



# Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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## Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

 Please send us questions and ideas about gardening



### Sherman Library and Gardens

A small but beautifully planted [garden](#) with a delightful new succulent bed that includes rivers of glass and tile. The central pond is currently surrounded by *Celosia* "Intenz" (left) which was covered in pollinators. A frost-tender perennial.

## Making a Dog-Friendly Garden

- View the garden as a "dogscape" as you design it
- If you were your dog, what would you want? (Will vary with breed)
- Create paths for them to run. A 3ft wide path around the perimeter perhaps, or if they have already created others, make them permanent
- If your dog escapes under fences, install an underground barrier
- Create places in both sun and shade for them to rest (most like a doghouse)
- Choose plants with soft but sturdy foliage to go near the runs
- Make it easy on the paws: Choose small cedar chips for mulch and provide stepping stones in gravel
- Set aside a corner as a toilet area and train your dog to use it. Cedar chips, flagstones, gravel are easy to clean. Add a marking post for males.
- Use raised beds or mounds, plant densely, start with 1 gal or larger, put the more brittle ones in the center, put a short fence around edge
- Avoid thorny, spiny, or [poisonous plants](#), grasses that have barbed seed heads; remove any mushrooms that appear; make the compost pile off-limits
- Consider a shallow pond for wading, high spot for surveying the yard, elevated food bowls



### Hanging Plants

This interesting way of displaying plants in balls of sphagnum moss wrapped with rope was seen at [Roger's Gardens](#) in Corona del Mar.

## Ornamental of the Month

*Begonia spp*



"[Angel wing](#)" or cane begonias have strong, bamboo-like stems generally 3 or 4ft tall although some grow much taller. Most have large, asymmetrical, silver-spotted leaves with jagged edges; they can be green or bronze. They flower in summer and fall, some all year. Happy in moderate shade with moderate water. Frost-tender, easily rooted from cuttings.

## Edible of the Month

*Coriandrum sativum*



This [annual plant](#) looks a lot like Italian parsley. Give it full sun and moderate water. It attracts beneficial insects so is a good addition to vegetable beds. All parts are edible, even the roots. The leaves and stems are sold as "[cilantro](#)", and are an important ingredient in Mexican cooking, as well as many Asian dishes. The seeds are called "coriander" and feature crushed or ground in [many cuisines](#), including pickling spices.



Female begonia flower (left), ovary below petals. Male flower, nothing below petals.

### Good camouflage!

This ivy-covered block wall at the back of a bed, along with an enticing path, makes a feature out of usually unattractive pool equipment.



**Hummingbirds** are visiting *Duranta* (left) and *Tecomaria* (right).



### Favorite Quote

(courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

***“The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing over never weeded a garden.”*** Ray D. Everson

**Grasshoppers** can do a fair amount of damage to leaves and shoots but one of the best methods of control is to make your garden attractive to birds which will eat them! They lay eggs in the soil so

doing some light cultivation can also reduce future populations.

### Tip for Forcing Paperwhites

Narcissus **forced in bowls** of water tend to become very leggy but adding **some alcohol** (rubbing or distilled, but not beer or wine) to the water after they start to root will reduce stem length by about a third without harming flowers.

### Upcoming events and more

**Oct 10: Garden Club** – 6:30-8:30 pm, talk at 7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Claremont. **“Garden Mushrooms: A Year-round Spectacle”**

**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/)

### Did you know?

**Botanical Latin:** “Sativum” refers to cultivation; “begonia” honors 18<sup>th</sup> century Haitian governor Michel Begon.

**Plant miscellanea:** Most flowers contain both male (anthers) and female (pistils) parts. Some plants like begonias and squash are “monoecious”, which means they have separate male and female flowers on the same plant; others like hollies are “dioecious” and have separate plants with male or female flowers so you only get fruit on females.

### Things to do in October

#### General

- ✓ Finish planting cool season flowers and vegetables
- ✓ Continue to cut back and clean out dead branches in shrubs

#### Pest/disease management

- ✓ Gopher-proof lawns--put chicken wire several inches down, then seed or sod
- ✓ Hand-pull crabgrass
- ✓ Plant cole crops from transplants

#### Edibles

- ✓ Don't fertilize deciduous fruit trees, reduce water to induce dormancy
- ✓ Loosen soil in vegetable beds, add fertilizer and amendments
- ✓ Tie up peas, harvest horseradish

#### Ornamentals

- ✓ Plant trees, shrubs, vines (except tropicals); wait til November to plant natives and groundcovers
- ✓ Choose trees for autumn color like *Ginkgo* (males only) and fall bloom like *Bauhinia* and *Chorisia*
- ✓ Divide congested clivia, iris, daylilies, gazanias, dormant naked ladies
- ✓ Fertilize roses, deadhead, give 1 ½" water twice a week
- ✓ Plant wildflowers

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

The Metropolitan Water District is not currently offering rebates for turf removal. <http://socialwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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