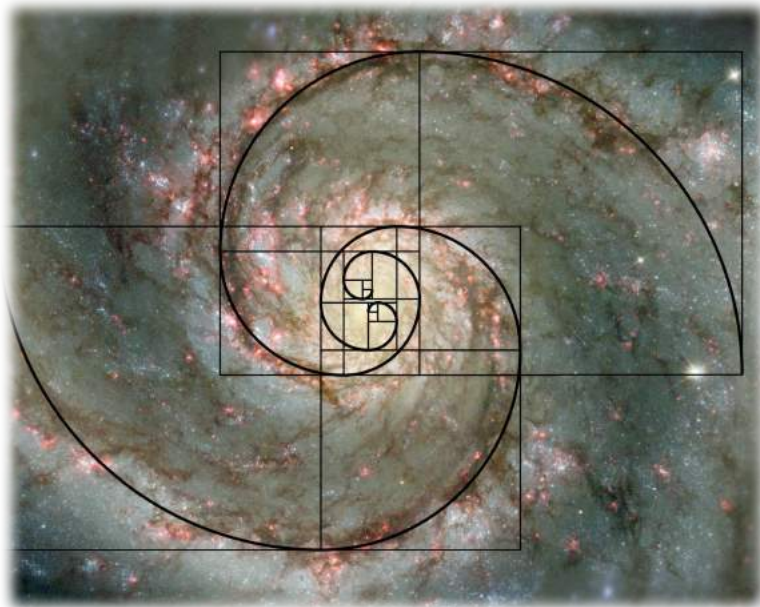




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January 2018

Beautiful Geometry in Nature



The Fibonacci numbers are Nature's numbering system. They appear everywhere in Nature, from the leaf arrangement in plants, to the pattern of the florets of a flower, to the bracts of a pine cone, or the scales of a pineapple. The impact of the numbers and geometry of Fibonacci's series applies to art, music and

architecture through the ages. They are applicable to the growth of every living thing, including a single cell, a grain of wheat, a hive of bees and even all of mankind.

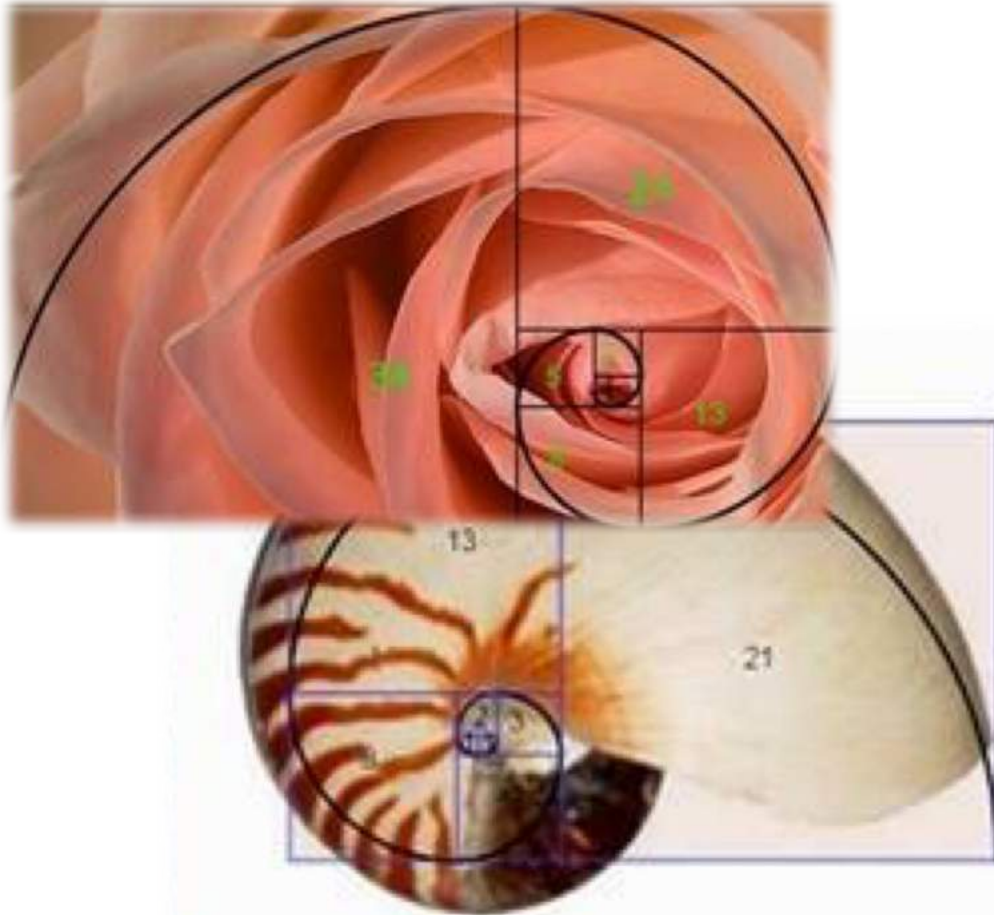
Paola Tonelli will give a verbal and visual presentation at the Valley of the Moon Garden Club meeting on January 4th to show that only in botany is there a real correlation, and the presentation explains why. It consists mostly of photos of nature and covers mathematical and physics principles as well.

