



Garden Notes

www.claremontgardenclub.org

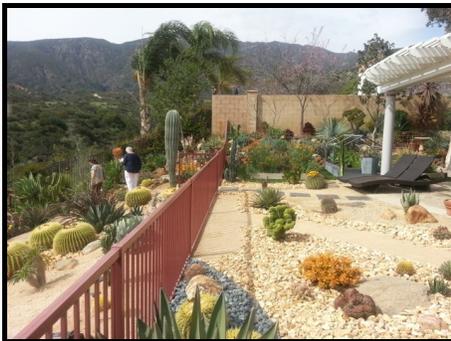
info@claremontgardenclub.org

May 2018

Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

 Please send us questions about gardening

Garden Tour: Many thanks to everyone who helped out or visited, and especially to the garden owners: Leila, Zeb and Taj Hawkins, Joanne and Jack Haskins, Paul Faulstich, Susan and Steve Tarvin, Devorah Lieberman and Roger Auerbach, and Jim and Cat Coffman!



Ornamental of the Month

Watsonia aletroides



This watsonia produces 3 ft tall stalks of 2-3" long coral blooms from March to May in Claremont and is a favorite of bees and hummingbirds. The corms of this iris relative spring into life in late fall and grow into clumps of 2 ft tall leaves which die down in early summer. Don't remove the leaves until they turn yellow. Moderate water, less when dormant, and happy in sun to light shade.

Edible of the Month

Tropaeolum majus



The annual nasturtium has [edible](#) flowers, seedpods and leaves. Sun to light shade, moderate water, no fertilizer (likes poor soil). Forms with orange, red, yellow, and bicolor blooms, and variegated foliage. Dead-head to keep it flowering. Self-sows. Blooms in spring if planted in fall; otherwise in summer. Good in containers.

Favorite Quote (courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

"Gardens are a form of autobiography."

Sydney Eddison



Oxalis pes-caprae

Also known as "[Bermuda buttercup](#)" and "[sourgrass](#)", this is a common volunteer in Claremont gardens, sometimes welcome and sometimes not. The small bulbs are hard to eliminate once they appear in your garden. They produce 6-10" tall clumps of bright green, clover-shaped leaves in early spring topped by 12-15" stems of

nodding, yellow, bell-shaped flowers with bright orange anthers. Bees love them and they last surprisingly well in a vase. By mid-April, they start to die down and by mid-May are completely dormant until the following February. I quite like them in some areas but ruthlessly weed them out of others.



Dormant buds in stems

As a stem elongates, it maintains an apical bud at the tip which generates growth in length, and produces tissue that becomes leaves. A lateral bud occurs at the point where the leaf joins the stem and these produce new branches and perhaps flowers. On a woody stem where the leaves have dropped, you can still see the

slightly raised areas, called "nodes", where they were. Very often a number of dormant buds have been formed here and if damage to the stem occurs, plant hormones may stimulate them into growth. Pictured are dormant buds sprouting on a scrub oak stem a month after it was pruned down to 12" as part of a hedge renovation. This sort of growth is what happens to many trees when they are pruned too severely—a lot of "water sprouts" develop along what is left of the branches, making the tree unsightly, affecting its health, and necessitating more frequent care. [Trees generally require very little pruning.](#)

Upcoming events and more

May 5: Tour of Chino Basin Water Conservation District

<https://www.cbwcd.org/> Let us know if you plan to come

May 9: Garden Club – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **"The 12 Elements of a Bird-Feeding Station"**

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: "Majus" means "bigger" or "larger"; "Watsonia" is named after 18th century physician and naturalist, Sir William Watson.

Plant miscellanea: "Peltate" leaves are ones like those of nasturtiums, where the blade is more or less circular with the petiole coming out of its center.

Things to do in May

General

- ✓ Water, mulch and weed as needed
- ✓ Deadhead
- ✓ Prune winter and spring flowering shrubs after they bloom

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Finish picking up dropped flowers under camellias; put in trash
- ✓ Set out cans of unshelled peanuts on tomato stakes to attract scrub jays—they'll eat tomato worms too
- ✓ Plant a mix of herbs near/in beds to attract beneficial insects

Edibles

- ✓ Plant beets, carrots, squash, corn cucumber, eggplant, melons, peppers
- ✓ Pick zucchini when small and eat flowers and all
- ✓ Fall-planted parsley will soon flower and die so plant more
- ✓ Plan ahead and plant a giant pumpkin for Halloween!

Ornamentals

- ✓ Iris are blooming—decide on ones to plant in fall
- ✓ Don't let cymbidiums dry out; keep in light shade; fertilize regularly
- ✓ Prune camellias and azaleas
- ✓ Plant tropicals such as bouganvillea
- ✓ Repot, feed ferns
- ✓ Cut back side shoots on wisteria to 2-3 buds to produce flowering spurs

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/>

Facebook: [Claremont Garden Club](#)
Instagram: [Claremont_Garden_Club](#)