be sure to check out the City of San Diego website for applicable laws and a zip code search to see if your neighborhood is included.
4. Grow pollinator-friendly flowers to provide sources of pollen and nectar for pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Attracting pollinators also benefits crop bounty and health.
5. Be mindful of your impact on the environment by following the “3 Rs”: reduce, reuse, recycle.
6. Practice water conservation both in your home and yard. Reduce or remove lawn, grow native and drought tolerate plants, collect rain water in rain barrels. For more local information check out the San Diego County Water Authority ([sdcwa.org](http://sdcwa.org)), Water Smart Landscape ([WaterSmartSD.org](http://WaterSmartSD.org)), and the California Native Plant Society ([cnps.org](http://cnps.org)) and, of course, the San Diego Horticultural society ([sdhort.org](http://sdhort.org)).
7. For more information on sustainable practices, check out The San Diego Sustainable Living Institute ([sdsustainable.org](http://sdsustainable.org)) who provides courses and workshops on sustainable practices to “…solve global environmental problems through local, backyard, and small farm solutions”.

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*Let’s Talk Plants!*
IN SUPPORT OF SOLITARY BEES

90% of bees are actually solitary bees that do not live in a hive or make honey.

Crownbees is one commercial source that makes 'Bee Houses' such as the one in the garden exhibit and as shown below.

Crownbees' website provides information on what you can do in support of solitary bees!

www.crownbees.com

About San Diego Horticultural Society

Monthly Meetings
Be inspired & learn at monthly meetings, held at the Congregation Beth Israel in UTC area, featuring horticulture experts and best-selling authors. Parking is FREE.

Newsletter
Our monthly newsletter, Let’s Talk Plants, is available online. Read informative articles about upcoming events, plant descriptions, local gardening, book reviews, and more.

Garden Tours
Our spring garden tour features exceptional private gardens in a different area of San Diego each year. We also host a special members-only visit to beautiful local gardens or specialty nurseries. Join us on a bi-annual out-of-town tour to horticultural hotspots.

Website
Visit sdhort.org to find out the latest Society information. Members can signup for events online, renew their membership, volunteer, or read current and past newsletters.

Join Online Today at sdhort.org