



Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

🐞 Please send us questions about gardening



Fall at the Bernard Field Station

Some local native plants don subtle fall color: deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*-photo) stems lose leaves and turn a pleasant rust color, and buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) flowers turn from white to orange-brown, contrasting well with the dark, evergreen needle-like leaves. Bright red-orange toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) berries harmonize beautifully, as do the masses of small, yellow daisies that appear on pinebush (*Ericameria pinefolia*) to the delight of late pollinators. All are good garden plants.

WUCOLS—what are they and how can they help you?

Now is a good time to start thinking about changes to our gardens so it's useful to have some idea of how thirsty various species are as we make plans. Help is at hand—the California Department of Water Resources and UC Cooperative Extension produced the "Water Use Classification of Landscape Species", commonly called the "WUCOLS" (<http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>). This list currently categorizes about 3500 species, cultivars, and hybrids as having Very Low, Low, Medium, High, or Very High water needs.

(FYI as you plan, Claremont city code requires at least 50% cover by living plant material in front and corner side yards.)

Favorite Quote (courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

"The greatest gift of the garden is the restoration of the five senses."

Hanna Rion

Garden Inhabitants (photos courtesy of Teresa Wilmott)



The strange creature in the photo at left somewhat resembles a bird dropping as it munches citrus leaves. When frightened, it puts out a smelly, orange, forked gland as a defense mechanism, which has led to its nickname of "orange dog". If you have a lot, you can hand pick and dispose of them, but leave some as this unprepossessing caterpillar will develop into a beautiful giant swallowtail butterfly!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papilio_cresphontes

Ornamental of the Month

Rosa rugosa



Beach rose spreads to form thickets up to 5 ft tall. The stems are densely covered with 1/4" brown prickles. The leaves are 3-6" long and have an attractive pleated or corrugated look. The white or intensely pink, scented flowers appear in spring, followed by large, round, orange hips. There may be flowers and fruit at the same time. The leaves turn bright yellow before falling. Disease-resistant, tough, tolerates partial shade and low water; many hybrids.

Edible of the Month

Mentha species



Mint comes in many varieties from classic peppermint to chocolate. All do best with ample water, part to full sun, and can spread widely if in the ground. Perennial, evergreen, 4" to 4' tall depending on variety. Flowers small but attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mentha>

<http://www.delish.com/cooking/g1130/mint-recipes/>



The second photo shows hanging egg sacs of a bolas spider, a small, nocturnal orb weaver that doesn't make webs. Females catch tiny moths and flies by releasing an attractive pheromone and then lobbing a sticky glob (a "bolas") at them on the end of a line of silk, and reeling them in. Males just grab what goes by. Oddly enough, many of these spiders also resemble bird droppings.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolas_spider

New Board Members! We are delighted to announce that Teresa Wilmott and Lynda Dialo have joined the Garden Club Board.

Past GC talks: Ever wonder what the past Garden Club talks have been? We just posted a list on the SC website. Take a look!

Change in Watering Restrictions: In case you missed the notice, outdoor landscapes can now be watered by automatic irrigation three days a week instead of only two (if your previous days were TF, you can add Sunday; if they were MTh, you can add Saturday). There is still no limit on watering time for drip irrigation or hand watering.

Light Pollution

One of the important but often overlooked effects of modern life is the addition of artificial light to the environment. Birds which navigate using the stars can be confused by light coming from windows and skylights; nocturnal insects and other animals can have their internal clocks disrupted; plants that require a certain number of hours of darkness to bloom can be fooled. Keeping the duration and amount of light overflow to a minimum helps us all!

Upcoming events and more

Oct 12: Garden Club – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **"Basic Irrigation Workshop"**

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/

Various events listed on Gardening in LA website

<http://www.gardeninginla.net/botanical-gardens-and-other-organizations-garden-events.html>

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: "Rugosa" means "wrinkled"; "glaber" means "hairless".

Plant miscellanea: Plant "hairs" (trichomes) grow out of the epidermis. They can have one or many cells, can be branched or unbranched, sparse or dense, on any part of the plant, some can skewer attacking insects or produce chemicals that repel predators (including us).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trichome>

Things to do in October

General

- ✓ Cut back, prune, clean up, move
- ✓ Replace mulch
- ✓ Plant permanent plants except bare root, tropicals, natives

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Put chicken wire under new sod to discourage gophers
- ✓ Hand-pull crabgrass
- ✓ Repel rabbits, cats, dogs, opossums with mothballs (or crystals if balls might be mistaken for candy)

Edibles

- ✓ Encourage dormancy in deciduous fruit trees—no fertilizing, reduce water
- ✓ Clean, loosen compacted soil, add amendments, plant winter veggies
- ✓ Tie up peas to stakes
- ✓ Cut down brown asparagus stems

Ornamentals

- ✓ Divide daylilies, clivia, iris, fortnight lily, bird of paradise
- ✓ Progressively prune pelargoniums: remove dead or dying branches, cut back a couple to a few leaves each month—stubs won't recover
- ✓ Sow wildflower seeds
- ✓ Pinch sweet peas to force branching
- ✓ Treat blue hydrangeas with ammonium sulfate

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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