



Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

www.claremontgardenclub.org

info@claremontgardenclub.org November 2018

Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

Please send us questions and ideas about gardening



Native wildflowers

Early November is a good time to plant California wildflowers that will bloom in late winter through spring. You can buy mixes or make your own: a combination of California poppies, Chinese houses, godetia, nemophila, larkspur, clarkia, scarlet flax, linaria, and phacelia will bloom through June. Check that all the plants like the same conditions and avoid any mixes that include grasses (they look weedy and can invade the rest of your garden). A combo of annuals and perennials can extend color through summer, especially if you give them some water each week when it doesn't rain. You can find some wildflower seeds at garden centers, or order them from [Lerner Seeds](#), or buy packets from the [Theodore Payne Foundation](#), and some may be available at RSABG's [Grow Native Nursery](#). A useful book is "The Gardener's Guide to California Wildflowers" by Kevin Connelly.

Microclimates



Ornamental of the Month

Euphorbia tirucalli



"Sticks on fire" is a favorite succulent growing slowly to 4-8 ft tall and 3-5 ft wide. Tiny leaves quickly drop from the colorful stems which are redder in winter and in full sun, yellower in summer and light shade. Drought-tolerant but not frost resistant. The milky sap is an irritant so use gloves and be sure not to get it in your eyes.

Edible of the Month

Aloysia citrodora



Lemon verbena is an evergreen subshrub up to 6ft tall and wide, with 3" leaves that have a strong lemon scent. Plant near walkways or patios to enjoy as you brush by. Sprays of tiny white or lavender flowers appear in late spring. Moderate water, sun, frost-tender, does well in containers. Use to give lemon flavor to tea, jams, desserts, fish and chicken dishes. Try some [Herb Society](#) recipes, [blueberry muffins](#), and more.



Even when we pay attention to the cold and heat tolerance specified for a plant that catches our eye, it can fail to thrive (or even survive) if it gets put in a place without the specific conditions it needs. The photos above are plants growing in a Claremont garden, but the orange succulent would be pale and weedy if it weren't in full sun, and the ivy, clivia and acuba 15 ft away from it would suffer if they weren't in shade (the ivy does creep out and is burnt to a crisp). The pavers nearby get a little more light but the soil stays moist underneath, perfect for moss; the purple oxalis found a home in the middle of a clump of fortnight lilies. Even the smallest garden has areas that vary in light, soil type, water retention, and susceptibility to wind or frost damage, so these should be considered when choosing a location. If the plant is getting shaded out later on, you might consider a little judicious pruning. Even with your best efforts of course, a plant may not be happy where you first site it so don't be afraid to relocate it. I moved a lemon grass that languished for several years on one side of the back garden to the other side a year ago and it is now a large clump.

Consider adding a tree or two

According to the USDA Forest Service, over 50 years, a tree can generate \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provide \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycle \$37,500 worth of water, and control \$31,250 worth of soil erosion. This adds up to \$162,000 over the course of a mature tree's lifespan!

Favorite Quote (courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

"Hope never dies within a true gardener's heart." author unknown

Upcoming events and more

Nov 14: Garden Club – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **"Camellia Impressionism"**

Dec 1: Guided tour of Corey Nursery--email us if you'd like to join in **Grow Native Nursery** now open Thur-Sun, 9am to 4:30 pm

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: "Tirucallii" derives from East Indian words for "good" and "medicinal"; "citrodora" means "lemon-scented"

Plant miscellanea: Moss plants are single sex. Sperm from male plants swims, when there is water available, to an egg in a female plant and fertilizes it. This grows, right on top of the female, into a hockey stick-like structure that then produces spores that grow again into green moss.

Things to do in November

General

- ✓ Stop feeding and reduce watering grapes, roses, deciduous fruit trees so they go dormant
- ✓ Mulch acid lovers like azaleas and blueberries with pine needles
- ✓ Open up dense trees a bit to prevent wind damage

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Cultivate soil around trees and shrubs and in vegetable beds to turn up grubs for birds to eat
- ✓ Watch out for slugs and cutworms in your wildflowers

Edibles

- ✓ Sow or set out veggies so strong roots can develop
- ✓ Plant chives, thyme, majoram, sage
- ✓ Prune cane berries
- ✓ Don't let citrus dry out
- ✓ Plant bare-root strawberries

Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant alyssum, calendula, campanula, coral bells, candytuft, forget-me-not, lunaria, snapdragons, sweet peas
- ✓ Divide agapanthus, daylilies, festuca, matilija poppies, Pacific Coast iris
- ✓ Plant native shrubs and perennials
- ✓ Finish planting daffodils

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://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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