Plants just grow in the most efficient ways. Many plants show the Fibonacci numbers in the arrangement of the leaves around the stem. Some pine cones and fir cones also show the numbers, as do daisies, succulents and sunflowers. Sunflowers can contain the number 89 or even 144. Some coniferous trees show these numbers in the bumps on their trunks and palm trees in the rings on their trunks.

Why do these arrangements occur? In the case of leaf arrangement, or phyllotaxis, some of the cases may be related to maximizing the space for each leaf or the average amount of light falling on each one. Even a tiny advantage would come to dominate over many generations. In the case of close-packed leaves in cabbages and succulents, the correct arrangement may be crucial for availability of space.

In the seeming randomness of the natural world, we can find many instances of mathematical order involving the Fibonacci numbers themselves. You may observe your plants in an entirely new light.

The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Sonoma Veterans' Memorial Building, 126 First Street West, Sonoma. It is free for club members and five dollars for guests. A plant raffle and refreshments will follow the meeting. For questions, call (707) 935-8986.



President's Message

Hello VOMGC Members,

I am writing this last Dennis-version of the President's message in late December for the January newsletter. We are starting out the new year on January 4th with our new Co-Presidents, Adrienne and Linda, at the helm.

I am not going away. I will be Co-VPing with Doug. We will be responsible for locating our speakers next year. We are hoping to mix it up a bit with both educational speakers and fun, entertaining subjects.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the January meeting to kick off another great Garden Club year

Thanks,

Dennis Przybycien



Horticultural Column

Winter Pruning

We just passed the Winter Solstice. The cold, dark days will begin to get longer. The holidays are over. No more egg nog, no more wine and cheese parties, no more ginger bread cookies for you. It is time to get off the couch, go out in the yard and start to get ready for the approaching Spring.

Let's talk about winter pruning. To make it easier, I will break up the pruning chores into 3 categories.

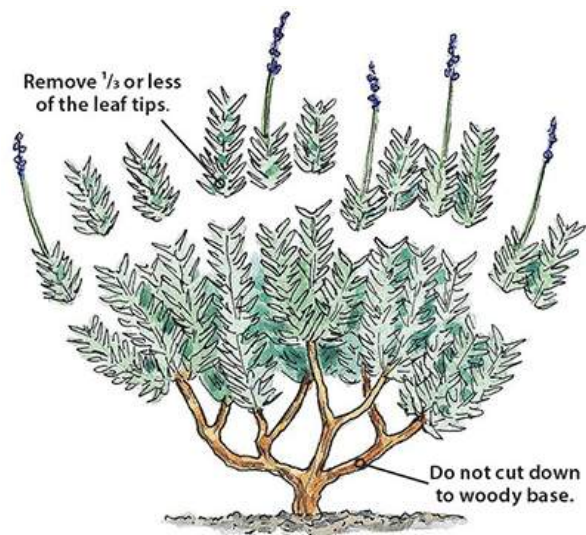
First are the shrubs. These are the woody, long-lived bushes that form the foundation of your garden. Examples are California lilac, rosemary and crape myrtle. Trim out any dead branches and then trim to control size and shape to your taste. This should be a minimum amount of pruning each year. Try to let the shrub have a natural, open look, not Disneyland topiary.

