



Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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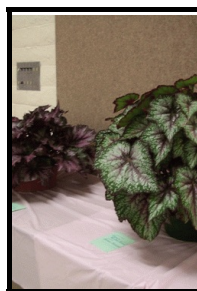
September 2013

Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

We need your help to make the garden club thrive!

Many hands make light work, so let us know how you are willing to be involved. Do you have ideas for talks, tours, or fundraisers? Would you like to provide refreshments for a meeting or help staff the Garden Club booth at one of our events or contribute questions/photos/articles to the newsletter?

If you like the idea of a Claremont Garden Club, block out a little time to help it flourish! if many do a little we'll get a lot done and be able to expand what we do !



Begonias (photos from August show at South Coast Botanic Garden)

An amazing group (<http://www.begonias.org>): tall plants with a forest of canes and lopsided leaves (angel wing or cane begonias), ones with huge, camellia-like flowers (tuberous begonias), ones with small flowers but fantastic leaves (rex begonias) and of course the ones in 6 packs at the nursery (wax begonias). All like shade or part shade and regular water and do very well in pots. The tuberous kinds die down in winter but with luck they come back if you don't overwater them. All kinds are frost-sensitive and most only live a few years. However, cane types will root in water and you can propagate some begonias from the leaves (demos on plant propagation will be included at some of our meetings).

Notes From Connie Newport, Master Gardener

- Plant winter lettuce, peas, carrots, cole crops and Asian greens.
- Harvest winter squash when their skin is hard enough to resist pressure from your thumbnail.
- Set out transplants of calendula, primroses, larkspur, snapdragons, bachelor's buttons, stock and pansies.
- Refrigerate spring bulbs for at least 6 weeks to plant later in the fall.
- Protect grapes from birds and wasps by covering ripening grape clusters with brown paper lunch bags.

Ornamental of the Month:

Vitis californica



"Roger's Red" is a spectacular grape available at RSABG. Long thought to be native, there is a possibility it is a hybrid of the native with a wine grape. The bright green leaves will form an excellent cover on a wall or arbor. They turn bright red in fall, making a stunning display for several weeks before falling. The sour, purple fruit has a white bloom and birds love it. It makes great sorbet or jam.

Edible of the Month:

Mixed salad greens

"Mesclun" is a mix of lettuces. Sow thinly and evenly outside or in a large container and finely cover with soil. Wet thoroughly but gently. Water often and in about 5 weeks you can harvest a few leaves from each plant when they are 4-6" tall. Plants will continue to produce leaves for a month or two. Fertilize to keep them going longer.





Garden pest: beetle larvae

If racoons and opossums have dug up your lawn in spots, they may have been looking for tasty (to them) beetle larvae, aka 'grubs'. Sharron Neyer found some in her container garden and sent us the picture at left. Golden brown head, dark gray hind end, and usually found curled on their side like a letter "C". Although

there are several different types of beetles whose larvae live in the soil, most of the grubs look similar and most eat roots. However, this is not a problem if there are only a few of them. No treatment is needed in the lawn if there are 5 or fewer per square foot (dig up a couple of square foot patches to check and then replant the sod). If there are more than 10, then the grass may be in trouble and you may see brown spots appearing in summer. Grubs don't do well in dry soil, so water your lawn the minimum to see if that takes care of the problem. You might be able to add parasitic nematodes (a type of tiny worm) to the soil. Ask at your local garden center and be sure they are alive when you buy them. If these don't do the trick, as a last resort, you can try applying a chemical in July or August next year. If you do use one, water it in to encourage the grubs to move up to the wet area. However, the number of grubs varies a lot from year to year, so postpone using chemicals until you are sure you have a persistent problem. If you find some in your pots, just dig them up and toss them in the trash or out in your flower beds where a few aren't likely to hurt anything if they dig back into the soil.

Favorite quote from Sharron Neyer:

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

Fragrant plants

California natives (most of these attract butterflies): hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*, red, some shade, some water); Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*, purple, sun); Sonoma sage (*Salvia sonomensis*, purple groundcover, sun), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*, purple, sun); Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*, yellow, gray ferny aromatic leaves, groundcover); California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*, gray, sun, little water, insignificant flowers); Coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*, sun, minty leaves); California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*, small tree, summer deciduous); Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*, spreading, white, 6-8ft tall, bluish leaves); Yerba buena (*Satureja douglassii*, creeping mint, dry shade!)

Exotics: Gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*, white, shrub, light shade, regular water, acid soil); Oriental lilies (*Lilium orientalis*, many colors, sun, good in pots); Ginger lily (*Hedychium coronarium*, white, moist soil, sun/part shade); Four o'clock (*Mirabilis jalapa*, light shade, low water, self-sows); Sweetshade (*Hymenosporum flavum*, narrow open tree, orange blossom scent); Victorian Box (*Pittosporum undulatum*, medium tree or large shrub, white flowers, orange blossom scent); paperwhite narcissus; freesias; Jasmine (many highly-scented species, be warned some are fast growers and smother other plants if not controlled regularly); Angel's trumpet (*Brugmansia* species, small tree, delicious lemon scent at dusk, frost tender but will usually grow back); tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*, tall, white, perennial, sun; hybrids red, purple not all fragrant)

Upcoming events and more: *(The garden club is free and open to all)*

Sept 11: Garden Club meeting (7pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd, Pilgrim Place) "Backyard Chickens: cooping and caring for our fine feathered friends"-Steve Sabicer

Sept 14: visit to gardens with chickens and raised beds

Classes at Armstrong Nursery: <http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: no surprise "californica" means from California.

Plant miscellanea: a 'tuber' is a storage organ: a short, thickened underground stem as in potatoes and some begonias (these have buds-'eyes'), or a root as in sweet potatoes, yams and dahlias (no buds).

Things to do in September

General

- ✓ dig over beds and add compost
- ✓ start fall cleanup

Pest/disease management

- ✓ don't compost diseased plants
- ✓ remove dried blossoms around and on camellias and toss

Edibles

- ✓ sow arugula, chard, kale, lettuce, and mustard. Plant seeds of beets, carrots, leeks, onions, peas, radishes, turnips.
- ✓ Set out seedlings of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and spinach
- ✓ harvest corn when silk turns brown
- ✓ wear gloves and wash after harvesting hot peppers
- ✓ dig potatoes when plants have flowered and are dying back
- ✓ fertilize citrus (around drip line)

Ornamentals

- ✓ plant asters, mums, gaillardia, gloriosa daisy, Japanese anemone, lion's tail, purple coneflower, and salvia
- ✓ late Sept, plant violas, calendula, forget-me-nots, Iceland and Shirley poppies, ornamental cabbage and kale, sweet peas
- ✓ plant bulbs: anemones, Dutch iris, freesias, hyacinths, ixia, oxalis, Peruvian scilla, ranunculus, sparaxis, tritonia, watsonia.
- ✓ divide agapanthus, daylilies, penstemon. Lift clumps, cut into sections with spade, shovel, sharp knife, or pruning shears. Replant, keep moist until new roots develop.

→ **SEND photos and info** about plants you've grown, gardens you've visited, gardening lore you've learned!