



Cavanagh Food Forest Maintenance Guide

The Cavanagh Food Forest located on 8th Street in Petaluma is designed to be a space for the folks to gather and learn, while being able to enjoy the food that is produced. The garden was created by the community, for the community.

This guide is designed to help volunteers maintain the garden throughout the year, ensuring its health and vibrancy. **Your contributions play a vital role in sustaining this shared space.** Please familiarize yourself with the tasks outlined below. Feel free to maintain the garden on your own, or join us during our monthly workdays to collectively nurture our gardens.

If you have any questions about the care or maintenance of this garden, please contact moreinfo@dailyacts.org or call (707)789-9664.

Reminders and Considerations:

- We ask that specific tasks are done under the supervision of Daily Acts Staff. These tasks are marked by ** in the graphic below
- When tending to the plants, rely on this guide as well as your own intuition and knowledge due to their varying growth and needs each year.
- When pruning, use clean shears and sanitize between different plant species to mitigate the spread of diseases from one plant to another

Winter <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weeding• Prune/Cut back:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Rain garden grasses• ** Prune Fruit Trees• ** Spot Mulching	Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weeding• Prune/Cut back:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Salvias
Summer <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weeding• Prune/Cut back:• Thin Pomegranate Trees	Fall <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weeding• Prune/Cut back<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Salvias

*** Task done during Daily Acts community workday*

Pruning:

Rain Garden Grasses



In the library rain garden there is Bog Sage, California Gray Rush, and Orange Sedge. These grasses can be pruned in late winter to early spring. To prune, remove dead growth from the crown of the plant to allow adequate air flow and cut back dead growth.

Salvias



The garden contains a variety of different Salvias including Jerusalem Sage and Hot Lips Sage. These salvias are herbaceous perennials with woody stems. It is best to prune the stems after flowers begin to dry. Prune back the stems to where the first set of foliage begins. This usually occurs late fall to early winter. It's crucial not to trim every stem; instead, leaving approximately 20% to allow the seeds to be available to birds.

Weeding:

In the Library, Living Learning Garden, it is important to pull weeds throughout the year. It is particularly important to remove weeds before they go to seed and spread.

Common weeds found in this garden: Bermuda grass, Salsify, Yellow Star Thistle, and Plantain.