



# Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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## Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

🐞 Please send us questions, photos, ideas about gardening



### Wow, Some Lily!

This photo of an [orienpet lily](#) was sent in by Beth Benjamin. Hybrids of oriental and trumpet lilies, these are a very impressive addition to the garden! They come in many colors, and varieties range from 3-8ft tall. Not fussy about soil or pH, and happy in full sun or part shade, with average water requirements.



### Orange Ice Plant

[Lampranthus aurantiacus](#) is a stunning addition to the sunny garden. Up to 1½ft tall by 4ft wide. Fleshy leaves slippery if stepped on. Good drainage and little water. It blooms in late winter through spring.



### Decorative Eggs!

It's well worth a trip to the Maloof Foundation to see the sculpture displays in its gardens. The current one that includes 5ft tall eggs is a lot of fun, and if you haven't taken a house tour yet, be sure to consider it!

## Ornamental of the Month

*Salvia chamadryoides*



[Germander sage](#) is one of the rare plants that have true blue flowers, a lovely contrast to the grey leaves. Grows 1-1½ ft tall and 3-4ft wide in sun or light shade. Very low water needs, especially in summer, good drainage. Blooms spring through fall. Attracts hummingbirds. May lose some leaves in cold winters.

## InEdible of the Month

*Symphytum officinale*



[Common comfrey](#) is a pretty plant with large hairy leaves and groups of drooping pink or purple flowers in spring. It has very deep roots and new plants are easy to propagate from root cuttings. Plants die down in winter and then shoot up to as much as 5ft tall. Once used medicinally, recent data show it [can be hazardous](#) both internally and externally so be warned.



**Seen Around** (clockwise from left): Lantana in the bed that sent shoots up the inside of the post, creating a “hat” for the stop sign; tumbled glass as a decorative addition to a path; an umbrella used in summer to shade a new shrub; a mesh bag to catch seeds.

### Favorite Quote

*“If you wish to make anything grow, you must understand it, and understand it in a very real sense. “Green fingers” are a fact, and a mystery only to the unpracticed. But green fingers are the extensions of a verdant heart.”*  
Russell Page

### Upcoming events and more

**August: no Garden Club meeting**

**Aug 17: California Gardens: Native plant design, [Chino Basin](#), free but must register**

**Aug 22: What you need to know before your landscape transformation, Chino Basin, free but must register**

**Sept 11: Garden Club** – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **“A Primer on Growing Rare Fruits”**

**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/)

**LA Arboretum:** Plant shows and sales <https://www.arboretum.org>

### Did you know?

**Botanical Latin:** “Salvia” comes from the Latin “salvere” meaning “to save”, refers to healing properties of some sages

**Plant miscellanea:** Grey-leaved plants are common in hot climates- the pale color reflects light and heat and reduces water loss; vertical leaves also remain cooler

### Things to do in August

#### General

- ✓ Assess how your garden grows!
- ✓ Order from good seed catalogs
- ✓ Paint tool handles or use colored tape to make them harder to lose
- ✓ If near fire zones, clear brush and follow fire department guides
- ✓ Check irrigation; think about needed changes; renew watering basins

#### Pest/disease management

- ✓ Watch out for red spider mites; hose off both sides of leaves
- ✓ Dissolve 1/4 oz baking soda in one gallon water and use it weekly to spray on leaves with mildew

#### Edibles

- ✓ Sow cabbage, chard, kale, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, **parsley**
- ✓ Keep seeds moist and sheltered until they germinate; use light mulch
- ✓ Sow carrots, spinach, lettuce in succession
- ✓ Root herb cuttings
- ✓ Cut off suckers and water sprouts from deciduous fruit trees

#### Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant calendulas every three weeks from now until December
- ✓ Deadhead cosmos, coreopsis, marigolds, zinnias
- ✓ On dry days, pick globe amaranth, baby’s breath, lunaria, statice, strawflower, for drying

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

**The Metropolitan Water District usually offers rebates for turf removal:** <http://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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