



Newsletter

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club

July 2025

Trash to Treasure with a *Twist*

Monday, July 21, 2025

San Juan Hills Golf Course

10:00 am

What to bring to the auction? Any new or gently used "garden-related" items you no longer use, want, or that fit into your design. We will then auction these items to club members who will happily take home a new-to-them item!

"Garden-related" is loosely defined. In the past, we have auctioned garden décor, pots (please clean), tools, garden art, plants, plant stands, outdoor lights, wreaths, vases, bowls, books, paintings (and other art), candles, tablecloths, placemats, knick-knacks, and more.

Your "trash" is someone else's "treasure."

Please bring your items by 9:30 am. Items can be previewed from 9:30 am to 10:00 am. *There will be no early sales.*

Please bring cash in small bills to pay for your successful bids. Checks are accepted.

There will be a dollar table for the smaller items.

We've added a ***TWIST*** to Trash to Treasures! It is guaranteed to add new fun and excitement to an already electrifying morning! Intrigued? See you on the 21st!

Fine print: All items not bid on during the auction will be donated to charity.

Reaching Out To A Friend



Dear Garden Friends

**Our lovely friend, Nancy Cangiano,
has relocated.**

**If you would like to drop her a card and
let her know you are thinking about
her, the new address is:**

**Nancy Cangiano
c/o Ivy Park at Huntington Beach
7401 Yorktown Ave.
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

Upcoming Events

July 21 - 10 am

Meeting & Trash to Treasures Auction—see additional info in this issue

August 18—5:30 pm

Evening Fundraiser—see additional info in this issue

September 15 – 10 am

Meeting and Kathy Hayden, Flower Arranging

Upcoming Events

Hello Garden Lovers

Somehow, it's already July! We have two upcoming fundraising events:

Trash to Treasure and our Western Fundraising Party.

We need your help to make these events successful!

As you may know, we are collecting gift cards for this year's August raffle. The more cards we gather, the more options there will be for an exciting raffle. We plan to organize the cards into categories based on interests. For example, several restaurants, nurseries, or pet care services could be grouped, depending on what everyone brings. At the club meeting on July 21st, please bring any gift cards you have. For each card you get, you'll receive a raffle ticket. There will also be a fun prize for the winner!

If you choose to purchase a gift card to make a generous donation, please place it in an envelope with your name. If you're unsure which businesses to contact, feel free to call me, and I'll be happy to provide some suggestions.

Thank you,

Cindy Sorensen

see additional information in this issue

Donor Thank You Social

Thank you to Karen and Mark Rottmann for hosting our donor thank you social in their always lovely garden. The generous donor members allowed Earthroots to successfully treat against the Gold Spotted Oak Borer that is invading our wonderful California Oaks. Earthroots Founder and Executive Director Jodi Levine shared with us the natural barriers they have developed. Thank you to Pat Lussier and Marcia Kelley who ably ran the successful donor campaign for our club.



DRAGON FLIES

Kathy Holman
Marcia Kelley
Chris Losordo
Shelly Trainor

Pat Kenner

Pat Lussier
Rus Miller
Lynn Rollison
Cindy Sorensen

BUTTERFLIES

Nancy Cangiano
Mary Crawford
Marilyn DeVitre
Sharon Dunn
Maureen Gebelein
Inge Harris
Lou Heimann

LADY BUGS

JoAnn De Yonker
Kathy Dixon
Janet Sperber

GRASSHOPPERS

Lori Bickel

Walking Club

9:00 am on Tuesdays at the Arroyo Bird House Park at 27999 Calle Arroyo, SJC. We follow the creek path and can walk with groups of fast walkers and less fast walkers. It is always a pleasant 45 minutes to enjoy the beautiful area, learn about the trees, shrubs, and birds from each other, admire the horses, and enjoy each other's company!

Mary Crawford

Newsletter

Members are welcome to submit print-ready items for publication that would be of general interest to our membership. Submissions are subject to editorial review.

