



# Garden Notes


"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

[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!

**Succulent talk:** (For info on succulent biology, see Dec 2014 newsletter at [www.sustainableclaremont.org](http://www.sustainableclaremont.org).)

We had a lot of fun watching Judy Casanova create a succulent wreath at our October meeting. If you'd like to get in touch with her to buy a wreath, arrange a workshop, buy cuttings to make a wreath of your own, or arrange a consultation about growing succulents, you can email her at [judycasanova@gmail.com](mailto:judycasanova@gmail.com).



**Favorite Quote** (courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

**"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all."**

Stanley Horowitz



### Garden Mushrooms:

First things first: Since it's very hard to distinguish the edible from the poisonous, only eat mushrooms you buy. Note--animals can't tell the good from the bad, either.

There are about 200 tree species in the US but tens of thousands of fungal species, so it's no wonder these weird, wonderful, and absolutely necessary organisms crop up in our gardens from time to time (photo at left from Sharron Neyer).

Only some fungi produce what we call mushrooms. Mushrooms are reproductive structures produced by a huge mass of narrow filaments ("hyphae") called a "mycelium". The point of mushrooms is to produce tiny spores which will grow into new mycelia and produce more mushrooms. You might remove them if you are worried about children or pets, but be aware that the original mycelium will still be in the soil, ready to reproduce again.

Mushroom-forming fungi are actually indispensable parts of the garden. Saprobic fungi break down organic matter in the soil, recycling it and keeping us from being engulfed by dead stuff. If you have damp bark mulch, you are likely to see white mycelia growing under it, decomposing the bark. Mycorrhizal fungi are symbiotic with many plants. Their mycelia wrap around the roots and help them absorb water and nutrients, as well as improve soil consistency and protect the roots from pathogens. In return, the fungus gets sugars and amino acids from the plant. Many plants cannot survive without their particular fungal

## Ornamental of the Month

*Crinum moorei*



My crinums were in the garden when we bought our house over 30 years ago. They form large clumps of huge bulbs which sit about a foot tall even after the 3ft long, 5 inch wide leaves die down in fall. Up to 10 fragrant, pale pink flowers are produced sequentially on 3ft stalks in the summer. Mine grow in light to moderate shade with low to moderate water. May self-sow a bit.

<http://www.plantzafira.com/plantcd/crinummoor.htm>

## Edible of the Month

*Solanum tuberosum*



Potatoes are one of my favorite foods and the pretty flowers are a plus. There are many unusual varieties. Full sun, fairly high water, good drainage. Not heat or frost tolerant: plant here Nov-Jan or Jul-Aug, in ground or containers. Get Info at <http://www.rodalorganicle.com/garden/7-ways-grow-potatoes> <http://www.almanac.com/plant/potatoes> <http://www.almanac.com/plant/potatoes>

(Photo: Hardy Plant Society <http://www.hardy-plant.org.uk>)



Succulents planted in tiny pumpkins last a week. Then plant out, pumpkin and all!  
(Created by Amy Rojo)

partner. Some species tho, are parasitic and attack living tissue, but by the time you see a mushroom on a plant, there is already an extensive mycelium. The fungus may only be cleaning up a little dead wood, but it may mean the tree is ill. If you see a mushroom on a tree, it's best to consult an arborist to determine if your tree is in trouble or not.

Most soil mushrooms disappear in a few days, so think about the good they are doing and enjoy them while they are there! There is an excellent website at <http://www.mushroomexpert.com/yard.html>

### More Places for Garden Supplies (Sharron Neyer )

In addition to Armstrong, Mt Fuji, Lowes, Home Depot, and Garrison's, you might want to include the following on your supplier list:

**Sunshine Growers:** 13130 Milliken, Ontario (909) 923-7277

Very large nursery with great selections. Trees, sod, landscape materials.

**Thompson Nursery:** 11027 Cherry Avenue, Fontana (909) 350-3000

Provides building materials, brick, stone, and pavers, plus much, much more. Again a very large nursery. Prices are reasonable.

**Foothill Building Materials:** 133 Foothill Blvd, Pomona (909) 593-3970

Rock, gravels, nice pottery and prices are fairly good.

**O.F. Wolfinbarger Inc:** 5675 Francis, Chino (909) 627-7481

Decorative rock, sod, sand, gravels, decomposed granite. And bring your truck!!!!

### Need a reason to get some new garden furniture?

David Sawhill ([dsawhill@yahoo.com](mailto:dsawhill@yahoo.com)) wrote: "I advise the Claremont High School garden and students are in need of a few pieces of outdoor furniture. Currently we have one rocking swing (which is highly desired) and 3 chairs. If you know of anybody getting rid of a rocking swing, colorful chairs, small tables, etc., then please send them my way. If it is colorful or interesting, it will help attract high school students to the garden. If you have any large pieces of outdoor art, we could incorporate that too!"

**Interested in planting an apple tree?** I found a nursery that specializes apples for warm climates (<http://www.kuffelcreek.com/index.htm>), but the minimum order is 10 trees (can be assorted). Anyone interested in joining me in an order? If so, send me a message at [gardenclub@sustainableclaremont.org](mailto:gardenclub@sustainableclaremont.org). Cheers, Sue

### Upcoming events and more:

**Nov 11: Garden Club**—6:30-8:30 pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont.

Talk at 7pm by **Vicki Peyton "The health benefits of gardening"**

**Fullerton Arboretum: Plant sales, 10am-4pm**--Nov 7-8, CA Native Plants; Dec 5-6

Cactus & Succulents [www.fullertonarboretum.org](http://www.fullertonarboretum.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 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:** "Tuberosum" means it forms tubers; "Crinum" is from the Greek "krinon", meaning "lily".

**Plant miscellanea:** Corms are one of many methods of asexual reproduction. They are sometimes confused with bulbs, but a corm, such as that of *Crocus* or *Gladiolus*, is an expanded portion of a stem and solid if cut through, while a bulb, such as a daffodil or onion, is a set of overlapping leaves with a small stem area at the base.

### Things to do in November

#### General

- ✓ Start moving shrubs and trees growing in wrong places
- ✓ Use pine needles as mulch, especially for acid-lovers like camellias

#### Pest/disease management

- ✓ If any tree crowns have grown too dense, consider having them thinned a bit to allow wind through and prevent storm damage
- ✓ If all else fails and there is too much damage, consider a (lethal) Blackhole trap for gophers

#### Edibles

- ✓ Plant olives and pomegranates
- ✓ Plant chard, radishes, carrots, beets
- ✓ Plant strawberries in early November
- ✓ Prune cane berries
- ✓ Plant garlic, potatoes, and onion sets

#### Ornamentals

- ✓ Divide Matilija poppies (*Romneya coulteri*); move large sections keeping roots intact, water well
- ✓ Thin sweet peas, pinch back
- ✓ Plant containers for winter; consider underplanting with daffodils
- ✓ Plant California natives
- ✓ Cut red fountain grass back when new growth starts

**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://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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