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## November 2020 Newsletter

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### A Letter from the President

After 10 busy years with LEAF, I am stepping down at the end of the year. You may have seen my [email announcement](#) already. I have a long to-do list to work through before then. Our board of directors is recruiting a new president as well as additional board members. 2021 will bring in a new era for LEAF as we continue to grow and work toward the completion of the new LEAF Center and Urban Farm. We're looking outside the board for a president with star power—someone well known in Fremont and in Alameda County whose connections can help bring in sponsors and increase our presence. Exciting times!

LEAF needs people, whether it be board members or committed volunteers to help manage the LEAF Center, Urban Farm, our membership, and marketing/fundraising efforts. If you're looking for a way to make a difference in your community for the environment this coming year, the board would love to hear from you! [Contact me](#) or any of our board members to explore these opportunities further.

A lot has happened in the last month at all three sites as you'll read below. We do not sit still here at LEAF! By the way, watch for our holiday fundraising campaign which we'll be kicking off just after Thanksgiving.

Mia Mora | LEAF President

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## Things to do in the garden... in November



Tomatoes in varying stages of ripening. Keep them on the vine as long as possible for maximum flavor.

### Tomatometering!

Tomato plants focus their energies during the summer making fruit, leaves, roots and ripening mature fruit. When temperatures rise above 85°F like it did several times in October, the plant diverts its energy to making more and deeper roots instead of to the ripening process so you may still have lots of green tomatoes on your vines.

If your tomatoes plants still have green unripe tomatoes like ours do, here are some tips on what to do.

- If there are lots of green fruit, remove some of the smaller or damaged fruit. Keep the fruit on the vine until there is a little color, called the

breaker stage. Then remove the fruit, place it out of the sun in temperatures between 50-85°F and allow it to ripen off the vine.

- If there are lots of green fruit, uproot the entire plant, remove as much soil as possible and hang it upside down in a warm place out of the sun until the tomatoes ripen on the vine.
- Tomatoes can also ripen by placing them in an enclosed bag or box with a ripe banana or apple. The ethylene gas from those fruits triggers green tomatoes to ripen.

**Elaine** | LEAF Stone Garden Manager

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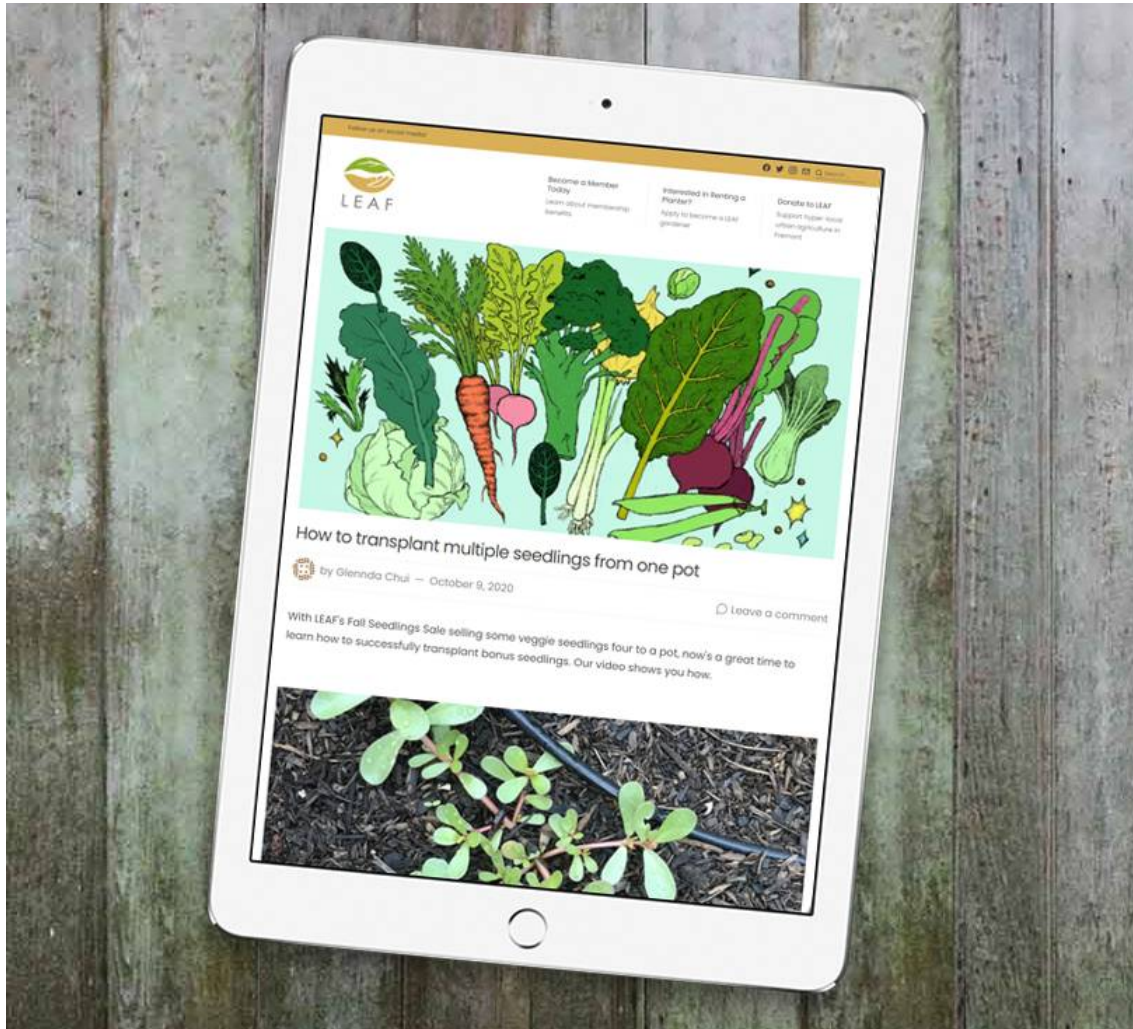


