



Post Office Box 23, Manteca, California 95336  
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## January 2018 Newsletter

President	Paula Elias
Vice President	Bertie Baumgartner
Treasurer	Ellen Paradiso
Secretary	Lorna Powell
Parliamentarian	Gloria Martinez



### President's Message

by Paula Elias



Happy New Year Manteca Garden Club!

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season! It's a new year and our garden club fun continues! This new year brings us many fun activities supporting our community. We hope one of your New Year resolutions will be to stay involved as an active member of our garden club. We are so lucky to have so many participating and we need more as we have a lot of fun and interesting projects through June! Our yearbook and newsletter are a great resource for us all! And we will continue to make announcements at our monthly meetings. We hope to see you there! Thank you for your ongoing support!

Wishing you and yours a wonderful 2018.

*Paula*

#### Key Dates

##### Meeting

Monday, January 15	Manteca Garden Club, Manteca Library 12:30-12:55pm refreshments; 12:55 meeting Speaker: Jim Brugger, Topic: Sculpted Nature
Saturday, January 27	Rose Pruning with Hank at 9:30am at the Senior Center, in case of rain February 3

# Gardener's Corner for January

by Cate White, Master Gardener

Chilly winter weather has set in, so this month I'll focus on houseplants. Houseplants bring life to any room as long as you meet their basic requirements. Start with healthy plants that look clean and shapely, not spindly. They should have plenty of green leaves, with no yellowing or browning on the edges. Check to be sure they are free of pests, especially on the undersides of the leaves. Next, find a location free of drafts or exposure to excessive heat that has plenty of light. While various plants have different light requirements, most need high to medium light exposure in south or east facing windows. Western exposures also provide good light, but can be too hot. Plants not getting enough light become spindly with light green leaves, while plants getting too much light develop pale yellow leaves that become brown and sunburned.

Proper watering is important. Over or under watering accounts for a large percentage of houseplant problems. Generally, it is helpful to follow two rules; never let the soil dry out completely, and never allow plants to sit in water for an extended time. When the top 1 inch of soil is dry in a 6 inch pot, or the top 2 inches in larger pots, it's time to water. Apply water until you see it draining from the bottom of the pot. To keep plants from sitting in water, put them in a saucer filled with small pebbles. You shouldn't water with softened water due to its high salt content. Fertilize with a complete fertilizer containing nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K), according to the product label instructions. Using a slow-release fertilizer allows you to fertilize less frequently. Be careful not to over-fertilize, since that causes a build-up of salts. Leaching the soil by pouring on water equal to twice the volume of the pot and letting it run through completely every 3 to 4 months will help to prevent normal salt build-up.

Keep your houseplants clean and well groomed by removing dead or dying leaves and flowers. Use a dampened cloth to wipe dust off leaves, or spray with water. Pinch back growth to keep plants bushy and compact if needed.

The most common insect pests include aphids, mites, scales, mealybugs, whiteflies and thrips. Spray with insecticidal soap or neem oil (do this outside), or use insecticidal products specifically meant for houseplants, following label directions. Fungus gnats (small black insects flying just above the soil), can be discouraged by allowing the soil to dry out as much as possible between waterings. If plants become heavily infested with pests, it is best to discard them and purchase new plants.

Continue monitoring and baiting for snails and slugs, adjusting watering schedules according to weather, and protecting sensitive plants from frost

## January Garden Chore Checklist

- Plant bare root shrubs, trees and roses.
- Apply a second dose of fungicide spray to peaches and nectarines to control leaf curl.
- Prune deciduous trees and shrubs (such as apple, pear, crepe myrtle, roses and stone fruits), encouraging good form and structure. Remove dead, diseased and borer infested wood, then spray with horticultural oil (found in most nurseries) to discourage over wintering pests and diseases.



Peace Lily



Dieffenbachia



Ivy

## And the winner is ...

We are pleased to announce the winner of our May 12, 2018 Garden Tour Art Contest. Art work submitted by Alex Cazares from MUSD, Weston Ranch, received the most votes! His teacher, Kira Eadington, said Alex was very excited! We presented Alex and Kira each with a \$100 check.

It's always exciting to support our young people at MUSD.



## Refreshments

by Ann Clapper, Sandie Harris and Linda Schneider

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the January 15, 2018 Garden Club Meeting:

Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

Laneaia Bolle  
Paula Elias  
Marion Golisano

Sandie Harris  
Ellen Paradiso  
Linda Raetz



## January Birthdays

3 Duane Becker  
7 Pat Nelson  
12 Pat Fidler  
14 Joan Cannon

