



Meet our new Nursery Discount partner, Surf City Growers

Surf City Growers is the newest addition to the Arboretum's nursery discount program.

In its second year, Surf City Growers was certified organic by the California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This makes the nursery one of the few organic ornamental plant growers in the state of California, and perhaps the only one on the Central Coast. It specializes in high-quality selections of unique ornamental perennials and annuals, using basic, natural growing practices to grow healthy, hardy plants.

"Being an ornamental plant grower, we're repeatedly asked why we chose to go through the certification process," says Linda McNair, co-owner. "That's simple. We grow herbs and they are edible. And if we didn't do it, we wouldn't be living up to our mission."

Founded by Trent and Linda McNair, the couple left high tech careers to pursue their passion for plants. As kids and pets were added to the family, the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides was out of the question. They felt that becoming Certified Organic was a great way to educate the community about organic gardening practices.



Linda and Trent McNair

Source: Rob Brodman, *Sunset Magazine*

Trent, who manages the growing operation, says: "Synthetic chemicals are not necessary to grow beautiful plants. Proper plant selection is the key; people simply need to choose what works well in their climate zone. Be reverent to the Earth, and it will take care of itself."

Surf City Growers, 1975 Cox Rd., Aptos. 831-688-1088. www.surfcitygrowers.com