



# Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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

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April 2018

## Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

 Please send us questions and items for the newsletter



Come along on April 15 and have fun seeing what others have done and to get ideas for your garden, while at the same time supporting the garden club! Tickets are still only \$20 and include entry to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden on the day and once again in the following month. You can purchase them [online](#) or in person at [Garner House](#) or [Rio de Ojas](#).

**We are delighted to welcome Kathy Mason and Beth Benjamin to the Garden Club Board!**

## Renew Your Garden with Wildlife in Mind



Whether you have several acres or only a balcony, you can join in the effort to support local wildlife:

- Grow plants that provide cover, nesting areas or food sources for birds, butterflies and other wildlife
- Provide a water source (keep small patch of muddy puddles for butterflies; change birdbath

water every other day; keep mosquito fish in ponds)

- Maintain wildlife shelters: bat house, birdhouse, dead tree or uncultivated patch for ground-nesting bees
- Grow plants both wildlife and people like: thyme, anise, basil, carrot, coriander, dill, fennel, mints, sage, etc; let some go to seed



• Don't use pesticides or herbicides and embrace the holes in leaves!

• When those lovely butterflies begin to appear, use the [simple color guide](#) to our local butterflies created by the [Bernard Field Station](#) and the Field Museum.

## Ornamental of the Month

*Distictis buccinatoria*



Red trumpet vine is a native of Mexico. The fast-growing stems can reach 30-40 ft long and attach to supports with tendrils. The leathery, 4" leaves are evergreen and the flowers appear from early spring to fall. Sun to part shade and moderate water. Tolerates temps down to 25 degrees. Attracts birds, bees, and butterflies.

## Edible of the Month

*Calendula officinalis*



Pot marigolds are charming cottage-garden annuals that brighten beds and provide edible flowers. They bloom from summer through fall in full sun or part shade and attract bees and butterflies. You can get lots of growing information at the [Cornell gardening site](#) and some suggestions about eating the petals at the [epicurious site](#).

Be sure that you grow this particular species for the petals, tho—don't eat those from *Tagetes* species such as French, African, or Mexican marigolds.

## Flower Show



**Our thanks** to judges Don Delano from Fairplex Farm and Anna Dunlop from Armstrong Nursery, and to all those who entered and visited our free show—a good time was had by all! Here are a couple of photos (more will be posted soon on our website). We hope you will plan to join in the fun next March!

## Favorite Quote (courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

*"Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow."*

Unknown

## Are you partial to sunflowers?

Then consider finding space for some Lemon Queen sunflowers and join the [Great Sunflower Project](#). Lots of fun for kids!

## Tomatoes (visit March speaker [Dave Freed's blog](#) for lots of info)

A few notes from his talk: pick a heavy-bearing variety—"Brandywine" is a good choice for an heirloom; "Husky" is a good cherry form. Dig a 2 ft wide and deep hole and replace the soil with a sphagnum-based potting soil. Set out plants in March (choose a heat-tolerant variety if later); give mature plants 2-3 gal of water a day and use a liquid fertilizer regularly. Support with a very tall and heavyweight tomato cage and tie the stems to it on the outside.

**Seedless tomatoes?** Yes--hybrid seeds and plants available from [Burpee](#).

## Upcoming events and more

**Apr 11: Garden Club** – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **"The Urban Beekeeper"**

**Apr 15: Garden Tour**- details at [www.claremontgardenclub.org](http://www.claremontgardenclub.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:** "Calendula" refers to the latin for "little clock"; "Distictis" is derived from the Greek words "dis" and "stykos" referring to the seed arrangement

**Plant miscellanea:** A tendril is a leaf or stem that is modified into a slender, spiral coil that helps a climbing plant attach to its support, such as is found in peas.

## Things to do in April

### General

- ✓ Prune dead parts from groundcovers; consider shortening to stimulate growth; plant new ones by end of month to establish before summer
- ✓ Keep on top of weeding and mulching
- ✓ Save pruned branches to use as stakes

### Pest/disease management

- ✓ Let some cole crops flower to attract lacewings and parasitic wasps
- ✓ Thin seedlings as packets direct to prevent competition, fungal infection

### Edibles

- ✓ Sow heat-resistant lettuce, peas
- ✓ Set out cucumbers, beans, peppers, squash at end of month
- ✓ Plant or sow herbs among vegetables
- ✓ Plant avocados, citrus, pomegranates
- ✓ Plant smaller amounts in succession to extend harvest
- ✓ Thin fruit on deciduous fruit trees

### Ornamentals

- ✓ Feed roses
- ✓ Plants summer bulbs and corms: caladiums, callas, cannas, iris, lilies
- ✓ Consider rosemary, leonotis, and ceanothus to brighten dry areas
- ✓ Choose azaleas while in bloom
- ✓ Feed bulbs that bloomed; do not remove leaves until yellow; tie neatly and hide with annuals
- ✓ Plant hanging baskets, patio tubs

**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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