



# Garden Notes


"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

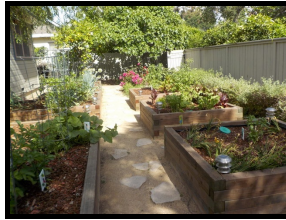
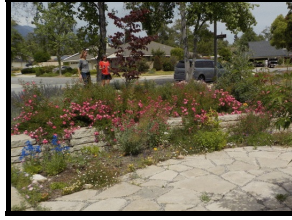
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May 2016

## Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

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



**The 2016 Garden Tour was a great success!**  
The weather was perfect, the gardens beautiful, and a good time was had by all!

The Garden Club presented checks for \$300 to Oakmont Outdoor School, Vista del Valle Elementary, and Claremont High School to help fund gardening-related projects, including purchasing glazes for ceramic projects destined for the CHS garden. Garden tour dollars at work! The School Board gave the Garden Club a certificate of appreciation (above right).



**Many thanks to member Dean McHenry** who donated a copy of "*Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens*" (in Spanish and English) to the Garden Club library. Claremont Heritage kindly provides room for our library in Garner House in Memorial Park. Checking out books is free. Garner House is open M-F from 9am to 1pm.



Photo at left sent in by Sharron Neyer who saw it on "The Humble Gardener" website.

## Ornamental of the Month

*Sphaeralcea ambigua*



Desert mallow is a lovely small, rounded evergreen shrub with gray, fuzzy leaves. Usually about 2ft tall by 3ft but can grow taller where happy. Flower stalks reminiscent of miniature hollyhocks arise in early spring. Usually orange but pinkish variations exist –both can be seen in this photo of a planting in **John and Talin Anderson's** garden. Best in full sun with good air flow, low water.

## Edible of the Month

*Allium cepa var aggregatum*



Shallots are members of the onion family that grow in heads like garlic. Plant bulbs in fall with the tops a bit above ground in soil not recently manured and harvest in summer. Shallots originated in Asia and have a mild flavor. They are used fresh, cooked, and pickled in many cuisines. You can find more info and recipes at <http://www.food.com/about/shallot-127>

## Need some help in identifying pests and diseases?

See the updated University of California Integrated Pest Management website <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=20670>



**Ollas** are earthenware pots. Glazed ones are used for cooking, but unglazed ones can be a useful irrigation tool. They can be buried in the soil next to a plant you want to water with just the neck above ground and filled with water. The water seeps slowly through the sides into the soil, targeting the roots and avoiding loss to evaporation.



The olla above is one sold by Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds in their re-purposed “seed bank” in Petaluma. A great place to find rare and heirloom seeds and other gardening delights! Catalog at <http://www.rareseeds.com>

## Starting seeds on your windowsill— a few thoughts

- The general rule is to plant about as deep as twice the width of the seed--too deep and the seedling may run out of energy before it reaches the light.
- If seedlings dry out they will die and no amount of water will resurrect them (I just killed some sorrel seedlings this way).
- You can get better germination for large seeds such as sweet peas if you soak them overnight before planting and for some with hard seed coats like morning glories and lupines if part of the coat is worn away so water can enter (you can hold a seed with pliers and file a hole in the coat, avoiding the “eye” where the seedling will emerge).
- Once they are up seedlings need enough light to avoid getting “leggy” so you may need to move the pots to a sunnier window or outside (but too much heat will hurt them).
- You can thin groups of seedlings by pinching off the unwanted ones (pulling them out can disturb the roots of the one you want to keep).
- Too high humidity once they are up can encourage damping off fungus.

## Upcoming events and more

**May 11: Garden Club** – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **“Dinner from the Garden”**

**May 13,14: Gates Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale**, 9am-4pm, 450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, CA, [www.gatescscs.org](http://www.gatescscs.org)

**Smart Gardening Workshops**, 9:30-11 am, free. For dates and locations, see

[http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/wk\\_scheds.cfm](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](http://www.rsabg.org/upcoming-events)

**Huntington Library:** Free talks, plant sales [www.huntington.org/](http://www.huntington.org/)

## Did you know?

**Botanical Latin:** “Ambigua” means “uncertain” or “of doubtful identity”; “aggregatum” means “flocking together” or “growing in groups”.

**Plant miscellanea:** “Nectar” is a fluid containing sugars, amino acids and other compounds that is attractive to pollinators. Usually produced in flowers but sometimes nectaries are found on stems and in other parts of the plant.

## Things to do in May

### General

- ✓ Water as needed
- ✓ Mulch
- ✓ Pull out unwanted volunteers

### Pest/disease management

- ✓ Put out some peanuts to lure scrub jays to areas with caterpillar damage
- ✓ Plant herbs and flowers in/near veggies to confuse pests
- ✓ Reduce spreading rust by picking beans when they are dry

### Edibles

- ✓ Continue to thin fruit on trees
- ✓ Harvest regularly to keep veggies producing
- ✓ Sow cucumber, melons, okra
- ✓ Leave pea and bean roots in soil after harvest to add nitrogen to soil
- ✓ Let onions dry out once foliage starts to die

### Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant iris, tuberoses, roses
- ✓ Replace cool-season annuals with summer ones
- ✓ Start perennials from seed
- ✓ Prune winter/spring bloomers after flowering
- ✓ Start reducing water for CA native that don't like summer irrigation
- ✓ Finish pruning camellias, azaleas

**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/>

**Facebook:** Claremont Garden Club  
**Instagram:** Claremont\_Garden\_Club