

Clean Hands for Better Gardening – a project!

In Southern California we are lucky enough to be able to garden year-round, whether it's in your back yard, a community garden or a school garden!

Good hygiene plays an important role in all aspects of these gardens, as well as do clean tools!

It is good practice to wash your hands before and after gardening. In your home garden you have easy access to water, soap and towels. This is not always the case in other gardening activities you may participate in.

I volunteer my time in a community garden in Murrieta, Cultivating Inclusion, it is a venue for the disabled and provides fresh produce to local pantries.

There was a lack of a hand washing area, so I looked up different forms of a hand washing stations. Come to find out the Scouts often use a similar method while camping. The idea was to have an area away from the regular water source, and create a free-standing hand washing station, complete with antibacterial soap, fresh water and towels. After finding some images online, I asked my husband to make one for the community farm. I will say that the project turned out great and is very well made, a plus for a garden because it will last for a good while.



Even more emphasis has been put on the importance of hand washing during these trying times of Covid, as CDC guideline are being posted in many locations. Below I have included a link to different styles of signs that cover all age groups.

Besides what we have all learned as Master Gardeners and the dangers of pathogens and the damage they can do to a garden, I have included a link to a food safety publication, which is also available in Spanish.

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html>

<https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8366.pdf>