**An Informative Gardening Chat**  
**Saturday November 14, 2020 9-10am PST**

Join Stone Garden Manager, Elaine along with UCCE Master Volunteers, Guy Duran and Michele Young for an interactive virtual meeting as they answer your questions about gardening in November and insects that can threaten your winter harvest. Attendance is limited to 100 people, so join the meeting promptly at start time.

**Zoom Meeting Link:**

<https://zoom.us/j/95547166934?pwd=TjYwUit5WWcvMXhJV3JwdkhjbHgrZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 955 4716 6934**Passcode:** 005112The logo for LEAF Blog features a stylized green leaf icon to the left of the word "LEAF" in a grey, sans-serif font. Below "LEAF" is the word "Blog" in a larger, green, sans-serif font.

### **Blog Readers Unite!**

You don't have to wait for our monthly newsletter to find out what's happening at LEAF. We're sharing new information on a regular basis. You'll find news, virtual event schedules, gardening advice, and great recipes all on the [LEAF Blog](#). Have an interesting story or some news you'd like to share with us concerning your gardening adventures? Let us know! We may just feature your contribution in an upcoming post. Check back often to see what's new at LEAF!

 LEAF  
Urban Farm

### **Box Donations Satisfied**

Many thanks to everyone who dropped off their empty boxes at the Urban Farm for us to use in sheet mulching. We have more than enough. You can keep your boxes for that overdue garage cleanup project of yours. Don't look puzzled. We know you've got one! : )

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 LEAF  
Center



### **Gardeners of the Month: Kimberly & Nate - Planter #31**

Garden Supervisor, Lisa Wills, says these new gardeners are a young couple who wanted a place to grow their own veggies together. Lisa reports that they've kept their planter box organized and neat and are so happy to be a part of the garden!

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LEAF  
C.R. Stone Garden



Happy bees foraging on lavender in the LEAF Bee Sanctuary

### **Busy Bees**

Our bees are very lucky because we plant a variety of flowering annuals and perennials that bloom at varying times of the year for them to forage. We haven't removed the annual summer flowers like sunflowers, blanket flowers, lobelia, and calendula from the garden even though they are past peak because they are still in blossom. We are also letting some herbs like basil and fennel go to flower. Bees especially like foraging on flowering perennials such as mint, comfrey, salvias and lavenders (pictured).

November is a good time to plant perennials especially California natives. A great resource for California natives is [Calscape.org](https://www.calscape.org/), the site of California Native Plant Society. Their [advanced search](#) feature is amazing! It allows you to look for plants suitable to your street address and other criteria you may have.

**Elaine** | LEAF Stone Garden Manager

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# Thanksgiving

In such a difficult season of life, it's understood that many of us will feel more discouraged than thankful. Families aren't gathering together, we live in fear of becoming sick, our neighbors are displaced due to natural disasters, and many more are grieving over their lost loved ones. What many of us do not realize is that the intensity of the sorrow we feel is the result of the love we carry in our hearts for each other. We as human beings weren't just made to celebrate together, but also to cry with one another. Instead of making people feel worse, our tears may be the greatest expression of love and support we can offer those who are hurting.

Despite the hardships we face, we can give thanks for the love in our hearts that moves us to bring food to those in need, to brighten someone's day with an unexpected phone call, to seek out creative ways to make people laugh, to pray for one another, and to give financially to organizations who can spread our love in places we'll never go. So be thankful for the love that steers your actions each day, knowing that each bruise our emotions suffer only increases our hearts' capacity for it. And as our hearts begin to overflow, may no one we encounter leave our presence without taking some of our love with them.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

**Eddie Turner** | LEAF Marketing Manager

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