



Garden Notes

"Creating edible and ornamental gardens"

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Welcome to the SC Garden Club newsletter!

🐞 Please send us questions about gardening--we will do our best to answer them!

From Patty Lindberg--Bermuda grass: "I'd like to share info about my



lawn with people who might not know they can have a lawn which is drought tolerant. We do play on it: badminton, croquet, and frisbee, so it's tough. I was watering 30 min., once a week, with sprinklers but the grass seemed to dry out between waterings, with brown spots; now that I've switched to 15 min., twice a week, I'll see how it does with that routine. Yes, Bermuda does tend to

invade the flower beds, but I don't mind so much now that I'm cultivating it as a lawn. Also, I was letting it produce seeds, because I wanted it to fill in and get thicker. So, maybe by next year it will be thicker and, by mowing before it sets seed, it will be easier to control." (Some more info can be found at <http://www.american-lawns.com/grasses/bermuda.html>)

Favorite Quote (courtesy of Sharron Neyer)

"It didn't occur to me... that gardening, like music, could demand practice, patience, a willingness to make mistakes." Amy Stewart

Dividing perennials:

After a while, many perennial plants form clumps that are too large, or begin to die out in the center, or stop blooming well, indicating it's time to divide the plant. Fall is a good time to divide spring and summer bloomers, and spring is good for fall bloomers. Given care, tho, you can divide anytime it's not too hot or cold and share plants with your friends!

Before digging up a clump, decide where the divisions will go and dig holes for them. Water the parent plant well a day or two before you dig it up, then dig around the outside of the clump to sever the roots. Lift the root ball and carefully pull it apart into two or more groups, each with roots and shoots. If necessary, use a knife or shears to cut through a tough crown or use two pitch forks to lever it apart. Discard any parts that are too small or unhealthy. If the plant spreads by runners, water the plant and then just dig up rooted plantlets around the edge and move them to the new location.

Ornamental of the Month

Cosmos sulphureus



These orange annuals grow about 2'x2'. Tolerate some shade and dry soils after germination. The photo is from Rochelle Darrow who wrote: "This is a real workhorse especially in summer when the getting is lean. Hundreds of goldfinches feed on them every day along with Monarchs. They are simple to grow, generously self sow, but are still easy to wrangle. I put them way up there on the list as one of my favorite summer plants,"

Edible of the Month

Helianthus annuus



Annual sunflowers prefer full sun and regular water. For info on how to dry, collect and roast seeds, visit www.vegetablegardener.com/item/6731/ If you have a lot of seeds and the patience to shell the fruit, or a peanut allergy, you could try making sunflower seed butter (www.prettyprudent.com/?s=sunbutter) (Photo: Hardy Plant Society)

Be sure to keep the divisions well-watered until they have established themselves. If many of the roots have been lost and there is a lot of top growth, you might cut it back to reduce the stress while new roots are growing. Daylilies can be divided now; September is the end of the time to divide bearded iris; wait until spring to divide ornamental grasses; never divide milkweed. For diagrams and photos of how to divide, take a look at:

www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/landscape/flowers/hgic1150.html
<http://gardening.about.com/od/perennials/ss/DividingSBS.htm#showall>

Soaker Hose and Quick Couplers



Unroll the hose and let it warm up in the sun for a day before you try to lay it out; use metal U-pins to keep the hose next to the ground and cover with leaves or mulch to reduce evaporation.



I love quick couplers! The two parts are shown at the left. Screw them onto the hose and your sprinkler as shown in the middle. Pull down the top of the brass part on the hose, insert the brass stem on the sprinkler and let go. That's all there is to it. Great to connect garden hose to your soaker hose as well.

From Dan Pearce (the August garden-what grows well locally): "My home garden under a shade cloth has good tomatoes, some squash, good kale. Chard is pretty poor. oregano, thyme are fine. Hot peppers (a perennial) are great. The Center Street Garden (Pomona) has thriving peppers, squash, beans, celery, basil, sweet potatoes, onions, figs, eggplant."

Upcoming events and more:

Sept 9: Garden Club—6:30-8:30 pm, Napier Center, 660 Avery Rd at Pilgrim Place. Talk at 7pm by Cynthia Cruz on the why and how of "Seed Saving"

Sept 13: Ontario garden program—seed swap and talk by master gardener Steve Williams, 10 to noon, Ovitt Family Library, 215 East C St, Ontario

San Diego Shows and Sales: <http://www.sdbgf.org/shows.html>

Sept 5/6 Plumeria show and sale Sept 13, 20 Iris rhizome sale

Smart Gardening Workshops: 9:30-11 am, free. For dates and locations, see http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/sg/wk_schds.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 plus plant sales on second Thursdays
www.huntington.org/WebAssets/Templates/content.aspx?id=538

Did you know?

Botanical Latin: "Sulphureus" means "sulfur yellow"; "annuus" means "annual".

Plant miscellanea: Sunflower seeds are actually one-seeded fruits called "achenes"—the kernel inside of the shell is the actual seed. Daisy type flowers are actually groups of flowers called "heads", and each flower produces one fruit. Grouping lots of tiny flowers with petals only on the outside reduces the energy needed to attract pollinators to them all.

Things to do in September

General

- ✓ Check that shrubs and trees are getting enough water; there is no limit on hand watering or drip irrigation
- ✓ Use garden hose to plan edge of new curved beds

Pest/disease management

- ✓ Net peas to prevent birds from getting digging up seeds
- ✓ Water citrus regularly to prevent fruit from splitting

Edibles

- ✓ Interplant peas and lettuce
- ✓ Plant kale or arugula as cover crop
- ✓ Sow herbs thickly in indoor pots in sunny window for winter use
- ✓ Sow carrots, celery, leeks, radishes, beets, broccoli, chard, spinach, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, endive
- ✓ Pinch out new blooms and tips on melons, winter squash, and determinate tomatoes to promote ripening of final crop

Ornamentals

- ✓ Sow sweet peas
- ✓ Dethatch Bermuda grass lawns
- ✓ Fertilize Christmas cactus (0-10--10). Move to shade outside where night light is minimized to promote buds
- ✓ Water camellias to prevent bud drop

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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