



President's Message

by Paula Elias



Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

We can't believe it's already May and our annual garden tour is just a couple of weeks away!

Thank you to everyone for their support in planning the garden tour! This is our only fund raiser for the year! All proceeds from the tour help to support our non profit work; city beautification, school scholarships and more! Thanks for selling tickets to your friends and relatives. Our members are the best ticket sellers!!!

Thanks to Tom P for all of the planning with the library project and Arbor Day. Thanks to Eric for his help with the landscape and to all of the members who attended the events. It was exciting to see our members in the Manteca Bulletin!

Thanks to Marsha and Tom S for the work on high school scholarships. How special to support our young Manteca students!!

This is truly the best time of the year!

See you at the pre tour on May 10, and the tour May 12!

Happy Spring!

Paula

Key Dates

Meeting

Thursday, May 10

Saturday, May 12

Monday, May 21

Pre-tour, 10:00am, meet at 1st house: 4192 Volpaia Place

Annual Garden Tour, 10:00am – 2:00pm

Manteca Garden Club, Library, McFall Room

12:30-12:55pm refreshments; 1:00 pm meeting

Speaker: Rose Albano Risso; Topic: Photography Presentation of her Bird Book

Gardener's Corner for May

by Cate White, Master Gardener

Culinary herbs are some of the most rewarding plants to grow. They do especially well in our Mediterranean climate, have mostly low water requirements, and provide us with a bounty of flavors to liven up our favorite dishes.

Herbs are classified as either perennials or annuals. Shrubby perennials include rosemary, both upright and prostrate; the thymes including English, silver and lemon; and common sage, which can be green or purple. Oregano, marjoram, French tarragon, chives and mint are lower growing plants that die back partially or completely in the winter. Oregano can be Greek, Italian or Mexican, and mints include peppermint, spearmint, among countless others. Basil, including Thai, purple and Greek varieties is an annual, as are cilantro, dill and summer savory. A few herbs, such as parsley (both flat leaved and curly) and fennel, are biennials, meaning they grow through one season, then set seed and die the following season. These are only a few of the many varieties available.

Happily, herbs are not fussy about types of soil, fertilization or water. Basil, Chives and mints like regular watering, while others have low water needs. They are mostly pest free, although aphids can be a problem as well as white flies and spider mites. Chives may be attacked by bulb mites, small insects that look like aphids clustering at the base of the plant. Aphids, white flies and mites can be discouraged by strong frequent sprays of water. Neem oil or insecticidal soaps are also good controls, although they will probably have to be reapplied several times.

When planting herbs, it is important to keep in mind their mature size, water needs and growth habits. A few, such as parsley, fennel, dill and cilantro prefer cooler weather, growing best in spring or fall. These can grow to about 1 1/2 to 2 feet tall and about 12 inches wide. Perennials are best planted in spring or fall, and can last many seasons. Upright Rosemary is the largest of these, growing to 4 or 5 feet tall and about 2 1/2 feet wide, although they will withstand heavy pruning. Prostrate Rosemary makes a good ground cover, about 8 inches in height and spreading several feet. Sage and Thyme reach 1 1/2 to 2 feet in height and width.

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May Garden Checklist

- Control ants with baits or traps. Eliminate standing water in flowerpots, drain pipes or gutters to control mosquitos.
- Keep monitoring citrus for Asian Citrus Psyllid
- Look for oozing or dead limbs on apple, crabapple, pear and pyracantha, a sign of Fire Blight.
- Continue monitoring and adjusting irrigation according to the weather.
- Apply mulch to bare areas.
- Check for signs of powdery mildew on apple, crepe myrtle, rose and stone fruits. Control with neem oil.
- Put out and maintain Yellowjacket traps.
- Plant or sow seeds of cucumber, squash, and melons. Start seed potatoes. Also plant summer annuals such as zinnias, petunias and vinca.
- Aerate lawns that get heavy foot traffic.
- Fertilize cane berries, citrus, deciduous fruit trees, palms, and heavy flowering shrubs with slow release fertilizer if not done in March or April.



Gardener's Corner for May (continued from Page 2)

Chives and Tarragon will die back completely during the coldest months, while the growth of Marjoram, Oregano and Mint will slow, and they should be cut back to just above ground level. With the exception of chives, these are spreading low growing plants. All herbs are should be trimmed often to keep growth neat and compact. Use the cuttings to season your cooking.

Most herbs except the upright variety of Rosemary grow well in large pots. You can even group several together in a half-barrel. Many are quite attractive, adding interest to a perennial bed. Mint should always be contained in a pot to keep it from taking over your yard. Keep plants with low water requirements grouped together. There are many books showing layouts for herb gardens from informal to the formal knot gardens found on fancy estates. Herbs are calling you to let your creativity loose in the garden and in the kitchen!

City Beautification and School Garden Updates

By Tom Powell

Most of our recent efforts have been centered around two city beautification projects: Manteca Library courtyard and the Arbor Day plantings on the Tidewater Bike Path at Center Street. Each of these projects created opportunities for several MGC members to participate (See photos on MGC Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pg/manteca.gardenclub/posts/?ref=page_internal) Both of these projects were possible because of contributions received from the Audubon Society, SSJID, and the Manteca Morning Rotary as well as the continued support and partnership we have with Cody Ross from Manteca City Parks.

The library project is substantially completed and should be completed shortly.



Across from the rectangular beds we planted Dymondia ground cover. Still need to add cobblestones at both corners.



Manteca Library – Planting is done and irrigation on one side is done. Still need to irrigate shaded side and add bark to both sides.



The Tidewater project was completed when the city crew added bark after we assisted with the planting of trees and shrubs.

With respect to school gardens the primary effort recently has been at the Lincoln Elementary School garden. Through the generosity of the Raymus grant of \$1,250 we have been able to make improvements in the existing garden. These include upgraded irrigation system, additional flower beds and planters, a storage shed, and many supplies and equipment to support the garden activities.

We also added two trees (Chinese Ash) at other schools (Sequoia and Komure) that will eventually provide additional shade where needed. This was accomplished due to a donation from Manteca Morning Rotary and the assistance of Raymus and GECAC in transporting the trees to the school sites.

Plant of the Month by Eric Teberg

Salvia, Victoria blue

Height: 18 inches
Width: 12 inches
Exposure: Full sun
Moisture: Drought tolerate
Soil: Well drained; tolerates clay soil



Salvia, argentea

Height: 12-18 inches
Width: 18-27 inches
Exposure: Full sun
Soil: Normal to sandy
Moisture: Dry
Flowers: Creamy yellow
Foliage color: Silver
Blooms: Summer



Refreshments

by Ann Clapper, Sandie Harris and Linda Schneider

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the May 21, 2018 Garden Club Meeting.

Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

At the time of publication, this list was not available. Please contact Sandie Harris@ 209-610-0321 or 209-824-1342 for more information.



May Birthdays

7 Alene Griffin
13 Dena Rossi
14 Judy Sullivan
16 Linda Crothers
21 Barbara Stoner