Next are annuals. These plants are intended to grow and bloom during the Summer and Fall. When the first frost comes, they die back to the ground. Cut these plants off at ground level. Leave the roots. This will give some erosion control to the soil and by spring, they

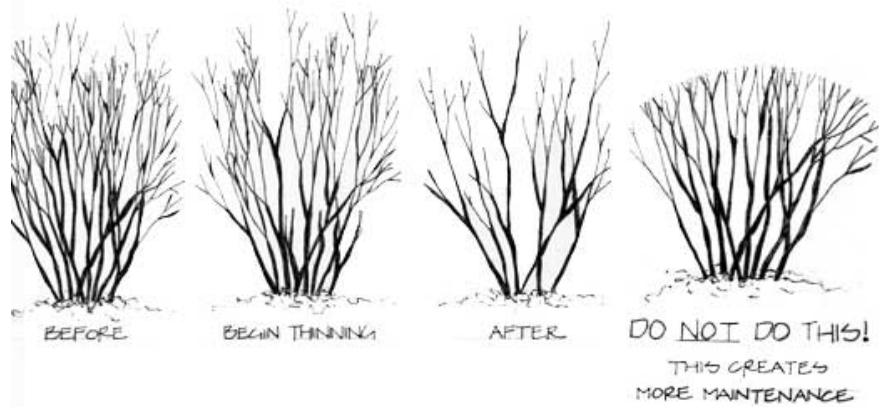
should be decomposed and add to the organic and fungi content of the soil.

Finally, and more complicated, are the perennials. These are the flowering plants that grow during Spring, Summer and Fall. They provide color and the pollinator support for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds in your yard. These plants go through some form of dormancy during winter but are ready to jump back to life next Spring. They are short-lived compared to shrubs, maybe 3 to 5 years. Some examples are lavender, sage and flowering maple.

For shorter-lived perennials, like lavender, you need to shear off the spent flowers and just a bit of the green growth. Don't cut down to the woody part of the plant. It may not bud-out in Spring, and you will end up with spindly sticks in the ground.



For taller perennials like Mexican sage, butterfly bush and hydrangea, you want to encourage new growth to promote next year's flowers. Cut out the oldest, woodiest stems at ground level, leaving the newer shoots to fill in. If you do this each year, you may only need to cut off about three older stems to maintain healthy blooms.



As in picture the above, you should have newer shoots left after removing several older shoots. This technique works well for both plants that bloom on new wood and plants that bloom on old wood. You can't go wrong with this technique.

So put on your gloves, hat and overcoat, and get out there and tend to those winter-dormant plants so that next Spring, they will reward you with dramatic color.

Happy Winter Gardening,

Dennis Przybycien

dennisnolga@sbcglobal.net



Bonus Horticultural Column

Leave the Leaves!

As leaves tumble, many gardeners feel the urge to rake them away. However, there's a reason for more relaxation during this season.

Leaving the leaves where they fall will create valuable winter cover for pollinators and other invertebrates. Most leaves will break down into mulch to feed the soil. If you want a more finished appearance, add any landscaping mulch over the leaves.

There are some exceptions to the rule. In general, large leaves, like those from sycamore and mulberry trees, can take a long time to decompose and may be best placed in the green recycle bin or compost pile. Also, large leaves may cover and kill wanted grass. Finally, put any infected leaves into the garbage to avoid spreading contamination.



Bonnie Brown



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Co-Vice-President: Dennis Przybycien	(707) 933-0224	dennisnolga@sbcglobal.net
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Co-Treasurer: Jurine Biers	(707) 933-1696	Jurine2@aol.com
Co-Treasurer: Stan Pawlak	(707) 934-7178	stan.pawlak@gmail.com
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Director: Carol Dickason	(707) 935-0505	dickason05@gmail.com
Director: Jobina Forder	(707) 933-9176	Salisbury2@att.net

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Sunshine Chair: Elizabeth Krauss	(707) 938-5982	
Tranquility Garden: Position Open		
Newsletter Compiler: Position Open		
Newsletter eMailer: Iain Pryor	(916) 764-0772	iaindpryor@gmail.com
Newsletter Proofreader and Snail-Mailer: Position Open		

Treasurer's Report

INCOME

Membership Dues & Raffle	\$163.00
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EXPENSES

Newsletter Printing	\$6.00
Printer Supplies	\$144.00
Event Insurance	\$35.00

ENDING BALANCE	\$13,361.00
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Contact

Website: www.vom-garden-club.org

(Please note that our website is currently down due to a server problem. Thank you for your patience.)

As a VOM Garden Club member, access the "members-only" info on our website by using the
If you are mailing a letter to the Valley of the Moon Garden Club, mail to:

VOMGC Attn: (name of the person you wish your letter to reach)

**P.O. Box 501
Vineburg, CA 95487**

