Keeping gardens alive with minimal water

Cabrillo College Extension is hosting the interactive workshop “Keeping Your Garden Alive During the Drought” 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4.

Topics will include do-it-yourself graywater and rainwater harvesting, landscape design with a landscape architect, and irrigation scheduling. Workshop leader Golden Love is a horticulturist, certified arborist, and licensed landscape contractor.

The workshop will start at Cabrillo with a presentation demonstrating water-neutral design principles, and a lab on how to convert spray heads to drip. Students will have hands-on experiences as they install a laundry-to-landscape watering system and a rain barrel to illustrate the basic principles of both. Also, they will visit a few gardens including a site that shows how people can have a thriving garden with zero summer water.

Participants are encouraged to bring photos, plans or drawings of their own gardens, and to ask lots of questions. The cost is $85 and discounts are available from certain water districts. Sign up online at www.cabrillo.edu/servicesextension/green.html.

Workshops focus on withstanding drought

Santa Cruz Ecology Action’s Nicole Douglas is doing a series of free presentations on gardening in times of drought. Attendees will learn how to remove their existing lawn and replant the area with drought-tolerant plants.

All workshops consist of a classroom portion in the morning followed by a hands-on installation.

Attendees must RSVP at www.centralcoastgreywater.org. Here are the remaining dates, times, and locations:

- Oct. 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Scotts Valley Water District, 2 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley.
- Oct. 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Cabrillo Horticulture Center, Room 5300, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos.

The Sentinel welcomes submissions for Home and Garden Digest. Email items to sentinelhomeandgarden@gmail.com.