



Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

www.claremontgardenclub.org

info@claremontgardenclub.org

November 2019

Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

 Please send us questions, photos, ideas about gardening



Two to visit!

These are just across the street from each other in Pasadena. The [Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden](#) is small but looks good all year long. The [Arlington Garden](#) is free and dedicated to waterwise planting so it looks its best in the spring.

All about Succulents Educational Event & Sale: free entry

Glendora Gardens, 1132 S. Grand Ave, Saturday November 16, 10am-5pm, Sunday, November 17, 9am-2pm. Talks from renowned speakers

Information: Isabelle Moon (909) 626-4197 ismoon398@yahoo.com

Where do bees go in winter?



Non-native honeybees keep up their activities all year round but not so our native bees. Many of these are solitary bees that are active only in spring and summer. Each female then makes her own nest, provides it with food, lays some eggs, and dies. About 70% of solitary bees (first three photos), such as digger bees, create nests in the ground where the eggs develop. Others, such as mason bees, use small cavities in dead wood or in hollow stems. The offspring emerge the next spring. It's a good idea to leave some bare ground in out-of-the-way areas, and some dead wood, broken twigs, and old perennial stems around for these solitary bees.

Bumble bees (far right photo) are a bit different as they live in small colonies. At summer's end, most of them die, leaving a few mated queens to emerge in the spring and start new colonies. Bumbles like dry but messy places, with a lot of intertwined stems and leaves. ([Bernard Field Station](#) photos)

Ornamental of the Month

Euonymus japonicus 'Aureo-marginata'



[Golden euonymus](#) is an evergreen shrub that can grow up to 10ft tall and 8ft wide but it is easy to prune smaller. The dense, leathery leaves and stems in this variety are splashed with bright yellow. Tiny, cream-colored flowers appear in spring—they aren't showy, but insects like them. Give the shrubs full sun or light shade, low water once established, and soil that drains well.

Edible of the Month

Salvia elegans



[Pineapple sage](#) is named for the scent of its yellow green, slightly hairy, leaves when they are crushed. Plants grow up to 4ft tall and 3ft wide. They like regular water and full sun or light shade. The flowers appear in fall and are a favorite of hummingbirds and butterflies. Plants may die down if there are frosts but will grow back from the roots. Both leaves and flowers are edible.

Why some flowers lost their scent

Making the chemicals that produce flower fragrances is energetically expensive for plants, but the payoff in attracting pollinators is apparently worth it since so many wild species do it. But the majority of the flowers we now buy at florists or garden centers no longer have those heavenly scents. Why not? The short answer is that, as in all of life, in plant breeding there are tradeoffs. One of the key plant hormones needed for aroma production is the gas ethylene. As it happens, ethylene is also important in causing plant parts, including flowers, to age. So, as breeders worked to develop flowers that would last longer in the vase or on the plant by lowering ethylene production, they unintentionally disrupted the pathways that led to fragrance. So, if you miss the heady scent of old roses, clove-scented pinks, flowering tobacco, old-fashioned sweet peas, and petunias, accept shorter flower life and look for the older varieties. It's a tradeoff I embrace!

Favorite Quote

Gardening is not a rational act.

Margaret Atwood



(Photo from October Birds of Prey talk)

Do home remedies work? Well, these might be worth a try.

(Abstracted from *Fine Gardening December 2015*)

- **Always test sprays** on a few leaves before spraying the whole plant—and wear gloves and use a spray bottle.
- Insects: Use 1-2T of non-detergent dish soap per gallon of water (detergents can damage natural protective coatings on leaves). Won't kill eggs or pupae so repeats will be needed.
- Powdery mildew: Use 1-2T baking soda, 1t non-detergent dish soap, 1t vegetable oil per gallon water. Spray weekly during summer.
- General fungicide: One part milk to two parts water. Make fresh before each use and don't use on vegetables.
- Insects: Put bags around each fruit or vegetable. A lot of work! Use fine mesh rather than plastic or heat buildup may cause damage.
- Assorted diseases: Use one part mouthwash to three parts water and apply weekly. The alcohol in this may harm sensitive leaves.

Upcoming events and more

Nov 13: Garden Club – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **"The New American Garden"**

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/

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

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: "aureo-marginata" means "golden edge"; "elegans", naturally means "elegant".

Plant miscellanea: **Thorns** are modified shoots; spines are modified leaves; prickles are just outgrowths of the epidermis without any vascular tissue, and so they can be anywhere on the plant.

Things to do in November

General

- ✓ Bury porous clay pots up to rim near tree or shrub driplines and fill with water for controlled irrigation
- ✓ Save pine needles and use as mulch

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Think about using BT if cabbage worms are a problem
- ✓ Watch out for snail and cutworm damage
- ✓ Wrap trunks of young citrus with insulating material if frosts likely

Edibles

- ✓ Prune blackberries, boysenberry, loganberry; cut old canes to ground
- ✓ Leave low chill raspberries until January, then cut nearly to ground
- ✓ Keep citrus and avocados well-watered; wilted leaves are more likely to be damaged by frost
- ✓ Plant garlic, potatoes, onion sets

Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant most local natives; gently slip out of pot to check if root-bound before buying
- ✓ Thin out any super dense tree canopies a little so wind goes through
- ✓ Plant anemones, ranunculus, Dutch iris, daffodils, but not crocuses yet
- ✓ Sow nasturtiums and wildflowers
- ✓ Wait til spring to prune Mexican sage

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/>

Facebook: Claremont Garden Club

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