

# SUFA E-News

Summer 2020



## Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates

Welcome to the Summer 2020 issue of the Sunnyvale Urban Forest Advocates (SUFA) newsletter. This quarterly newsletter will keep you informed about how you can participate in SUFA's efforts to increase the tree canopy in Sunnyvale through education, tree plantings, and advocacy.

## SUFA Tree Tips

### Fall is the Perfect Time to Plant a Tree!



In our area, trees can be successfully planted in both fall and spring because we don't have to worry too much about early frost or frozen ground in the winter or flooding rains in the spring. However, it is highly recommended that trees in our area be planted in the fall. Trees planted in the fall will use their energy to spread their roots and grow stronger. Winter rains should provide enough water to help the trees establish themselves in their new location. It is best to plant after the last of the hot days in September and October.

When spring arrives, the trees will be established enough that they can spend their energy producing blossoms and leaves, with less need for root growth. Trees planted in spring will also do well, unless too much rain causes the soil to be soggy and unstable. Trees will continue to expand their root structure and grow taller and wider throughout their lifetimes, but planting in the fall will give them a head start. Can't plant this fall? Don't let that stop you – plant when you can. Whenever you plant, remember to water and care for your trees. Unfortunately, most nurseries in our area set out their tree stock in early spring and there are not many options by fall. One option is Our City Forest in San Jose that sells trees year-round. Check [ourcityforest.org](http://ourcityforest.org) for information on the nursery and current species available. There may be certain requirements in order to purchase a tree, so be sure to call ahead.

**How do I pick the right tree for the right place?** Here are some websites to help you with that crucial decision as well as sites that will show how best to plant and care for whatever trees you choose.

1. [canopy.org/tree-info/planting-trees/](http://canopy.org/tree-info/planting-trees/)
2. [pge.com/righttreerightplace](http://pge.com/righttreerightplace)
3. [treesaregood.org/treeowner](http://treesaregood.org/treeowner)
4. [selectree.calpoly.edu](http://selectree.calpoly.edu)

**Looking for a street tree?:** The City of Sunnyvale will plant a tree on the public right-of-way of your home or building for no cost. Call the Sunnyvale Parks Division at 408-730-7501 or visit [sunnyvale.ca.gov/property/trees](http://sunnyvale.ca.gov/property/trees).

**Still undecided about the need to plant a tree?** Check out these websites that share a multitude of reasons why trees benefit not only our environment but our health and our economy:

- [www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/benefitsoftrees](http://www.treesaregood.org/treeowner/benefitsoftrees)  
[www.vibrantcitieslab.com](http://www.vibrantcitieslab.com)

# Jenny's Gem of a Garden



SUFA had planned to host several Tree Walks during the summer. One was to be an Edible Tree Walk through the SNAIL neighborhood of Sunnyvale featuring my garden among others. (In case you are wondering, about the name, SNAIL, check the SNAIL [website](#)). In its place, we had to settle for a Virtual Tree Walk. Our goal is to inspire you to plant trees! Think of a garden as a 5 - Year Plan.



Permaculturists advise lying in a hammock for the first year to contemplate and get to know your space and the angle of the sun in each season. During that year, you could start to lay down bark chips, mulch and compost, and grow some clover and cover crops to build up your soil. This does not have to be expensive - bark chips are free, you can make your own compost, and seeds can be swapped at local neighborhood garden events.

In your plan, think about what types of fruit you like best and plant a couple of trees, bushes, or vines each year. My primary goal was to have one fruit, at least, that would ripen each month of the year. I hate the idea of having nothing for 11 months and then way too much for 1 month. In the slide presentation, first posted to Nextdoor on June 28th, you are invited to "tour" my garden. I also added an "August Update" to show what I am harvesting now or will be soon. (See the links below.)

Jenny Purushotma

1. Publicly available Google Slides (require sign in) Virtual Walk:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UQkPUoDGeHA57Z\\_aEmOUwRY\\_D1u3aub5R\\_I5v8zgwFE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1UQkPUoDGeHA57Z_aEmOUwRY_D1u3aub5R_I5v8zgwFE/edit?usp=sharing)

August Update: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1mRhg-A4a7lsB2T1BdLLrC24mN1GVrTQa4bukyfDSsv0/edit?usp=sharing>

Google Slides: Sign-in [accounts.google.com](https://accounts.google.com)

2. My Blog page: <https://www.culinarycures.com/my-blog/my-urban-forest-garden>

## Sunnyvale Trees of Distinction: the Camphors

Camphors (*Cinnamomum camphora*) are evergreen trees closely related to the tropical tree that provides us with cinnamon. These trees are native to China, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan (where they are considered sacred). They have an estimated lifespan of 150 years. Camphor trees are planted around the world as ornamentals in parks and gardens. Camphor is a white crystalline substance, traditionally obtained from the tree's bark and wood. Camphor has been used for many centuries as a culinary spice, a component of incense, and as a medicine. It is also an insect repellent and a flea-killing substance, as well as being used in the production of smokeless gunpowder and celluloid.



Two spots to see beautiful mature camphors in Sunnyvale are Washington Park (top right) and City Hall (bottom right). As of the date of this publication, SUFA has no definitive information as to whether one or both of the City Hall trees will be either removed or relocated as part of the construction of the new Civic Center complex. As their fate is unknown to us at this time, you may wish to visit them in their current, beautiful setting.

Visit us at: [sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org](https://sunnyvaleurbanforestadvocates.org)

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