



# Garden Notes

“Creating edible and ornamental gardens”

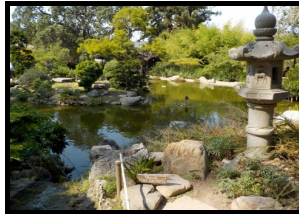
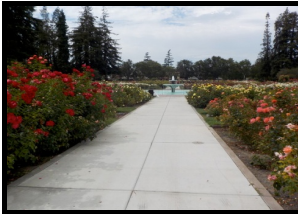
[www.sustainableclaremont.org](http://www.sustainableclaremont.org)

[gardenclub@sustainableclaremont.org](mailto:gardenclub@sustainableclaremont.org)

October 2015

## Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

 Please send us questions about gardening!



**Two to visit:** the gorgeous Municipal Rose Garden in San Jose and the lovely Hakone Japanese garden in Saratoga.

**Small waterwise trees:** A member wanted suggestions for a small, waterwise tree. Here are some that grow to about 20 x 20ft.

**Deciduous:** *Lagerstroemia* (Crape myrtle), *Prunus cerasifera* (purple leaf plum), *Prosopis* species (mesquite), *Cercis occidentalis* (western redbud), *Cercidium* varieties (palo verde), *Chilopsis linearis* (desert willow), *Sambucus mexicana* (elderberry)

**Evergreen:** *Prunus illicifolia* (hollyleaf cherry), *Acca sellowiana* (pineapple guava), *Olea europa* (olive), *Agonis flexuosa* (peppermint tree, weeping), *Eriobotrya japonica* (loquat), *Geijera parviflora* (Australian willow), *Laurus nobilis* (sweet bay)

## Collecting Seeds: Save money and have fun!

Individuals in natural populations of plant species can vary in characteristics such as height, color, petal number, disease resistance, and so on. When the plant makes gametes, each egg and pollen grain gets a copy of one member of each chromosome pair. Which of the two copies goes to a particular gamete is random so not all contain exactly the same set of instructions. Mutations, tho rare, also can alter the directions that a gamete contains. This means that when eggs and sperm form embryos naturally, the population tends to retain diversity. This helps ensure that, if environmental conditions change, at least some of the population is likely to be able to cope and reproduce well.

If you collect seed only from selected plants, the next generation should be less diverse. If you further restrict breeding only to individuals with a desired trait (such as fragrance) over many generations, genetic variability for this character can be removed until the plants “breed true”.

If you allow “open pollination” of true-breeding plants, they may receive pollen from a member of a nearby population of the same species with different traits, and the offspring will again exhibit a range of characteristics, which may be just fine with you—save the seed and enjoy the surprises next year! However, to ensure that offspring from a true-breeding variety are like

## Ornamental of the Month

*Cotoneaster horizontalis*



This cotoneaster is a great groundcover for sun or part shade, growing to 2 ft tall and 7 ft wide. The small white flowers are followed by masses of bright red berries which attract birds. Evergreen but often gets good fall color. The stiff branching pattern gives architectural interest. Looks good leaning over a short wall or rocks.

## Edible of the Month

*Prunus illicifolia*

Hollyleaf cherry is one of our local natives. This shiny-leaved evergreen is normally a large shrub, up to 20 ft tall and wide, but can be pruned into a small tree or a hedge. Likes a bit of shade and requires no extra water once established. Bees love the cream-colored flowers in late spring, and other animals like the fruit. The cherries turn black when ripe and have a very large seed. They make a good jam.



the parents, you need to be sure that the eggs receive pollen only from a flower of the same true-breeding variety. You can do this by enclosing a flower just about to open with a bag to exclude pollinators and then, when it opens, using a brush to move pollen to the stigma. Re-bag for a day or two.

Many popular garden plants are the result of crossing two true-breeding varieties so that all the offspring have the same new combination of characteristics. However, if these hybrids are crossed, their offspring will vary; some will be like the hybrids but others will be like the parents of the hybrids. If you want to grow more of a hybrid variety, buy new seeds. More info:

<http://www.seedsavers.org/Education/Seed-Saving-Resources/>  
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/garden/07602.html>  
[www.rodalorganiclife.com/garden/beginners-guide-seed-saving](http://www.rodalorganiclife.com/garden/beginners-guide-seed-saving)  
<http://www.dianeseeds.com/saving/flower.html>  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCs4QrRMt18](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LCs4QrRMt18)

**Update on helping Monarch populations:** If you want to help Monarchs, be sure to plant a native milkweed species that dies down in the winter, such as *Aesclepias fascicularis*, *A. speciosa*, *A. californica*, *A. cordifolia*, or *A. eriocarpa*. The beautiful red and yellow tropical milkweed, *A. curissavica* should be avoided. It is evergreen so it entices the butterflies to stay around instead of migrating, and this increases the chance that they will get a deadly parasite. If you have this in your garden, replace it or cut it down every couple of weeks in the winter. More info at <http://monarchjointventure.org/>.



**From John Andersen:** Garrison's Foothill Nursery, 679 E. 16th Street, Upland, is a great resource (909-949-9878, cell 909-243-5173). They specialize in hardy plants of the South West and fruit trees and always have a pretty good inventory of California Natives. The owner, John Garrison, can special order natives from his supplier.

This 3x4ft native bee house at the Oakland Museum has bamboo and reeds packed around cylinders (and petals) of wood with holes drilled in them.

## Upcoming events and more:

**Oct 3: California Friendly Landscape Workshop**-8:30-11:30 am, La Verne, free, register at [mbarragan@ci.la-verne.ca.us](mailto:mbarragan@ci.la-verne.ca.us) Pre-reserve a free rain barrel

**Oct 3,4: Veggiepalooza** 10am-4pm, <http://fullertonarboretum.org/home.php>

**Oct 4: Low-Water Landscape Expo**, 11 am-4pm, free, Sustainability Resource Center at RSABG <http://www.sustainableclaremont.org/>

**Oct 14: Garden Club**-6:30-8:30 pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd at Pilgrim Place. Talk 7pm. Demo by Judy Casanova on "**Making Succulent Wreaths**"

**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)

→ **Oct 3, Fall Planting Sale, 10 am-4pm**

**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:** "Illicifolia" means "holly-like" (referring to toothed leaves); "horizontalis" means "flat to the ground".

**Plant miscellanea:** The upper petal in pea, bean, and clover flowers is called a "banner" petal. The two below it are the "wings" and these flank the last two petals which are fused into a "keel" which covers the stamens and pistil.

## Things to do in October

### General

- ✓ Reduce frequency of watering but not number of minutes each time
- ✓ Remove finished annuals, veggies; compost them; tidy beds and replant

### Pest/disease management

- ✓ Use trunk protectors on fruit trees if rodent damage is seen
- ✓ Hand pick slugs and snails from succulents in early evening
- ✓ Prevent birdseed from sprouting by baking 300 degrees for five minutes
- ✓ Bury chicken wire under new lawn areas to foil gophers.

### Edibles

- ✓ Plant chard, chives, lettuce, peas, spinach, kale, radishes, garlic
- ✓ Transplant artichokes, beans, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli
- ✓ Harvest herbs to make wreaths or flavored vinegars as presents
- ✓ Mulch carrots when 4" tall to prevent "green shoulders"

### Ornamentals

- ✓ Sow or transplant columbine, coral bells, coreopsis, honesty, poppies, foxgloves, snap-dragons
- ✓ Divide acanthus, agapanthus, Shasta daisies, iris, statice, yarrow
- ✓ Transplant azaleas and camellias, thin bloom buds, feed
- ✓ Buy and plant spring bulbs

**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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