



# Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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## Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

 Please send us questions and ideas about gardening



### Heat Damage

Temperatures well over 100 along with low humidity have done a number on some of our plants, like the camellia at left and Japanese maples, and more is to come. Make sure that plants are watered really well before the heat hits, and resist the urge to prune off the damaged leaves until the fall. They may not look nice, but the undamaged portion is still feeding the plant, and the damaged areas may help shield other leaves.

### Plumeria Seedlings

We had a great talk about these popular plants in June and the speaker gave out free seeds. I hope to bring some young plants to give away at the September meeting.



### July Potluck

We had a great time with good conversation and masses of excellent food! Mark December 12 on your calendar for our winter potluck!



### Fairy Gardens

The entries for the fairy garden competition at M&M Nursery, 380 N Tustin St, in Orange, were a lot of fun to see, as were their permanent examples! Some were very complex but one of my favorites was this simple one with a face on the trunk of the "tree". Closer to home, miniature garden enthusiasts can find materials at [Petals and Wings](#) in Claremont.

### Ornamental of the Month

*Fallopia baldschuanica*



Russian, Mile-a-Minute, or Silver Lace vine is tough, fast-growing, and semi-deciduous. Stems can reach 30ft and are covered with oval, pointed leaves to 4" long. Masses of tiny, white flowers appear from early spring to late fall. Can (and should) be pruned severely in winter to keep it in check. Old stems become woody but even cutting it down to the ground won't kill it. Likes full sun, low to moderate water, frost-tolerant, pest-free.

### Edible of the Month

*Anethum graveolens*



[Dill](#) is a great addition to the herb garden. An annual 2-3 ft tall with thread-like leaves and umbels of yellow flowers. Attracts beneficial insects and bees. Great with salmon, potato salad, carrots, and of course, dill pickles (for some recipes, click [here](#) or [here](#)). Likes full sun, regular water, good drainage, rich soil. Best used fresh.

## Two Recommended Plants:



### *Cuphea* "[Vermillionaire](#)"

A hummingbird magnet! Evergreen, about 2ft tall and wide, with 1" long, tubular flowers spring to fall. Full sun (does better in my garden with shade in hot part of the day), moderate water, frost tender.



*Solandra maxima*, [Cup of Gold vine](#), is a favorite of mine. Can grow to 40ft with glossy 8" long leaves and fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers up to 8" wide and long in late winter to early summer. Light shade and regular water.



## Two You Should Avoid!



*Asparagus setaceus*, [climbing asparagus fern](#) (not a fern) is pretty but an invasive thug that smothers whatever it grows on. The stems have thorns and the roots are hard to dig out. It will seed itself around garden beds and climb up through hedges. Poisonous fruit.



*Stipa tenuissima*, [Nasella tenuissima Mexican Feather Grass](#) is shaping up to be a serious pest in Southern California. The plants are pretty and tough but each one produces hundreds of seeds, many of which happily germinate in sun or light

shade, even in areas with no water, in bare soil or among other plants. The group in the photo are colonizing an unwatered parking strip, offspring from the parent plants in a nearby drought-tolerant landscape.

## Upcoming events and more

**Sept 12: Garden Club** – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. "**Perfect Partners: Gardening with natives and all sorts of edibles**"

**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:** "Solandra" is named for Swedish naturalist Daniel Solander; "maxima" refers to the large flowers

**Plant miscellanea:** An "umbel" is a fairly flat cluster of flowers whose stalks all start at the end of the main flowering stem. These secondary stems may produce flowers (a simple umbel) or they may branch again before producing flowers, (a compound umbel, see photo of dill at left)

## Things to do in August

### General

- ✓ Water before it gets hot and your plants wilt; check your irrigation system; renew watering basins
- ✓ If soil is so dry it won't absorb water, treat with surfactant such as Aqua-Gro Soil Wetting Agent

### Pest/disease management

- ✓ Wash off aphids
- ✓ Watch for signs of [fire blight](#); prune back about a foot
- ✓ Watch for [oleander leaf scorch](#); no cure so destroy infected plants
- ✓ Check yellow cycad leaves for scale; gently scrub off

### Edibles

- ✓ Keep up with harvesting
- ✓ Prune water sprouts, vertical shoots from mature deciduous fruit trees
- ✓ Train new branches on espaliers
- ✓ Start seeds of cool season crops: celery, cole crops

### Ornamentals

- ✓ Feed, water roses; prune a bit
- ✓ Remove dead stems from daylilies and agapanthus
- ✓ Feed white fortnight lilies; remove seed pods but not stems which re-flower
- ✓ Water and fertilized cycads

**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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