



The ubiquitous weed, geranium robertianum...death come quickly.

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**Seed Spread:** Weeds develop seed heads and once they burst, they disperse thousands of seeds that float through the air to increase the weed population in other areas. Many of my weeds have already started shooting their seeds before I could pull them.

**Soil Health:** Many weeds have deep root systems that disrupt the soil structure, making it difficult for other plants to grow. Weeds like euphorbia spurge emit a toxin in their roots that kills other plants, making way for only the spurge to flourish.

**Stress Reduction:** There is a peacefulness and tranquility to weeding. When I'm kneeling or sitting in the weeds, I am up close and personal with the plants. I hear the birds singing, and the wind rustling. I witness the butterflies, bees, and bugs that hover around the plants. I smell the leaves and scents emanating from the soil. My senses are alive and I feel connected to nature and all things. My prescription to stress less, is to get your hands in the dirt. Give it a whirl!

As fire season approaches, it is essential to cut weeds. The hills are lush and green now, but soon the heat of summer will be upon us, and the grass will be dry and brown. Heed the checklist from our fire departments to create defensible spaces around our homes. Many of us, including my family, have had our homeowner's insurance canceled or non-renewed because we live in a designated fire zone. As frustrating as this is, it is imperative to harden off our homes. Follow year-round directions at

[www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention](http://www.mofd.org/our-district/fuels-mitigation-fire-prevention)

To summarize fire district recommendations:

Prevent embers from igniting your home by clearing leaves, needles, and debris from gutters, eaves, porches, and decks.

Mow grasses and weeds.

Keep your garden watered.

Prune tree limbs to keep the lowest branches 6-10 feet from the ground.

Reduce "fire fuel laddering" by not allowing bushes or trees to touch one another.

Keep combustible materials 15-30 feet away from structures.

Maintain your property and be alert for any fire danger.



Photos Cynthia Brian  
Tournament of Roses rosebush blooms amongst the weeds.

## Organizing is Not Always About Just Getting Rid of Stuff



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**2. Arriving Late:** Arriving late to an event or appointment is stressful!  
Solution/Habit: Plan ahead, look at your week and know where you have to be. Map out how long it will take to get there and add 20 minutes to the time. Better early than late! You might want to gather the items that you'll want to take with you the night before. I personally always have a podcast or some type of work (knitting, crossword puzzles, phone game apps, etc.) with me if I arrive too early.

**3. Managing Passwords:** This is probably my biggest frustration. This can be especially frustrating if you do not live alone and someone else has the ability to change your passwords (and adorably does not tell you).  
Solution/Habit: Set up a password manager on all of your devices and make sure everyone who uses your devices knows how to save passwords to the password manager. Many of my clients also keep a written copy of their passwords in a notebook or address book, and some of my clients keep them in their phone.

The next time you are feeling frustrated about managing your home or life, remember to focus on cultivating a new organizing habit - this might just be the solution you need.

Professional Organizer, Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals.

She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com, 925-698-3756  
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