



Post Office Box 23, Manteca, California 95336  
 Facebook: Manteca garden club  
 website: [www.mantecagardenclub.org](http://www.mantecagardenclub.org)

## February 2018 Newsletter

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



### President's Message

by Paula Elias



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Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

We hope you are enjoying these beautiful sunny days and are getting your garden ready for Spring. A perfect way to get more information on what to do now in your garden is to read the article in our newsletter from Cate White, San Joaquin Master Gardener. Cate shares such great information each month! Thank you Cate!

Thanks to the members who worked on Saturday pruning the roses! You want to learn more about caring for roses? Join a rose team! Work with a group of other garden club members every six weeks for less than an hour at the Senior Center rose garden. Sign ups for teams will be at the March and April meetings.

A big Happy Valentine's Day to all of you too. Hope you have a special day. It sure is special to get a birthday card from the club. A big thank you to Beth, our sunshine chairperson, who remembers us on our birthdays and more.

It's getting to be an even busier time at the garden club. Make sure to attend meetings, read the minutes and the wonderful club newsletter done by Lorna, our club secretary, to stay informed on all of the fun stuff coming.

See you at the meeting!

*Paula*

#### Key Dates

##### Meeting

Thursday, February 15  
 Monday, February 19

Board Meeting, Chez Shari, 9:30am  
 Manteca Garden Club, Manteca Library  
 12:30-12:55pm refreshments; 12:55 meeting  
 Speaker: Tom Powell, Topic: School Gardens and City Beautification

# Gardener's Corner for February

by Cate White, Master Gardener

Many of us have citrus trees in our yards and enjoy their winter fruit. They can be subject to a number of pests, however, and since I ran out of room to address those problems in my previous column on citrus, I will cover 2 pests you may encounter in this column. One is relatively minor, but the other can be catastrophic.

First is the Citrus Leaf Miner. This is a moth larva which tunnels into new citrus leaves, primarily in the Spring and Fall. Only new young leaves will be attacked. The leaves can become twisted and deformed, causing the problem to look worse than it is. Mature trees withstand the damage well, and even young trees will recover. Do not cut out the damaged leaves, as they are still able to produce energy for the tree. In our area, the summer heat discourages these pests, reducing their activity. Prune away any water sprouts and suckers and do not fertilize in the fall. Avoid using insecticides since they cannot reach the caterpillars inside the leaves and may kill off natural predators, leading to a build-up of other pests such as white flies and scale insects.

Second is the Asian citrus psyllid. This small insect and its nymphs feed on citrus growth causing dieback of new shoots and twisting or notching of the leaves. However, the damage they cause is less important than the fact that they carry the fatal citrus disease huanglongbing (HLB), also called citrus greening disease. This insect and the disease it carries arrived here from Asia in the early 2000's, and has been spreading throughout citrus growing states.

There is no cure for the disease, which has been found in southern California but not yet in our area. The psyllid has been found here though, so it's very important to be on the lookout. The most telltale sign is the waxy curly white tube with a bulb at the end that each nymph exudes. The adult insect is about the size of an aphid with mottled brown wings, and the nymphs are yellowish with red eyes. You will find them on new growth, primarily in Spring and Fall. Using a hand lens can be helpful for identification. Symptoms of the disease include blotchy yellowing of the leaves on individual branches, and small, bitter, lopsided fruit that remains partially green. These symptoms may take several years to show up. If you find Asian citrus psyllids or suspect the disease, call the California Department of Food and Agriculture Exotic Pest hotline at 1-800-491-1899. Since the psyllid is present in our area we are under quarantine, meaning no plant parts may be transported to other areas. You can transport fruit only if it is thoroughly washed and free of twigs and leaves.

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## February Garden Checklist

- Plant bare root shrubs and trees, like roses and fruit trees
- Continue baiting for ants, snails, slugs and earwigs
- Monitor for Asian citrus psyllid
- Prune deciduous trees and shrubs such as apple, crepe myrtle, pear and roses. Remove dead, diseased wood, making cuts properly to encourage good structure. Spray with horticultural oil to control insects and diseases. Spray peaches to prevent peach leaf curl one more time before bud break.
- Cut back deciduous sages such as Mexican sage to within 6-8 inches from the ground. Cut back fountain grasses to within 2 to 2 1/2 feet off the ground.
- Plant seedlings of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and lettuce and parsley. Plant beets, chard, carrots and peas from seed. Spring flowers such as violas, pansies, snapdragons and Iceland poppies can also be planted now.
- Continue adjusting irrigation according to the weather. Do not water within 48 hours of measurable rain.

## Gardener's Corner for February (continued from Page 2)



Citrus Leaf Miner  
Courtesy UCANR



Asian Citrus Psyllid and  
nymphs with waxy tubules  
courtesy UCANR



Asian Citrus Psyllid nymphs  
Courtesy UCANR

## Refreshments

by Ann Clapper, Sandie Harris and Linda Schneider

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the February 19, 2018 Garden Club Meeting:

Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

Vi Bobson  
Pat Fidler  
Marion Golisano

Alene Griffin  
Barbara Stoner  
Vicki Willis



## February Birthdays

2	Vi Bobson	17	Andrea Edmundson
3	Carol Boné	21	Wendy Benavidez
9	Phyllis Brooks	22	Beverly Ensley
11	Judy Brown	22	Anita Handley
11	Linda Schneider	28	Victoria Miller
11	Beverly Eckland		