Send to: chateaulussier@msn.com

Membership Renewal Time

It's that time of year to renew your upcoming 2025-26 membership to our fantastic garden club. Our SJC Garden Club calendar year is from July 1 – June 30 and the membership fee is now due. You don't want to miss any of the club's informative issues of the newsletter or all the great upcoming activities, events, and garden tips because you delayed in renewing your membership.

Bring your \$65 check, payable to the SJC Garden Club, to the July meeting or send it to the following address ASAP.

**Membership
SJC Garden Club
32158 Camino Capistrano, Suite A, PMB 120
SJC, CA 92675**

We look forward to seeing you at all the coming year's meetings and activities.

Lou Heimann
Membership Chairman

Garden Stroll

Thank you to all the members and their guests who attended our beautiful club Garden Stroll this past month. And a special thank you to the hostesses who shared their homes and gardens – Debra Lang, Pat Lussier, Donna Pennington, Shelly Trainor and Gayle Welsh, plus the docents who volunteered for each home. The gardens showed the creativity and personalities of their owners and the variety of plants, trees, and flowers we can grow in our area. We are looking forward to next year's stroll.

Lou Heimann & Janet Sperber
Stroll Co-Chairmen

See pics in this issue



Hello Garden Club Members,

As you know, our annual fundraiser is scheduled for August 18th. This year, we are creating groups of gift cards for the raffle. We need your help in collecting as many fun and interesting cards as possible! You may have some that you haven't used. Your favorite shopping places or regular hair and nail salons are good places to ask for gift cards. Many community businesses supported our event last year, and they would be perfect places to request gift cards for this year. Please reach out to me for a request letter with our 501(c) (3) information.

Please bring gift cards to the July 21st meeting. There will be a designated area on the membership table for them. All gift cards are needed by August 1st so they can be organized for the event.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or another board member.

Sincerely,

Cindy Sorensen

Cindy Sorensen, Chair
August Fundraising Event
light-wiz@hotmail.com
949.633.6947



SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO GARDEN CLUB

PULL OUT YOUR COWBOY BOOTS AND GET READY TO KICK UP YOUR HEELS

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

5:30 PM GUESTS WELCOME

**ENJOY DINNER, DANCING, RAFFLES, AND A
FUN-FILLED EVENING WITH YOUR FRIENDS
SAN JUAN HILLS GOLF COURSE
NO HOST BAR**

RESERVATION DEADLINE—AUGUST 1ST

**\$60/PERSON—REFUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE
NO CHILDREN OR PETS**

**RESERVE YOUR SPACE AT THE JULY MEETING
OR MAIL CHECK TO: SJC GARDEN CLUB
32158 CAMINO CAPISTRANO, STE A PMB120, SJC, CA 92675**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A TABLE FOR EIGHT:
ALL CHECKS MUST BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER
WITH COMPLETE LIST OF ATTENDEES**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE SJC GARDEN CLUB'S
COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarship Recipient

Dear Donor of

San Juan Capistrano Garden Club in Honor of
Roz Morrissey Scholarship,

I am very grateful to be receiving your Scholarship. I've been taking each semester 1-2 classes at a time because it's been hard to pull the money together. Your investment in me ensures I won't have to sacrifice my education to make ends meet. Thank you while I work towards my certificates in Sustainable Horticulture & Ecological Restoration, I plan on becoming a UC Master Gardener & putting in as many volunteer hours as I can for local Restoration Projects & Farms. Over the Summer, I will be working for Centennial Farm at the OC Fair! After that, I hope to find work in a similar field elsewhere but this is "a foot in the door" & I couldn't be more excited. I appreciate your Scholarship with all of my heart.

Thank you,

Will Larsen



Restoring Butterfly Garden/Monarch Waystation



The transformation at the butterfly garden is absolutely amazing! A team of SJCGC members have worked together to create a haven for our fluttering friends. These hard workers have defined the gardens with borders, planted, pruned, weeded and watered! Please join "the regulars" Lynn Rollison, Pat Webster, Pat Lussier, Rus Miller, Inge Harris, Donna Pennington, and Pat Martin.

All are welcome to come out Mondays at 9:00 am.

If the work is too hard, your moral support is welcome!

Stay as long or as short as you want....love to have ya!

