



Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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April 2019

Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

🐞 Please send us questions and ideas about gardening



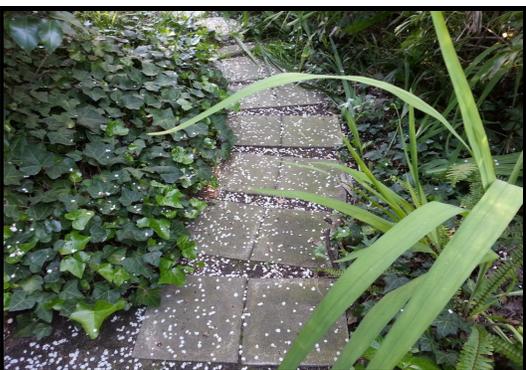
Superblooms! Masses of flowers at the south end of Joshua Tree (left) and at Lake Elsinore (right, photo from Patty Lindberg).



Rancher's Fireweed

Be sure to watch the border of the Bernard Field Station this month for some of our native wildflowers. The bright yellow of rancher's fireweed (*Amsinckia*—photo at left of some that have volunteered in my garden) can be seen now, and soon there will also be the lovely purple of phacelia.

Garden Tour tickets are now available on our website or at Garner House in Memorial Park and Rio de Ojas, 250 N Harvard.



Snow in March? No, apricot petals drifting down!

Shady Vegetables!

Many of us would like to grow veggies but are discouraged because we have no sunny areas. There are some sorts that you can grow tho, if you

Ornamental of the Month

Lotus berthelotii



Parrot's beak is a trailing perennial with 1" long, narrow, gray-green leaves on flexible 2ft stems. Orange and red flowers appear much of the year. Use as a trailer in containers or as a 6" tall groundcover. Full sun to light shade, good drainage, regular water. Pinch when young to encourage branching, cut back by half if too leggy. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.

Edible of the Month

Cucurbita pepo



Named for its shape, acorn squash belongs to the group of thick-skinned squashes that last well over winter. **Culture** is the same as for other squashes: good drainage, regular water, fertilizer, full sun, lots of room! (although there are more compact varieties). Seeds are available at nurseries or can be ordered from places like [Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds](#). Delicious baked and in [many other ways!](#)

choose the right varieties. Give some of these a try: lettuce, arugula, beans, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cauliflower, collard greens, cress, kale, endive, mustard greens, peas, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard.



Root Knot Nematodes

These tiny worms are everywhere in the soil, and some are parasitic on plant roots. When the larvae invade, they cause the plant to produce a knot-like gall that they inhabit (*photo from Beth Benjamin*), stealing nutrients. They can kill young plants and seriously damage older ones. Many of the

vegetables we grow can be affected so if your crop is growing badly, with some of the plants stunted and yellowing, you might dig one up and see if the roots are infected. [If you have a serious problem](#), the best course is to move your bed to a new area the following year and grow resistant varieties. Keeping your crops weeded, watered, and fertilized will help them resist these pests for which there is currently no good chemical or biological control.

Open-pollinated/Hybrid/Heirloom

Open-pollinated: Pollen moved by wind or animals in same flower (self-pollination) or between plants (cross-pollination). Offspring characteristics vary as in human children.

True-breeding: No genetic diversity in population; offspring all same as parents.

Hybrid: Result of cross between different species or varieties. Can occur naturally or people can make a cross. If parents are genetically diverse, offspring of the cross vary. If the cross is between two different true-breeding species or varieties, offspring are all the same, often sterile, but if these [F1 hybrids](#) are fertile, their offspring once again show diversity, so don't save seed.

Heirloom: Any open-pollinated, true-breeding variety that has been cultivated and passed on in a community at least 50 years.



Arum palaestinum hybrid (Solomon's lily) is native to the Mediterranean basin. 2ft tall, part shade. Blooms March/April, dies down in summer. Fly pollinated. Cylindrical cluster orange berries.

Upcoming events and more

Mar 29/30: Our Annual Flower Show (see our website for details)

Apr 10: Garden Club – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **“Why Our Trees Are Dying”**

Apr 14: Claremont Eclectic-A Tour of Six Local Gardens (see our website to buy tickets)

Smart Gardening Workshops: 9:30-11 am, free. For dates and locations, see http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/wk_schds.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: “Cucurbita” means “gourd”; “berthelottii” refers to naturalist Sabin Berthelot.

Plant miscellanea: A ‘scorpioid cyme’ is an inflorescence that starts out as snail-shaped with flowers on one side, and uncoils as they mature. Rancher’s fireweed is of this type (photo overleaf).

Things to do in April

General

- ✓ Finish spring planting by May
- ✓ Water as needed
- ✓ Consider adding a water feature for good sounds and wildlife

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Watch out for geranium budworm damage; if bad consider spraying with BT just before full moon and just after
- ✓ Add plants that attract [beneficials](#)

Edibles

- ✓ Thin fruit lightly, more next month
- ✓ Sow beans, beets, corn, carrots, leaf lettuce, squash, radishes, chard
- ✓ Thin vegetables sown last month
- ✓ Plant tomato seedlings
- ✓ Plant herbs in vegetable beds
- ✓ Plant beans to grow up corn stalks and squash at base to cover ground
- ✓ Feed citrus and avocados
- ✓ Sow a few fast growers like beans, lettuce and radishes each week so harvest occurs over a longer period

Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant azaleas
- ✓ Root epiphyllum cuttings; feed established plants with 0-10-10
- ✓ Prune nandina after bloom by removing whole stems at ground
- ✓ Feed roses, cut flowers where there is a 5-leaflet leaf pointing outward
- ✓ Pinch cosmos to encourage branching

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

The Metropolitan Water District is currently offering rebates for turf removal. <http://socialwatersmart.com/index.php/>

Facebook: Claremont Garden Club
Instagram: Claremont_Garden_Club