



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!



Garden Decoration

Let your inner artist loose and add some decorative focal points to your garden this year! Here are just a few ideas: balance rocks or place bamboo sticks in a pot; draw the eye with colorful ceramic structures or mosaic pots; embellish a path with beautiful metalwork or slow the eye with a maze; let rocks erupt from a driveway; recycle colorful found objects as decorative art or planters; paint a wall; make a retaining wall of tires, concrete, and leaf impressions.



Ornamental of the Month

Peritoma arborea



Bladderpod (formerly *Isomeris arborea*) is a dense, evergreen California native shrub to 4ftx4ft. It has gray/blue leaves with three leaflets 1-2" long. Most of the year the plant produces clusters of yellow flowers which are a good nectar source. These are followed by puffy fruits which give it its common name. Full sun, low water, good drainage. (Photo taken in John and Talin Anderson's garden)

Edible of the Month

Lactuca sativa



Lettuce comes in many varieties which easily cross wit each other so seed saving is iffy. An easy annual to cultivate but hot weather triggers flowering so best sown here in fall and spring. Likes full sun with regular water. Outer leaves from loose leaf varieties like the ones above can be cut as needed and used not only in salads, but in soups (eg, soften chopped onion in butter, add shredded lettuce, fresh herbs, peas, diced potatoes, broth, cook 20 min, puree).

Compost: because a rind is a terrible thing to waste!

You can compost to make waste disappear, or to produce an excellent soil amendment—the choice is yours! The Garden Club article the Courier recently published provides a bunch of useful information. It's posted on the Garden Club Articles and Newsletters page at www.sustainableclaremont.org.

Those Dratted Squirrels!



Not only are the non-native fox squirrels eating my fruit, flowers, and leaves, and chewing off branch tips, but they are stripping the bark on my woody plants. One chewed a perfect rectangle on a mulberry limb and others shredded the trunk of a wisteria. Netting keeps them off but isn't practical for all plants. Some Harvey Mudd College students recently found that hanging containers of Irish Spring soap repelled squirrels pretty well. Let us know if this or any other easy, non-toxic method works for you so we can spread the word!



Free Staghorn Ferns!

Garden Club friend Marcy Clements recently divided one of her huge ferns and has donated the divisions and backing boards to the club. Pick one up at the June meeting, or email us.



Garden Quote

"A garden is a complex of aesthetic and plastic intentions; and the plant is, to a landscape artist, not only a plant – rare, unusual, ordinary or doomed to disappearance – but it is also a color, a shape, a volume or an arabesque in itself."

Roberto Burle Marx

Upcoming events and more

June 8: Garden Club – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **"How to Banish Garden Pests"**

June 9: Huerta del Valle Spring Seed Swap, free, 5-6:30 pm, 831 E. Belmont St, Ontario, more info at (909) 395-2205

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>

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden: www.rsabg.org/upcoming-events

Huntington Library: Free talks, plant sales www.huntington.org/

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: "Arborea" means "tree-like"; "sativa" means "that which is sown".

Plant miscellanea: "Humus" is a dark nutrient-rich layer that forms when organic material decays enough to lose all its structure.

Things to do in June

General

- ✓ Keep weeding
- ✓ If watering has packed down the soil, break up surface with a garden fork

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Remove leaves near grape clusters to improve circulation
- ✓ Rotate crops; intermix vegetables and flowers to confuse pests
- ✓ Place gardenias where night temps are over 60 degrees to prevent bud drop

Edibles

- ✓ Sow last corn
- ✓ Shake tomato plants to distribute pollen; plant short season varieties
- ✓ Let thyme and oregano bloom for cooking and for bees and butterflies
- ✓ Remove runners from strawberries and fertilize 0-10-10
- ✓ Finish thinning tree fruit and water well

Ornamentals

- ✓ For fragrance at dusk, plant tuberose, moonflower, brugmansia, *Nicotiana glauca*, four o'clocks, jasmine
- ✓ Pinch alyssum, geraniums, penstemons for bushier growth
- ✓ Plant pink muhly or blue grama grass instead of invasive Mexican feather grass
- ✓ Keep cool season lawns 2-3" tall; keep warm season ones short
- ✓ Cut back on water to most succulents and many California natives

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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