

Fundamentals of Southern California Gardening Course Syllabus | Nan Stermán's Garden School

 **September** | Welcome to Fundamentals of Southern California Gardening

Get grounded in the course structure and discover how we'll grow together, season by season, step by step.

 **October** | Gardening in a Mediterranean Climate

Learn how our climate shapes everything from plant choices to planting times, and why it's unlike anywhere else in the U.S.

 **November** | Discover Where YOU Garden

Where you live—and where your personal garden sits—makes all the difference. Let's discover your garden's sweet spot.

 **December** | Understanding Your Soil

Soil and sunlight are two foundations of your garden. Discover how to work with both for healthier, thriving plants.

 **January** |

Where Our Water Comes From & Why It Matters

Explore SoCal's unusual rainfall pattern and why knowing your water source is key to gardening success.

February | Irrigation and Water Management

Meet efficient watering strategies, explore irrigation systems, and learn how to make every drop count.

March | Mulch, Compost & the Magic Beneath Your Feet

Healthy gardens start from the ground up. Learn how mulch and compost work together to build better soil, retain moisture, feed your plants, and support the living ecosystem underground. Discover what to use, how to use it, and why your plants will thank you.

April | Plant Anatomy 101: Plants and Their Parts

Learn how plant parts work, what they do, and why understanding flowers and roots helps you grow like a pro.

May | Plant Adaptations & How Plants Thrive in Tough Climates

Discover how plants adapt to drought, sun, heat, and wind with tricks like succulence, fuzzy leaves, and more.

June | Gardening with California Natives

Grow gorgeous, low-water plants that support local wildlife and thrive in our Mediterranean climate.

July | Climate-Compatible Plants from Around the World

Meet stunning plants from places like South Africa, Australia, and the Mediterranean basin that love our SoCal weather.

August | Managing Garden Critters

Learn how to recognize "good bugs," manage the harmful ones, and keep your garden's ecosystem in harmony.

*Subject to change.