



Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

🐞 Please send us questions about gardening--we will do our best to answer them!

From Jacob Patterson:

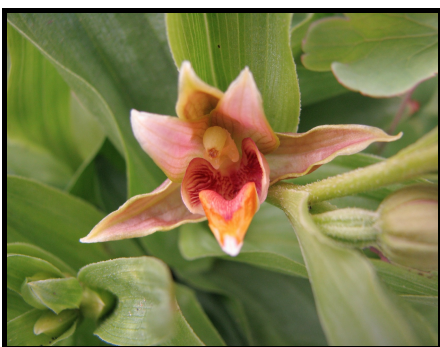


Native Strawberries: "I bought my original 4" pot from the Grow Native Nursery at RSABG and it has spread to cover an area of around 150 sq ft in five years through numerous runners. I occasionally transplant a small section of runner plants a little further out from the main cover area to quicken the progress of the spread. They really like the shady areas under my fruit trees,

which get sun in the winter after the leaves drop. I find it is best to rake up any fallen leaves every few days or the strawberry plants under the fallen leaves will die back (thankfully, they grow back once the leaves are removed). The fruit, though sparse and short-lived, is packed with flavor and are a favorite vanilla ice cream or yogurt topping. It is wonderful not only to have a ground cover to retain moisture, but to provide special treats as I tend the garden!"

More info about *Fragaria californica* at www.laspilitas.com

From John Anderson:



Stream Orchid: "Here is a photo of the Stream Orchid (*Epipactis gigantea*-native from British Columbia to central Mexico). The flowers are only about one inch in diameter, but they look impressive in the photo. This year, half of the crop did not come up. Hopefully, with the good rains next year they will come back. They are root stock, something like bulbs and they stay dormant half the year." (You

can find more info about this little gem at www.laspilitas.com).

Bulb Source: "Telos Rare Bulbs (<http://www.telosrarebulbs.com> sells bulbs from all over the world. The owner has a very good collection of California native bulbs. Calochortus, Brodiaea, Erythronium, Fritillaria, Camassia and Allium are some of the natives they carry. This is a mail order company near the Oregon border."

Ornamental of the Month

Schefflera species



Umbrella trees are evergreen tropical shrubs or trees which do well indoors or out. Outside some species can reach 20 ft, but they can be kept shorter and will even be happy in a large container. They tolerate a fair bit of shade and like good drainage with low to moderate water. Depending on species, clusters of small flowers resemble green sputniks, red tails, or yellow ears of corn. Variegated forms are available.

Edible of the Month

Prunus persica



Peaches are stone fruits like cherries and plums, and are the same species as nectarines (which are just unfuzzy peaches). Peaches generally fruit at about 3 years old, and need replacing at about 12 years. They need full sun, good air circulation, fertilizing, and regular water. Varieties for Claremont need to be ones that don't need much chilling such as Eva's Pride, Red Baron, Mid Pride, August Pride, Chelena, Desert Gold, or Tropic Snow.

An agave pup, a clone of the original plant, at right:



From Sharron Neyer:

"I love gardening from my head tomatoes!"

(seen on a wooden sign)

Watering: one size does not fit all

How much water to give your plants has always been of interest to gardeners, but it's of more pressing concern now that we are in our fourth year of a drought and water restrictions have kicked in. There is no magic formula for all plants and gardens, but we've created a summary of watering information that we hope will be helpful.

To see it, go to <http://www.sustainableclaremont.org/garden-club-sp-1077395353> and click on the link to "Watering Trees and Other Garden Plants".

Garden Decoration: Here's a creative and amusing display idea for a staghorn fern seen at the Fern and Exotic Plant Show at the Arboretum last month.



Spittlebugs: The foamy white mass you may see on some plants, like the rosemary at



left, is made out of plant sap by young froghoppers (an aphid relative) to protect them from predation and drying out. Although they suck plant juices, the damage done to woody plants is usually minimal. You can leave them be or cut off affected stems. The small adult spittlebugs can jump up to 100 times their body length!

Upcoming events and more:

August 3: Sustainable Claremont Dialog, "Backyard Orchard Culture –Drought Emergency Management", 7 pm, 420 N Harvard Ave. Free

August/September: Smart Gardening Workshops, 9:30-11 am, free. For dates and locations, see http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/wk_scheds.cfm

Chino Basin Water District: classes on waterwise landscaping, irrigation; mulch giveaways: <http://www.cbwcd.org/150/Workshop-Descriptions>

Armstrong classes: <http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>
Aug 1 Birds and Butterflies, Aug 8 Succulents, Aug 22 Firescaping

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden: www.rsabg.org/upcoming-events
Aug 2 Butterfly release

Huntington Library: Free talks plus plant sales on second Thursdays
www.huntington.org/WebAssets/Templates/content.aspx?id=538

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: "Schleffera" is named for German physician Jacob Christoph Scheffler; "persica" means "peach", originally meaning "Persian apple".

Plant miscellanea: A 'clone' arises from asexual reproduction so that it has the same genetic constitution as the parent. Fruit trees created by grafting, geraniums grown from cuttings, strawberry plants from runners, Kalanchoe plantlets, potatoes grown from tubers, agave pups, are all clones.

Things to do in August

General

- ✓ Check irrigation for leaks
- ✓ Order seeds for fall planting
- ✓ If near natural areas, take measures that will reduce the danger of fire http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/docs/CE_homelandscaping.pdf

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Cut off branches infected with fireblight 8-12" below damage; disinfect clippers with rubbing alcohol between cuts
- ✓ Check for scale on cycads; scrub off with soapy water
- ✓ Hose off red spider mites from both sides of infected leaves

Edibles

- ✓ Sow members of cabbage family in small pots to plant out in October
- ✓ Harvest cantaloupes when they "slip" off the vine; do not pull off or cut
- ✓ Harvest corn when kernels are 'milky'
- ✓ Root herb cuttings

Ornamentals

- ✓ Cut off suckers and water sprouts on fruit trees; do not leave stubs
- ✓ Prune roses lightly for fall bloom
- ✓ Feed camellias with acid fertilizer to encourage flower production

Please send photos and info about plants you've grown, gardens to visit, gardening lore, questions. Sue Schenk, editor

The Metropolitan Water District is not currently offering rebates for turf removal. <http://socialwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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