Butterfly Garden & Monarch Waystation

Peace Farm/Rancho Capistrano

Gardening for Butterflies

Gardening for butterflies is a suspenseful art, a bit like holding a picnic and wondering if your invited guests will show up. It's because butterflies are **choosy** insects. Any gardener can have aphids, but red admirals, painted ladies and tiger swallowtails insist upon certain amenities, such as sunshine and shelter from wind.

Content Counts, Not Style

To butterflies, the plants in a garden are more important than the design. They need flowers for nectar throughout the growing season. Luckily, many common annuals and perennials are top-notch nectar flowers. While native American species play an important role as host plants for hungry butterfly caterpillars, most adult butterflies have cosmopolitan tastes, supping as readily on the nectar-filled flowers of exotic plants as natives.

Butterflies seem especially attracted to gardens boasting generous patches of a given nectar flower. If you plant [Jupiter's-beard](#) (*Centranthus ruber*), don't settle for one or two plants. Try growing three or more patches of this especially popular nectar flower, and watch the swallowtails drift from clump to clump.

Read the rest of the article:

<https://garden.org/learn/articles/view/218/Gardening-for-Butterflies/>



Glue Guns Blazing!

Stem Senders at work at Kathy Dixon's house making Fourth of July decorations for Atria residents.



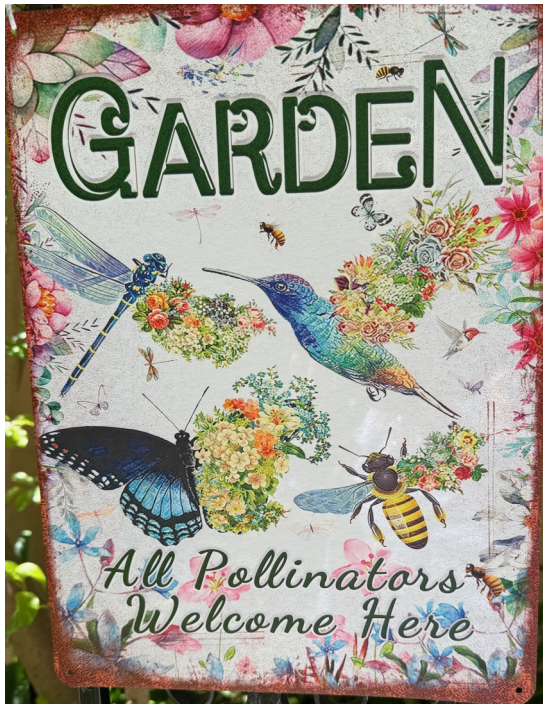
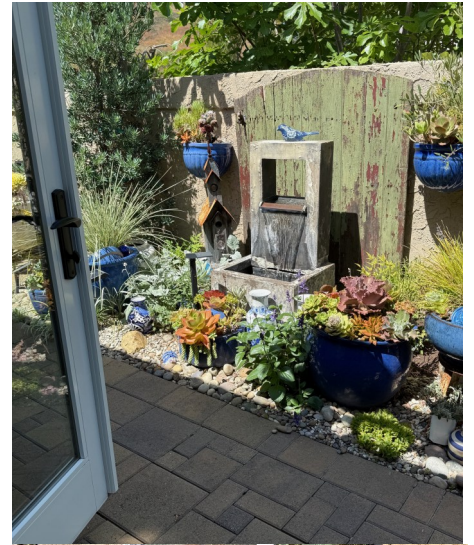
Thanks to Kathy Rowley for all these great pics



Garden Stroll 2025



More Garden Stroll 2025



Thanks to Kathy Rowley
for all these great pics



Managing Pests That Bug YOU

Pests that bother people, not plants



City of Mission Viejo/OC Master Gardeners—presentation by our own Shelly Trainor

Hi fellow gardeners,

Our next Master Gardener talk is going to take a different slant on pest management - pests that cause people, not plants, problems. Learn how to “outsmart” mosquitoes and other pests while still attracting beneficial bugs to your garden. Our speaker, Shelly Trainor, will present a common sense, integrated approach, including tips and tricks that will help both you and your garden thrive.

The talk will be presented in person and on Zoom.

