



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!**

Current pests and diseases in my garden (Sue Schenk)



Citrus leafminers: These pests arrived in California about 10 years ago. The tiny, silvery moths with feathery wings lay eggs on the surface of soft, new leaves. Larvae burrow into the leaves and eat the inside, forming tunnels. When a larva is large enough, it exits the tunnel and moves to an edge, causing the leaf to wrap around it. The larva pupates, and emerges as a new moth. Trees over 4 years old aren't harmed by the pests

but young ones may be if the leaf damage is severe. Older leaves are too tough to host the larva. Even affected leaves photosynthesize so the usual advice is just to ignore the damage which will be less obvious as leaves mature. Since I am trying to keep my grapefruit small, I've just pruned off the curled leaves.



Powdery mildew: Two kinds of powdery mildew can affect stone fruits. One attacks leaves and fruit in spring and a second attacks leaves in late summer and fall. Both fungi grow on the surface and send threadlike structures (mycelia) into the plant to extract nourishment. The first species spends the winter inside buds and infects the leaves as they emerge and later the fruit.

Roses can get the same fungus so treating or removing any that are nearby should help reduce fruit tree infection. The second species appears in late summer and fall and overwinters in tiny black reproductive structures on the surface of buds and bark, and on dropped leaves. Infection by both is worst in warm, humid conditions, and in shady areas. Control is difficult, but picking up all leaves and sending them to the landfill will help (since my apricot is small and it's fall, I picked off all the leaves and threw them away--I'll let you know if

Ornamental of the Month

Cercis occidentalis



Western Redbud is a favorite small multi-trunked, fast-growing deciduous tree. Native to California but not to Claremont. Blue-green, heart-shaped leaves; pink to magenta pea-type flowers in early spring attract native bees; followed by long, flat pea-pod shaped fruits; good autumn color. Full sun, drought-tolerant but does best with some summer water, flowers best with some winter chill. (Photos taken at the Bernard Field Station)

Edible of the Month

Acca sellowiana



Pineapple guava (feijoa). Slow-growing evergreen shrub or small tree to 15'x15', leathery leaves with gray underside, interesting reddish bark. Full sun to part shade, moderate to low water. Best fruit set near other guavas. Egg-sized green fruit in fall, best immediately after they drop. Complex aroma, sweet-tart flavor. Edible petals a good addition to salads. Birds and squirrels also like the flowers. (Flower photo from Wikipedia; fruit in my garden).

this seems to help next year). Fungicides can be used for severe and persistent problems, but don't use one containing sulfur on apricots as it is toxic to them.



The Chino Basin Water Conservation District has a demonstration garden in Montclair at 4594 San Bernardino St. Hours are 8 am to 5pm, Monday-Saturday. Well worth a visit!



Seaside Gardens in Carpenteria is an excellent nursery with well-labeled demonstration beds of water-wise plants (grasses above). www.seaside-gardens.com



Dorcia Bradley took photos of Texas Sage aka Texas Ranger (*Leucophyllum frutescens*) and of Louisiana iris



(a group of 5 native US species) at **Joe Daugherty's garden** during the 2014 Garden Tour. Gray-leaved Texas Ranger likes full sun and is very

drought-tolerant. Early-blooming Louisiana irises prefer some shade and moderate water, but the flowers are spectacular.

🌸 Plant for pollinators! To find out how to increase the number of native pollinators in your garden, go to the Xerces Society website at <http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/gardens/>.

Upcoming events and more

Nov 12: Garden Club –“Life after Lawns: 8 steps from grass to a waterwise garden”, a talk and book signing by **Molly Bogh**, Pilgrim Place, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, 6:30-8:30 pm

Armstrong classes: <http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

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

Nov 8: 10-11:30 am, free talk, “Edible and Medicinal California Native Plants” at their Los Angeles Grow Native Nursery location. Plants for sale

Nov 15: Family Bird Fest, free with garden admission, 10am-3pm

Nov 15-16: Acorn Festival, free with garden admission, 10am-3pm

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: “occidentalis” means “western”; “sellowiana” means it is named for Friedrich Sellow (1789-1831) who collected many South American plants.

Plant miscellanea: A “biennial” is a plant that produces leaves, stems and roots its first year and flowers and fruits in its second year and then dies. Examples: parsley, Sweet William, onions, carrots.

Things to do in November

General

- ✓ Use pine needles as mulch for acid-lovers or as paths
- ✓ If necessary, prune dense trees a bit to allow wind to move through them
- ✓ Now through January, transplant shrubs and young trees that are in the wrong places

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Pick up fallen fruit tree leaves
- ✓ Check to see if used pots, stacks of lumber and suchlike are providing homes for pests such as slugs or snails

Edibles

- ✓ Plant onions, garlic, shallots
- ✓ Plant seedlings of beets, cabbage, chard so roots establish over winter
- ✓ Plant bare-root artichokes
- ✓ Plant strawberries early in month

Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant California natives
- ✓ Plant *Alstroemeria* (Peruvian lilies); full sun, rich soil, low water when not in bloom
- ✓ Plant sweet peas; “Fragrantissima” is a good choice
- ✓ Plant 5-6 large daffodil bulbs in a 12" pot with tips just below soil. Water, keep moist. Flowers last best in half-day sun (they will turn to face sun)

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/>