




# Garden Notes

[www.sustainableclaremont.org](http://www.sustainableclaremont.org)

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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!

## The Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org)



This is one of the best demonstration gardens I've seen and well worth a visit if you are in the San Diego area. The garden covers mulch options (above left), xeriscaping (middle), water conservation in more traditional landscapes (right), edible gardening, fire prevention gardening, and much more!

## Raised bed ideas to inspire you!



The planter on the left (photo courtesy of Dorcia Bradley) was one we saw on the recent Garden Club field trip to the Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies at CalPoly Pomona. The others are ones at the Water Conservation Garden. All are easy access and the two at right will keep out pesky critters!

## Plants to grow under oaks



Our native oaks are gorgeous trees but cast a good bit of shade and dislike wet roots, so planting under them presents some challenges. Check out "Compatible Plants Under and Around Oaks" for info about many aspects of growing oaks. One good choice is our native *Ribes speciosum*, the thorny, glossy-leaved, fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, pictured at left. <http://www.californiaoaks.org/html/reference.html>.

## Ornamental of the Month

*Eriogonum fasciculatum*



Buckwheat is a tough, evergreen, needle-leaved native shrub about 2ft tall by 3ft. Full sun, low water. In April, plants send up many 12" stems with short stalks radiating from the top. The clusters of small flowers can be pink or white. The petals age to a russet towards the end of summer. Pollinators love the flowers and the seeds are a food source for our native Harvester ants. (Photo from the Bernard Field Station)

## Edible of the Month

*Rubus fruticosus*



Blackberries prefer at least 6 hr of sun a day, rich soil, moderate water, and good drainage. Plant 3-4 ft apart in rows 8ft apart. Self-fertile. Fruit is produced on 2 yr old canes. Both erect and trailing varieties do best if trellised. Good heat-tolerant trailing types are Boysen and Ollalie; good erect ones are Cherokee, Shawnee, and Cheyenne. Some have thornless forms. For excellent information on cultivation, see <http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Berries/Blackberries/>

## A summary of the current Claremont watering restrictions [www.ci.claremont.ca.us](http://www.ci.claremont.ca.us)

(Look for "Water" under the "Living" tab)

- Houses with addresses ending in 0,2,4,6,or 8 can water Monday and Thursday; those addresses ending in 1,3,5,7,or 9 can water on Tuesday and Friday.
- No watering should take place between 9am and 5pm.
- Sprinkler stations should be turned on no longer than 15 min. each on watering days.
- The 15 minute limit does not apply to drip irrigation or to watering by hand (if carried out with a nozzle that turns off when released). Watering days do still apply.



## Remember to water trees deeply once or twice a month

Be sure your trees don't suffer if you remove a lawn or change to more drought-tolerant plantings. Trees provide so many benefits and take so long to mature that it is in our best interest to make sure they survive the current drought. They can and should remain an integral part of our gardens as we move toward more climate-appropriate landscaping. More info on caring for trees in a drought is on the Garden Club pages of the SC website: [www.sustainableclaremont.org](http://www.sustainableclaremont.org)

## Low-Water Landscape Expo (see Upcoming Events)

From the flyer sent out by DRIP:

Want a Claremont-friendly garden? Want to eliminate your lawn?

Keep your trees? Come to a FREE landscaping expo!

- ▶ Meet contractors ready to give information and estimates
- ▶ Hear from experts about turf removal, landscape design, water-efficient irrigation, maintenance, and more!
- ▶ Learn about the new drought restrictions!
- ▶ Live music, kids' activities, and a food truck!

## Favorite Quote (courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

***"What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it."***

*Charles Dudley Warner, My Summer in a Garden, 1871*

## Upcoming events and more

**June 6-7: Cactus and Succulent Show**—San Diego, [www.sdcss.net](http://www.sdcss.net)

**June 10: Garden Club**—6:30-8:30 pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd at Pilgrim Place. Talk at 7pm by Susan Schenk: **"Getting WILD(life) in your garden"**.

**June 13-14: Fern and Exotic Plant Show**--LA Arboretum [www.laifs.org](http://www.laifs.org)

**June 14: Low-water landscape expo**—11am to 3pm at the Sustainability Resource Center—in the Lenz Building at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave

**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>

This month: Roses, Hummingbirds and Butterflies, Plumerias

**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:** "Fasiculatum" is derived from a Latin word meaning "bundles", and refers to the leaves being attached to the stem in small groups (see the buckwheat leaves in photo at left). "Fruticosa" means "shrubby" or "bushy".

**Plant miscellanea:** The scientific study of blackberries is called 'batology'!

## Things to do in June

### General

- ✓ Irrigate in early morning to reduce evaporation
- ✓ Mulch but keep it away from trunks
- ✓ Postpone major planting until the fall
- ✓ Check plants often for water stress

### Pest/disease management

- ✓ Keep weeds down as they use water
- ✓ For whiteflies, hang sticky yellow traps in infested bushes
- ✓ Pick beans when they are dry to avoid spreading disease
- ✓ Wash aphids off with soapy water
- ✓ Treat yellow leaves with green veins with chelated iron

### Edibles

- ✓ Pull garlic and bulb onions; cure indoors on newspaper til dry, store
- ✓ Rotate crops
- ✓ Avoid monocultures; include flowers and herbs to confuse insects

### Ornamentals

- ✓ Remove canes that flowered from climbers like "Lady Banks", tie up new canes, remove suckers
- ✓ Prune *Rhaphiolepis* and rosemary
- ✓ Pick and deadhead roses and perennials to prolong bloom
- ✓ Prune epiphyllums

**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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