



Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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July 2018

Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

 Please send us questions and ideas about gardening

Potluck July 11, 6:30 pm: If you'd like to come to our annual summer potluck, send us an email and we will send you the location.



The Amazing Spadix: Evolution has resulted in quite a few exotic flower forms, but one of the most interesting is the spadix which is common in the arum family (Araceae). Pretty much everyone is familiar with classic white calla lilies and the more recent fancy small yellow or pink versions, but it is actually the pillar in the middle that holds the tiny, closely-packed, stem-less and petal-less flowers. The often colorful growth surrounding the spadix is called a "spathe" and it helps attract pollinators to the multitude of unisexual flowers (male on top and female below), a clever development that gets a lot of fertilization for a minimum of resources spent. Some arums, like the famous "[corpse flower](#)", smell like rotting meat which attracts certain flies and beetles. Anthuriums and peace lilies are other members of this family.

Ornamental of the Month

Passiflora spp



[Passion flowers](#) are tropical vines that climb by tendrils and are most commonly purple, but there are yellow, red, white and multicolored forms. Frost tender, they prefer even moisture, slightly acid soil, and some protection from hot afternoon sun. They flower on new growth so prune in spring. They attract many pollinators, including [Gulf Fritillary butterflies](#). Some produce [edible fruit](#).

Edible of the Month

Ocimum x citriodorum "Pesto Perpetuo"



This variegated basil likes full sun (but will tolerate some afternoon shade), regular water and can reach 4ft tall and 2 ft wide. Pinch to keep it bushy. A hybrid that doesn't flower and may act as a perennial in a frost-free location. Can be used fresh or dried as seasoning, and makes a pretty garnish. It looks good in the flower border and containers as well as the herb garden.

Favorite Quote (Courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

"One of the healthiest ways to gamble is with a spade and a package of garden seeds" Anonymous



String of Pearls

Senecio rowleyanus is a charming succulent. The leaves are the shape of small peas with a translucent strip of tissue on one side extending to a small pointed tip at the end. The shape retards water loss and the "window" allows more light inside the leaf. The stems can reach as much as 3ft long and would trail along the ground in their native South African habitat. The plants prefer filtered light and low water. The small, fluffy, white flowers each last for about a month and smell like cloves so put this plant where you can smell them. *Note: the sap may be irritating and they are mildly poisonous.*



California Thistle

Cirsium occidentale is also called the "cobweb" thistle because of the mass of soft, white hairs in the flower heads. It is a biennial or a short-lived perennial and is not at all invasive. Most of these at the



[Bernard Field Station](#) have deep pink flowers up to 3" across in the spring, and grow 4-5 ft

tall, with silvery, hairy, deeply-lobed, prickly leaves. They attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and insects that eat the plant attract predatory insects and insect-eating birds. The hairy seeds provide nesting material as well as food for various birds as well.

Upcoming events and more

July 11: Garden Club Summer Potluck – 6:30 pm, email us to get the address

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/

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: "Ocimum" comes from the Greek "okimon" meaning "aromatic herb"; "citriodorum" means "lemon scented"

Plant miscellanea: "Stipules" are small, outgrowths at the base of many leaves. They can be leaflike as in rose leaves (see left) but can also be spiny or glandular.

Things to do in July

General

- ✓ It's getting hot so check irrigation and add to mulch.
- ✓ Trim, prune, deadhead, divide, create shade where needed
- ✓ Watch out for sleeping bumblebees in vegetable and flower beds

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Replace cymbidiums that show black fungal spots
- ✓ Check conifers for bark beetle damage
- ✓ Tolerate caterpillar damage so you get butterflies
- ✓ Treat iron deficiency in camellias (yellow leaves with green veins)

Edibles

- ✓ Keep citrus and avocados watered or fruit may fall
- ✓ Harvest summer vegetables; replant varieties that will be mature by fall
- ✓ Stop pinching off strawberry runners; use for new plants in fall

Ornamentals

- ✓ Feed cymbidiums, move to light shade, don't let dry out
- ✓ Water, fertilize, pick roses
- ✓ Prune once-blooming climbing roses
- ✓ Plant summer annuals like vinca, marigolds, zinnias
- ✓ Grow coleus in filtered light, keep watered, pinch off flowers
- ✓ Give camellias and azaleas a last feed
- ✓ Feed cacti and succulents
- ✓ Separate pups from bromeliads

Please send photos and info about plants you've grown, gardens to visit, gardening lore, questions. Sue Schenk, editor

The MWD turf removal rebates have restarted. <http://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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