



Post Office Box 23, Manteca, California 95336
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December 2018 Newsletter

President	Paula Elias
Vice President	Bertie Baumgartner
Treasurer	Beverly Ensley
Secretary	Lorna Powell
Parliamentarian	Gloria Martinez



President's Message

by Paula Elias



Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

Happy Holidays! We hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving and now it's Hanukkah time and soon Christmas and then Happy New Year!!

I wish to thank members, Berti, Lorna, Bev and Gloria for serving on our board this holiday season. We are lucky to have their help to keep the club moving towards our goals and having fun while doing it! I thank them for their support and dedication to our club.

We have lots of great members all qualified to serve on the board too and we hope as we have board positions open, more of you will raise your hand to keep our club on track!

Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Paula

Key Dates

Monday, December 17	Holiday Luncheon at Chez Shari, Manteca Golf Course, 305 Union Road, 12:00 noon
Monday, January 21	Manteca Garden Club Meeting , McFall Room, Manteca Library, 320 W. Center St.; Refreshments 12:30 p.m., Meeting 1:00 p.m. Speaker: Eric Teberg, Topic: Drip Irrigation and Its Application in Landscape Design

Gardener's Corner for December

by Cate White, Master Gardener

The holidays are here, and those of you with pets know about being vigilant to keep your furry family members safe from holiday decorations and displays. But what about pet safety in your garden? This month I will discuss some of the common plants and gardening practices that could be harmful to your pets.

Bulbs, such as daffodils, tulips and hyacinths are all toxic, causing drooling, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea, leading to dehydration and problems such as heart rhythm abnormalities. All parts of these plants are toxic, although the bulbs, being more concentrated are more so.

Lilies, including Day lilies, Amaryllis, Easter lilies and Stargazers can be fatal. All parts of the plant are toxic. Cats are especially sensitive. Other types of lily, such as the Peace lily (grown mostly indoors), and Calla lilies are less toxic.

Chrysanthemums, (including daisies), are irritants to the gastrointestinal tract and can affect the nervous system.

Cyclamen have toxins that can destroy red blood cells, in addition to gastrointestinal distress, seizures and heart rhythm abnormalities that can occur.

Sago palm and other cycads are all mildly to severely toxic, causing vomiting and liver toxicity.

Onions, garlic and chives can cause gastrointestinal distress and red blood cell damage. Cats are most susceptible.

Mushrooms are often toxic and can be fatal. Dig these out and destroy them as soon as they pop up in your garden

Poinsettias, contrary to popular belief, are only mildly toxic, causing mouth irritation and gastrointestinal symptoms.

Blood and Bone meal, both used as fertilizer can be highly attractive to dogs. Blood meal can cause vomiting and diarrhea along with severe pancreatic inflammation. Bone meal consumed in large amounts can form a hard ball in the stomach that blocks the intestinal tract, requiring surgery to remove.

Rose and plant fertilizers containing organophosphates can be highly toxic to small dogs in particular.

Mulches, while useful, can be attractive to dogs, who like to chew on them. Stick to natural wood mulches that are not dyed, as your dog may be sensitive to the dyes. Cocoa bean mulch is toxic and should be avoided.

Snail baits can be highly toxic. Read labels carefully. Those containing metaldehyde are extremely poisonous. Those based on iron phosphate or ferric sodium EDTA are a safer choice, although they still should be used with caution. Spread small amounts evenly around plants, and avoid making piles.

These are just a few of the problem plants and practices requiring caution. To learn more, go to the ASPCA Toxic and Non-toxic Plants website.

December Garden Checklist

- Plant pre-chilled tulip and hyacinth bulbs.
- Reduce irrigation according to temperature and rain, being sure to water plants under eaves that don't get rainfall.
- Continue controlling for ants and snails.
- Clean up leaves and garden debris.
- Wait until January to prune roses.
- Spray fungicide on peach and nectarine trees to prevent peach leaf curl
- Protect frost sensitive plants, and bring those in pots under cover. Keep all sensitive plants moist.
- Purchase cyclamen plants for winter color in pots or flower beds.
- Remember plants can make great Christmas gifts! Camellias are beginning to bloom now. Most should be planted in a shady area, although the Sasanqua variety can take more sun. Many herbs can be grown indoors through the winter on a sunny windowsill. Poinsettias will also thrive through the winter in a sunny indoor location. Be sure to remove the decorative foil from the pot to avoid root rot. Water all these plants when the soil feels dry, about once a week.



Plant(s) of the Month for December

By Eric Teberg

Platycerium bifurcatum 'Netherlands'

Soil: Well drained, loves banana peels
Moisture: Once a week in Summer, once every 2-3 weeks in other months
Exposure: Shade, natural light, protect from cold



Cyrtomium falcatum 'Rochfordianum' Holly Fern

Height: 30 inches
Width: 3 feet
Exposure: Shade
Moisture: Keep soil moist; protect from frost



Nephrolepis exaltata 'Emina', Boston Fern

Height: 12-15 inches
Exposure: Shade, makes terrific houseplant
Moisture: Water when surface feels dry
Soil: Well-drained



Woodwardia fimbriate, 'Giant chain fern'

Exposure: Part to heavy shade
Moisture: Moderate
Height: 3 feet
Width: 3 feet



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Plant(s) of the Month for December (continued from page 3)

Davallia fajeensis, 'Rabbits Foot Fern'

Height: 1-2 feet

Moisture: Keep moist, not soaked

Exposure: Indirect bright light, avoid direct sunlight

Soil: Well drained

Temperature: 60-75°, no lower than 55°

Fertilizer: Feed every 2-3 weeks



December Birthdays

- 5 Josie Padua
- 8 Patti Dowling
- 8 Gail Hannon
- 27 Sandra Sarras



Manteca Garden Club Holiday Luncheon

Monday, December 17

12:00 noon

Chez Shari, Manteca Golf Course

305 Union Road, Manteca

