



# Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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July 2015

## Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

🐞 Visit our 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth in Memorial Park!  
Email us if you'd like to help staff the booth.



### Gardening for Wildlife

Native plants that attract bees, birds, and butterflies were the subject of the June Garden Club talk. The plant list handout and the PowerPoint presentation are posted on the SC website ([www.sustainableclaremont.org](http://www.sustainableclaremont.org))

Although native plants have special benefits, non-natives also provide food and shelter for many animals. (Sunflower photo by Patty Lindberg).

Nancy Hamlett and the Field Museum have produced a wonderful guide to our local butterflies with photos of ones from the Bernard Field Station.

<http://fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org/guides/guide/664>

If you plant our native perennial Wishbone Flower (*Mirabilis californica*), you may see spectacular caterpillars (left)!



### Ornamental of the Month

*Calliandra californica*



Baja Fairy Duster is not quite a California native but these 3-5ft shrubs with small, ferny leaves produce 2" bursts of bright red stamens in spring and summer. They are very attractive to bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. The equally delightful Pink Fairy Duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*) is a California native and a smaller shrub. Both prefer full sun, are very drought tolerant and evergreen. (Photo by Patty Lindberg)

### Edible of the Month

*Cucurbita pepo*



Summer squash needs sun (will take some shade), good drainage but regular water (about 1" per week), mulch. Bush types are easier than vines (just barely time to put some in for late summer harvest). Fruit on long types is best when under 6"; patty-pan types when under 3". Blossoms are edible too. Pick every one or two days. (Image courtesy of Hardy Plant Society).

### An Ancient Prayer of the Woods (Sent in by Sharron Neyer)

A reminder to take care of our trees (water deeply once or twice a month).

*I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights,  
the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun,  
and my fruits are refreshing droughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.*



*I am the beam that holds your house,  
the board of your table,  
the bed on which you lie,  
and the timber that builds your boat.  
I am the handle of your hoe,  
the door of your homestead,  
the wood of your cradle,  
and the shell of your coffin.  
I am the bread of kindness and the  
flower of beauty.*

*'Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: Harm me not.'*

## Smart Gardening Workshop (sent in by Jacob Patterson)

July 25, 9:30-11 am, Joslyn Center, Larkin Park, 660 Mountain Ave, Claremont: Learn backyard composting, waterwise gardening, worm composting, and grass cycling. No reservation needed [http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/pdf/7-25-15\\_Claremont.pdf](http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/pdf/7-25-15_Claremont.pdf)

## Ferns and Spores

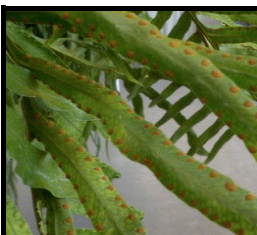


Those who are not familiar with ferns sometimes worry unnecessarily when they see fuzzy, brown growths on the underside of some fronds, but these are nothing to bother about.

Ferns evolved before conifers and flowering plants developed, so they reproduce through spores rather than seeds. Spores only have one set of chromosomes, just like eggs and sperm do in animals and seed plants. They develop in small structures called "sporangia" which are often grouped into structures called "sori". The sporangia/sori vary in size and arrangement as can be seen in the photos at left that I took at the recent fern show at the LA Arboretum.



The parent plant, which is what you buy and take home, is called a "sporophyte". In some ferns, all mature leaves produce spores; in others, only some, the "fertile" fronds, produce them. The dust-like spores are released and grow into separate plants that are much smaller than the sporophyte and look nothing like it. This tiny "gametophyte" plant produces either eggs or sperm (gametes), sometimes both. The sperm swim to the eggs if there is a film of water available, and a new sporophyte plant emerges from the fertilized egg,



destroying the gametophyte as it grows.

Although most ferns live in moist areas, our small, local native Gold-backed Fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*; right) grows at the Bernard Field Station in the shade of shrubs, dying down in summer and emerging in early spring.

### Upcoming events and more: No GC meetings in July or August

**June 28: "Experts in the Garden-have your gardening questions answered"**, 1-4pm, Humpty Dumpty House, 24630 University Ave, Loma Linda. Free. <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/sbmgblog/>

**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>

**Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden:** [www.rsabg.org/upcoming-events](http://www.rsabg.org/upcoming-events)

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

## Did you know?

**Botanical Latin:** "Eriophylla" means "wooly leaf"; "triangularis" means "with three angles"; "pepo" means "melon".

### Plant miscellanea:

A spadix is a spike of extremely tiny flowers surrounded by a showy, modified leaf, as in a Calla lily or Peace lily, or this *Arum*



*creticum*. (Photo from the Hardy Plant Society.)

## Things to do in July

### General

- ✓ **Water trees deeply!**
- ✓ Check mulch and replenish if needed
- ✓ Check/adjust irrigation
- ✓ Identify hot, dry garden areas; plan to replace plants not doing well in fall

### Pest/disease management

- ✓ Enclose grapes in cut off sections of pantyhose to keep out insects/birds
- ✓ Hang whole sunflower heads to attract seed/insect eating birds
- ✓ Remove fallen fruit

### Edibles

- ✓ Transplant seedlings in late afternoon or evening when it is cool; water well; shade; mulch
- ✓ Too late for corn; sow carrots and beans directly in ground
- ✓ Plant parsley or fennel for swallowtail butterflies

### Ornamentals

- ✓ Divide bearded iris; discard pieces without foliage; replant others
- ✓ Root cuttings of azalea, camellia, gardenia, fuschia, holly, hydrangea
- ✓ Deep water trees once or twice

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

The Metropolitan Water District is offering rebates for turf removal, rain barrels, soil moisture sensor systems. Info at:

<http://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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