Managing Pests That Bug People - In-person

Thursday July 10, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Norman Murray Center

24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Managing Pests That Bug People - Online

Friday July 11, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The Zoom link will be emailed prior to the class—will not be recorded.

Register:

<https://missionviejo.perfectmind.com/22969/Reports/BookMe4LandingPages/CoursesLandingPage?widgetId=c3a6893b-76f5-4d6b-b413-c0cd896b9486&redirectedFromEmbeddedMode=True&courseId=9e6ab502-d96e-4be9-b367-03d0fbf04361>

Registration woes? Call the friendly staff at the Norman Murray Center at (949) 470-3062 if you are experiencing difficulty or frustration in registering for the class

Kindest regards,

Kris Bonner

Master Gardeners of Orange County

kqbonner52@gmail.com | 949-434-9848

Just ONE Soybean Can BEE Fatal

Just one little soybean seed can be deadly for bees at every stage of planting and growth. Soybeans are one of the crops commonly coated with neonicotinoids, a class of pesticides known to be toxic to bees. Neonic-treated seeds are used for at least 70% of the soybeans, wheat, and corn planted in our country.¹

A single neonic-coated seed contains enough of the chemical to kill 80,000 bees.²

Here's exactly how a single soybean seed can wreak havoc on bees and our environment:

1. Planting



Planters and tractors make light work of planting millions of soybean seeds in the ground. But the farm equipment churns up the seeds as they're distributed, rubbing some of the neonicotinoid coating off the seeds. That creates a toxic cloud of pesticides.

If the wind picks up, that deadly dust cloud can travel. A bee could fly through the cloud, breathe in the pesticide, and die. The pesticide residue can also settle onto nearby habitats and poison bees when they go to pollinate nearby flowers.³

3. Toxic soil and water



The soybean seeds that made it into the ground start to grow. But 95% of the pesticide residue doesn't stay on the seed itself. Some of it leaches into the soil or washes off into nearby waters.⁶ Many wild bees make nests in the ground. If the soil is contaminated with neonics, it could hurt ground-nesting bees. And once the pesticides enter a waterway, all sorts of wildlife could be exposed to toxic neonicotinoids.

4. Flowers



Underneath the green leafy canopy of the soybean plant are tiny purple flowers that are often visited by bees.

Soybeans mostly rely on self-pollination, but some studies have shown that visits by wild bees can help increase soybean crop yields.⁷ And, of course, the bees visit the flowers to collect the pollen they need to survive.

However, because the soybean plant was grown with neonics, the pollen that bees collect is also laced with neonics. A bee exposed to neonics can lose cognitive function -- which means the bee can't find its way home. Higher doses or repeated exposure can paralyze and eventually kill a bee.⁸

5. Harvest



Now fully grown, the soybean crops are harvested. However, even though coating soybean seeds with neonics was intended to help produce more soybeans, it didn't increase yields.

A decade ago, the Environmental Protection Agency's research found that coating soybean seeds with neonics yielded practically no benefits.⁹

This is what happens when our default is to use toxic chemicals and ask questions later. Bees, birds, and other wildlife are killed, and wild bee species hurtle closer to extinction. So what was it all for?

A single seed coated with neonics is deadly. But it's not just one seed -- it's seeds on 150 million acres of U.S. agriculture.¹⁰ On that massive scale, it's too difficult for bees to avoid our toxic environment.

Treating seeds with neonics by default, even when it has little or no positive impact on crop yields, is wasteful and harms pollinators for no good reason. Farmers should be able to find and use seeds that are free from neonicotinoids. That's why we're working to restrict the worst uses of bee-killing pesticides, including those coated with neonicotinoids. Together, we can save the bees.

Laura Deehan

Director

[P.S. Bees are hard-pressed to escape deadly pesticides and the toxic environment surrounding them.](#)

1. Jonathan Hettinger, "[EPA says three widely used pesticides driving hundreds of endangered species toward extinction](#)," Missouri Independent, July 27, 2023.

2. Erin Hodgson and Christian Krupke, "[Insecticidal Seed Treatments can Harm Honey Bees](#)," Iowa State University, April 6, 2012.

