

## Additional February Garden Gossip

The ferocious winds and river of rain pummeled my narcissi, yet I'm thrilled the stronger stems of daffodils have been unaffected. Burgundy calla lilies as well as the traditional white "crystal-clear" calla lilies have emerged, indicating that spring is within reach. They are a beautiful ornamental plant, although not a true lily, with gorgeous trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom in several colors. If you don't already grow them, buy a few of these African natives at your favorite nursery as they'll provide you with years of beauty and bliss starting in late winter.

Be on the lookout for monarch butterflies through the end of February. I visited the Pismo Beach Butterfly Grove, which has one of the largest protected overwintering sites for western monarch butterflies. The tall eucalyptus and Monterey cypress trees provide a sheltered area with thermal stability. These butterflies can fly over 200 miles in a day. Some travel 2,000 miles to reach their overwintering grounds in California. When summer summons, they fly as far north as Canada.

On the monarch migration coastal course, Moraga boasts a Monarch Butterfly Garden at Rancho Laguna Park created by the Moraga Garden Club.

<https://www.moragagardenclub.org/moraga-for-monarchs>

The monarchs and their migration are threatened. What can you do to entice monarchs?

Be organic. Do not use pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides.

Plant milkweed.

Plant native nectar flowers.

Support conservation efforts.

Educate yourself. <https://xerces.org/monarchs>

Naval oranges are ripe and sweet. There is nothing more delicious than a freshly picked orange.

Bare-root roses need to be planted now with a wide range of glorious selections in the garden centers. Make sure to follow soaking and planting directions carefully.

Last chance to prune your growing roses for an April burst of blooms. Cut canes back by at least one-third.

Treat your true love to a beautiful bouquet or an inspired live plant for Valentine's Day.

May everything get accomplished in nature's time. Sandbag before the storm, marvel at your moss, like your lichen, and look for butterflies. Stay dry. Stay safe.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Love Day!



Monarch butterflies overwintering in the eucalyptus grove.



Relish the sunny daffodils as they pop up!