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## OUR RAISED SENSORY BEDS

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### Raised Bed 1: SIGHT

Enjoy the colors of this bed and look over the whole garden from here. Notice the special leucadendron in the middle.



### Raised bed 2: SMELL

Herbs like rosemary and other scented plants are grouped in this bed. Please stop and sniff!



### Raised bed 3: TOUCH

Plants with interesting textures are grouped in this bed, like this beautyberry shrub. Feel free to touch the plants!



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## WHAT'S A SENSORY GARDEN?

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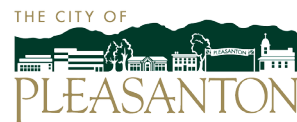
A Sensory Garden is designed to stimulate the senses so you can interact with the garden in a deeper way. Each plant in this garden was selected because of a particular characteristic—its shape, color, texture, fragrance, beauty, attraction to pollinators. By using all your senses—looking around, listening, smelling, touching—you will notice things you were not aware of before. And your visit might trigger happy memories of gardens in your past.

As you wander through the garden, we suggest you start with the raised beds where we have grouped plants according a particular sense.

As you continue, don't forget to look for pollinators to see which flower colors and shapes they prefer.



*Many thanks to the Garden Club, Rotary Club of Pleasanton, and the City of Pleasanton for their financial and other assistance for the Sensory Garden refresh project in 2023.*



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## LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

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# Sensory Garden



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## A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

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*Look at colors, shapes*

*Smell the plants*

*Touch the plants*

*Listen to plants moving and bees buzzing*

*Garden location: Centennial Park  
5353 Sunol Blvd., Pleasanton  
(beside the Pleasanton Senior Center)*

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## PLANTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN OUR GARDEN BEDS

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### Bed 1—Sight

#### Conebush (*Leucadendron salignum* winter red)

Multi-stem evergreen shrub grown for its attractive bracts and narrow leaves that turn to an intense purplish-red in the cooler months. Sun, minimal water.

### Bed 3—Touch

#### Lion's Tail (*Leonotis leonuru*)

Fast growing, evergreen shrub, 4-6 feet tall and wide. Bright orange blossoms that resemble the tuft of a lion's tail. Drought tolerant. Full sun.

Blooms: Summer–fall

#### Daphne (*Daphne odora*)

Evergreen shrub, 18–36" tall. Partial shade. Does not like dry roots so needs regular water.

Blooms: Fragrant blooms in early spring.

#### Beautyberry (*Callicarpa bodinieri*)

Deciduous shrub, 3-5 ft tall and wide. Its striking feature is clusters of glossy iridescent-purple fruit that remain after the leaves have fallen.

Full sun, partial shade, minimum 4 hours direct sunlight per day. Needs consistent moisture, an inch a week during dry spells.

#### Jerusalem Sage (*Phlomis*)

Evergreen perennial, 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. Drought tolerant once established. Full sun.

Blooms: Pale yellow hooded flowers in whorled clusters in summer.

### Bed 4—Mixed senses, plants that make Sounds

#### Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

Perennial shrub native in western California and the Sierra foothills to 10 feet+, partial shade to sun. Drought tolerant; only occasional deep watering during spring and summer.

Blooms: Small white flowers in early summer and small red berry-like fruit in fall–winter.

#### Smoke Bush (*Cotinus*)

Multi-stemmed small deciduous tree with smoky pink leaves and billowy hairs attached to flower clusters. Drought tolerant but performs best when watered once weekly during dry periods. Part shade to full sun.

Blooms: Summer

#### Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

Vase-shaped deciduous shrub 8–12 feet high and 6–10 feet wide. Drought tolerant but needs 1 inch of water weekly for spectacular blooms. Sun.

Blooms: Showy pink flowers that bloom mid-summer through fall.

### Bed 5—Mixed senses, Pollinator plants

#### Snowball Bush (*Viburnum opulus*)

Large dense bush up to 12 feet tall. Full sun, part shade.

Blooms: Snowball flowers in the spring turn from green to white to a rosy pink. Drought tolerant.

#### Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)

Colorful deciduous drought-tolerant tree that grows up to 25 feet tall, 25-foot spread. Drought tolerant after established but likes deep watering once or twice a month. Full sun.

Blooms: Summer

#### Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*)

California native shrub known for its reddish, crooked, and peeling branches. Size depends on variety. Sun, minimal water.

Blooms: Small white flowers in winter and spring that attract insects and hummingbirds. Other birds are attracted to the fruits.

#### Crepe Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*)

Colorful deciduous, drought-tolerant tree that grows up to 25 feet tall, with a 25-foot spread. Drought tolerant after established but likes deep watering once or twice a month. Full sun.

Blooms: Summer

#### Red Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)

Moisture-loving multi-stemmed deciduous shrub, 3–15 foot tall and wide. New branches with red bark emerge at the base and can root to form a thicket that is good for wildlife. Full sun to partial shade.

### Salvias throughout the beds

Beds 1, 2, 4, and 5 contain many different types of colorful and fragrant salvias. Salvias are magnets for pollinators. You might be able to find the salvias by listening for the buzzing of the bees and the whirling sound of the hummingbirds.