3. Wayne Bailey, et. al., "[The Effectiveness of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments in Soybean](#)," Purdue University, December 1, 2015.

4. Kimberly A Stoner, "[Best Management Practices for Farmers Using Seeds Treated With Neonicotinoid Insecticides](#)," Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, January 1, 2017.

5. Don E. Woods, "[Did a pesticide cause 200 birds to die in South Jersey?](#)," NJ.com, January 20, 2017.

6. Elizabeth Royte, "[These widely used insecticides may be a threat to mammals too](#)," National Geographic, February 5, 2021.

7. Lisa Schulte Moore and Fred Love, "[Pollinating insects can help soybean yields](#)," Iowa State University, May 25, 2021.

8. Oliver Milman, "[Fears for bees as US set to extend use of toxic pesticides that paralyze insects](#)," The Guardian, March 8, 2022.

9. "[Benefits of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments to Soybean Production](#)," Environmental Protection Agency, October 3, 2014.

10. Elizabeth Royte, "[These widely used insecticides may be a threat to mammals too](#)," National Geographic, February 5, 2021.

Gardening Resources

Harmony in the Garden

<https://harmonyinthegarden.com/>

Blogs, tips, photos—Check out the issue:

Garden Ideas from Garden Tours: Takeaways, Tips, and Inspiration

Garden Design

<https://Gardendesign.com>

English, Japanese, Mediterranean, Tropical, Eco-friendly

LEARN ABOUT BUTTERFLY GARDENING

<https://naba.org/butterfly-gardens/>

Laguna Hills Nursery

Free gardening classes

<http://www.lagunahillsnursery.com/Classes.html>

Perhaps the most important lesson I learned when I began gardening in California and wanted success with certain perennials, trees, shrubs, and annuals, was the information on soil from Gary Matsuoka. Fortunately he is still teaching the concepts below. It is worth a trip to his Saturday classes at his nursery! The Soil Class is held several times a year.

Mozelle

Check out their extensive YouTube Content including:

Compost is NOT Good Soil:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GarysBestGardening>

Paper Garden Workshop

<https://www.papergardenworkshop.com/>

Garden Design and Landscape Graphics in a FUN way



More Gardening Resources



City Farmer's Nursery

<https://www.cityfarmersnursery.com/>

A Little Bit of the Country in the Heart of the City

Online database of bluebird trails in
OC & surrounding areas

<http://tiny.cc/SCBC-database>



Southern California
Bluebird Club

plant depot

NURSERY & GIFT

plantdepot.com

Sign up for their monthly newsletter

May is growing a herbal tea garden

Seasonal plant ideas, garden/soil/fertilizer guides

Santa Margarita Water District

<https://www.smwd.com/>

Lots of free classes , events and tours—gardening, landscape design,
water saving, irrigation, trips to local water storage & water treatment

UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR)

<https://ucanr.edu/>

Loads of articles on all aspects of gardening

California Native Plant Society

<https://www.cnps.org/>

All about CA native plants

Calscape

<https://calscape.org/>

Spectacular resource for finding, identifying and caring for native plants
from CA Native Plant Society

Monarch Watch

<https://monarchwatch.org/>

All things about Monarch Butterflies



And More Gardening Resources

Visit SJC SJC Chamber of Commerce

Sign up for their newsletter for events/happening in and around SJC

<https://www.sanjuanchamber.com/>

Orange County Bird of Prey Center

<https://www.ocbpc.org/>

Sponsor a bird for release—how cool is that!

A California Vineyard Garden at the Chelsea Garden Show

A CA vineyard with natives was featured at a past Chelsea Show! Sadly most CA vineyards don't follow the Bonterra vineyards plan. Driving along the backroads to Mendocino are countless vineyards of vines and bare soil that are sprayed with pesticides and herbicides. Mozelle Sukut



In May of 2002, Simon Legge, the canny marketing director of Fetzer and Bonterra wines in Europe, approached me about designing a garden at the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show in London to promote Bonterra wines. He had in mind a garden that would reflect the springtime character of the organic Bonterra vineyards in Mendocino County, CA, to illustrate the basic principles of organic agriculture: healthy soil means healthy plants, cover crops and compost improve the soil, and flowering cover

crops attract beneficial insects. Chelsea, as he showed me in the show statistics, had great potential, with 150,000 visitors over five days, and has media coverage as intense as our superbowl. It had the added attraction of visits by the royal family and other celebrities. How could one turn down such an opportunity?

