



Garden Notes

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Welcome to the Claremont Garden Club newsletter!

🌱 Please send us questions, photos, ideas about gardening

Citrus greening update

Great news for all of us who love our citrus trees! Researchers at UC Riverside have discovered the [first good treatment](#) for citrus greening. They have isolated a compound that occurs in naturally resistant Australian finger limes. The antimicrobial peptide kills the bacterium that causes the disease and seems to confer some immunity.



Variegated shell ginger

If you need a statement plant in light shade, [Alpinia zerumbet](#) is for you. Related to culinary ginger but not edible, it sends up 4-5 ft stalks of 1 ½ ft long, yellow striped leaves from slowly spreading underground rhizomes. Does well in pots. Evergreen, moderate water. Drooping blooms in July.

Online talks

I know we all miss the social aspect of Garden Club meetings along with the entertaining and informative talks. We can't do much about the former at this time, but we can do a bit about the latter. Check out the following:

- The Southern California Horticultural Society has [You Tube recordings](#) of many of its meeting presentations. The most recent is Yvonne Savio's "Veggies Taste Better When You Grow Your Own"
- The Royal Horticultural Society has a number of [podcasts](#), including "What have plants ever done for us? "
- The California Garden and Landscape History Society has some upcoming [Zoom talks](#) (free but you need to register as space is limited). The first one is on August 19: "Hayes Perkins, the ' Magic Carpet' Man"



Amaryllis' bigger cousin

My Natal lilies (*Crinum moorei*) were in the garden when we bought our house almost 40 years ago. They form large clumps of huge bulbs which sit about a foot tall even after the 3ft long, 5 inch

Ornamental of the Month

Rosa californica



[California wildrose](#) is a multi-use shrub. Semi-deciduous and very thorny, spreads slowly to form sprawling thickets 4-8 ft tall. Good barrier plant. Pink 1-2" flowers in spring and summer followed by bright red hips. Flowers, fruit, and leaves are fragrant. Attracts bees, butterflies, birds. Prefers a bit of shade, low to moderate water.

Edible of the Month

Punica granatum



Pomegranates are small trees (to 20 ft) or large shrubs with beautiful summer flowers, followed by large fruit—usually red but some forms are yellow or purple. Yellow leaves in the fall. There are ornamental as well as edible forms. Full sun, drought tolerant. Common variety is "Wonderful" (seen above). [Use the seeds](#) fresh, juiced, in main courses or desserts.

wide leaves die down in August. Up to 10 fragrant, pale pink flowers are produced sequentially on 3ft stalks in July. Mine grow in light to moderate shade with low to moderate water.



Worth the wait!

I managed to catch my [Queen of the Night](#) (*Epiphyllum oxypetalum*) in the act of blooming this year. Two flowers opened around 11 pm and were closed and drooping by the morning, but oh, how lovely they were!

Edible Flowers

It's never the wrong time to think about adding plants, so consider some whose flowers are not only pretty and attract pollinators but that look or taste good in salads. You can sow seeds or put in plants in the fall.

Of course, be sure the flowers are edible before you eat them! And be sure they haven't been doused with pesticides or fertilizers, or been grown in areas of air pollution, like near roads. And of course, start with only a few to see if you have any adverse reactions to them.

[Some favorites](#) are: pansies and violets, roses, sunflowers, marigold, calendulas, dianthus, daylilies, squash, chives, bee balm, anise hyssop, borage, and, of course, nasturtiums.

Favorite Quote

"When you have only two pennies left in the world, buy a loaf of bread with one, and a lily with the other." Chinese Proverb



Bee houses: let us know if bees move in!

It's never too late to think about bees! Except for some bumble bees, our natives are solitary. Many lay eggs in hollow stems or holes in wood, and others make a nest in the ground, so start thinking about saving dead flower stalks, old bamboo canes, pieces of old reed fencing and suchlike and [creating a bit of habitat](#) for next year's generation of these bees. Leave some ground bare in an out of the way place where it won't get watered too.

Garden Club meetings postponed until further notice

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: "Epiphyllum" means "on the leaves", referring to the blooms that arise from the flattened stems, which are often mistaken for leaves.

Plant miscellanea: [Epiphytes](#) are plants that do not root in the soil but grow on other plants. They are not parasitic, getting water and nutrients from the air, rain, and debris that falls on them. They include some ferns, orchids, air plants, bromeliads, and cacti.

Things to do in August

General

- ✓ Water as needed; early morning is best to reduce evaporation; check sprinklers and hoses for leaks
- ✓ Clear brush if near a fire zone

Pest/disease management

- ✓ If nematodes were a problem this year, plan to cover the area solidly with marigolds for a full 3 months next year before planting
- ✓ Watch out for scale on cycads; scrub off with soapy water

Edibles

- ✓ Do not feed deciduous fruit trees as it may inhibit dormancy
- ✓ Prune off water sprouts
- ✓ Tie in new growth in espaliered trees

Ornamentals

- ✓ Prune fuschias lightly and pinch tips, fertilize, remove seeds, take cuttings
- ✓ Feed and water roses, prune lightly
- ✓ Cut off spent agapanthus flowering stalks or leave them to provide seeds for birds and remove in spring
- ✓ Remove pods from fortnight lilies but leave stalks as they will bloom for several years
- ✓ Cut unwanted new stems on wisteria back to two buds

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://socialwatersmart.com/index.php/>

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