



Garden Notes

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March 2019

Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

🐞 Please send us questions and ideas about gardening

Yard Art Talk and Moon Valley Trip: fun and educational!



April 14 Garden Tour Tickets are now available on our website!

Aloe 'Blue Elf'

This is a very popular variety with upright, blue-gray leaves that reach about 1 ft tall. Blooming now with lots of orange flowers on 2 ft tall stalks. Does well in sun or light shade with low water. Slowly forms clumps which can be divided when crowded.

If you notice distorted leaves or flower stalks on any of your aloes (Blue Elf is resistant), they are likely due to [aloe mites](#). These are hard to treat so cut out the damaged part and put it in the trash (don't compost it). Clean the clippers before using them on any other aloes, and if the plant is badly infected, just toss it.



Mystery Camellia

Does anyone happen to know the name of this one? It is at least 50 years old and the semi-double 3-4" flowers are pure white, pale pink, dark pink or some combination of these.

Ornamental of the Month

Crassula multicava



[Fairy crassula](#) is a great ground cover for shady areas, even dry ones. The flexible stems reach about 1ft tall and support each other as [the plant](#) spreads slowly. The fleshy leaves are arranged in pairs. The white and pink star-shaped blooms appear in February and March and, if left on the plant, they produce small plantlets that drop off and grow. Cuttings root easily.

Edible of the Month

Citrus limon 'Pink Lemonade'



[This is a sport](#) of the common Eureka lemon. It has white variegated leaves, pink flowers, and green-striped fruit with pale pink flesh. Likes sun, regular water, and fertilizer like most citrus. Pretty, smells and tastes good but can be harder than Eureka to get established. Ones on dwarfing rootstock can be grown in large pots.



Winter Peas!

Peas like cool weather as these February photos of snow pea vines from Carol Gil's garden illustrate! You can still plant [edible-pod peas](#) for the next month but they die back when above 70 degrees, so if not now, plan for the fall.

Favorite Quote

"What's the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"

Henry David Thoreau



Aechmea gamosepala

Matchstick bromeliad does well out of doors here in filtered light to quite a bit of shade. The pale-blue-tipped pink blooms develop in early winter and stay for several months. The smooth-edged leaves are evergreen and the plants slowly form clumps.

Upcoming events and more

Mar 1-10: Tomatomania! 9am-6pm, Roger's Gardens, 2301 San Joaquin Hills Rd, Corona Del Mar

Mar 13: Garden Club – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **"A Seedy Business!"** Renee Shepherd of Renee's Garden will talk about the business and new introductions

Mar 24: Ontario Museum "John S. Armstrong and the Armstrong Nursery" 2-3:30pm, (free but [reservations required](#))

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

Apr 2: Covina Flower Show, 1-6pm, 128 S San Jose, Covina (free)

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_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: "Crassula" is from the Latin "crassus" meaning "thick"; "multi" means "many" and "cava" refers to holes or pores (in leaves)

Plant miscellanea: Peas and beans are actually fruits since they are derived from the ovaries of a flower. Their type of fruit is called a "legume".

Things to do in March

General

- ✓ Consider giving nitrogen to plants that are stunted, yellowing or straggly
- ✓ Put in permanent plants; group according to water needs
- ✓ Root softwood cuttings of African blue basil, begonias, salvias, roses

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Snails: clean up litter, look under leaves of agapanthus, daylilies; hunt at night with flashlight; put copper collars around citrus trunks
- ✓ Check under leaves for giant whitefly; wash off with strong jet of water; prune and trash heavily infested parts, open up shrub to attract birds
- ✓ Use berry baskets to protect sprouting corn and beans from birds

Edibles

- ✓ Plant citrus and avocados
- ✓ Hand-pollinate guava if past fruit set has been poor
- ✓ Consider adding rhizobium inoculant to furrows before sowing peas

Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant warm season annuals: cosmos, ageratum, marigolds, salvia, alyssum
- ✓ Plant perennials: agapanthus, yarrow, coreopsis, daylilies, coral bells, pride of Madeira, ornamental grasses
- ✓ Water, fertilize roses, handpick pests, disbud for fewer, larger blooms

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/>

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