From the [Spring 2004 Edition of Pacific Horticulture](https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/a-california-vineyard-garden-at-the-chelsea-garden-show/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet&utm_campaign=Lab%20Report)

[https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/a-california-vineyard-garden-at-the-chelsea-garden-show/](https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/a-california-vineyard-garden-at-the-chelsea-garden-show/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet&utm_campaign=Lab%20Report)

[utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet
&utm_campaign=Lab%20Report](https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/a-california-vineyard-garden-at-the-chelsea-garden-show/?utm_source=mailpoet&utm_medium=email&utm_source_platform=mailpoet&utm_campaign=Lab%20Report)



Gardeners are the only people who willingly go outside to get dirty, sweaty, bitten, and sunburned... and call it “relaxing.”

Thanks to Kathy Holman

Rethinking Your Lawn This Summer?

Can't face another summer of mowing and watering a thirsty lawn? Maintaining a lush green lawn can start to feel like a full-time job—especially with rising temps and tighter water restrictions. If you're looking for more eco-friendly, low-maintenance alternatives, this guide offers smart ideas to help you transition away from traditional turf. From native plant beds to walkable groundcovers and stylish gravel paths, discover creative ways to turn your yard into a more sustainable space—without sacrificing beauty

For the complete 411:

https://www.gardendesign.com/eco-friendly/lawn-alternatives.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Grass-Alternatives-6-26-25

<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/mosquito-bucket-challenge/>



What It's All About

Mosquito fogging kills nearly everything in your yard...except mosquitoes.

If you're working to create a thriving, biodiverse yard full of life, it doesn't make sense to kill it all with fogging!

The Mosquito Bucket Challenge is a simple, visible way to protect pollinators, birds, frogs, fireflies, and your family—without toxic sprays. By safely targeting mosquito larvae, each bucket helps save the wildlife that fogging puts at risk.

It's safe, it's affordable, it's better for biodiversity. And it actually works.

What You'll Need

A large bucket - 5-gallon works great, but any larger container that holds water will work.

Water

- A small handful of dead leaves or grass clippings.
- Mosquito dunks containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) - widely available online and at most hardware stores, garden centers, or home improvement retailers.
- A sturdy stick.
- Marker or paint for decorating.



A common mosquito dunk brand. (HNP doesn't endorse any brand).



Additional Tips

- It's helpful to start early in your mosquito season, before mosquito populations explode.
- Speed up the "funkification" of your water by leaving your bucket in the sun for a few days.
- Drill a hole where you want the water line so that any excess water from rain doesn't cause your bucket to overflow.



How to Make It

Step 1 - Decorate:

Write or paint "This bucket saves _____" at the top and fill in the blank with an example of the wildlife you're supporting (bees, butterflies, birds, frogs, fireflies, etc.).

Write or paint "Homegrown National Park" at the bottom of your bucket.

Optional: decorate it with the wildlife you chose!
Feel free to make it as simple or elaborate as you'd like.



Step 2 - Add Water

Fill the bucket about two-thirds full with water.



Step 3 - Make It Funky

Add a small handful of dead leaves or grass clippings (you want to make the water stinky!).

Leave plenty of water surface area so mosquitoes have room to land and lay eggs.



Step 4 - Add Your Dunk

Break up your mosquito dunk and drop approximately one-quarter of the dunk into your bucket.



Step 5 - Add a Stick

Place a stick in the bucket so it leans out above the rim. This gives small animals an escape route if they fall in.



Step 6 - Place Your Bucket

Place the bucket in a shady area, away from your house, play areas, or gathering spots. If you have pets or small kids around, place your bucket up high to keep it safe and out of reach. Add additional buckets if you have a larger yard.

Corners of the yard or property lines often work well. Every yard is different—try a spot that stays damp and quiet.