



President’s Message

by Paula Elias



Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

It’s May and time for our only fundraiser of the year, the annual garden tour!

Thanks to everyone who worked to make the garden tour happen, starting with the members who found houses: Anita, Gayle, Gloria and Sandie! Without houses, we couldn’t have a tour! Keep your eyes and ears open for new houses for 2020! And thanks to Jesse for taking on the garden tour chair!

We will have a fun, safe, successful tour on May 11. Thanks again to members who took lead positions and those who signed up as docents.

Your contribution helps to support our non-profit work with scholarships and school and city beautification projects.

Thanks to Berti for serving as VP the last four years! Thanks to Pat and Gloria for stepping up to share the VP position for the next two years. You all are appreciated. I’m still on the lookout for a co-president to work with me!

We will celebrate Pat and Gloria and me at the June Installation lunch June 17 at Jesse’s beautiful garden.

We are looking forward to our next season starting in September. Membership of \$25 is due by the September meeting to get in our yearbook. Please bring your dues to a meeting or you can mail to our P.O. Box 23, Manteca 95336 by September 1. \$25 dues are for Sept 2019 to June 2020.

Looking forward to seeing you at our May meeting, the last meeting of this season!

Happy Spring!

Paula

Key Dates

Meeting

Thursday, May 9	Pre-tour, 10:00am, meet at 1 st house: 1485 Morning Glory Street (Del Webb)
Saturday, May 11	Annual Garden Tour, 10:00am – 2:00pm, Docents report at 9:30am
Monday, May 20	Manteca Garden Club, Library, McFall Room 12:30-1:00pm refreshments; Speaker: Jonas Schambeck, Rainforest Nursery; Topic: Adding water feature to your garden

Gardener's Corner for May

by Cate White, UC Master Gardener

There are many good reasons for the current succulent craze. They are easy to grow, have low water and maintenance requirements and are practically pest free. They are readily available at nurseries and garden centers, and come in a huge variety of shapes, sizes and colors. Some have attractive flowers or colorful leaves, and some even grow into small trees. Many grow well in pots, and they are easy to propagate.

Succulents are defined as plants with plump, fleshy leaves that hold water. Cacti are a sub-group of succulents: most cacti have sharp spines, while succulents tend to have minimal spines or are spine free. Some stay low to the ground, such as the familiar "Hens and Chicks" of the *Sempervivum* and *Echeveria* varieties. Sedums often make good ground covers and can have orange or reddish leaves. Aloes have variously colored spikey leaves growing 2 to 4 feet from the center and often a striking central flower spike. Aloe Vera, or true aloe is useful to grow since its leaves contain sap that soothes burns. Bulbines have a similar growth pattern, but are smaller and send up multiple yellow or orange flower spikes. Some aloes form small trees. Calandrinias, one of my favorites, have gray-green leaves forming rosettes on short stems and send up lovely cup shaped magenta flowers on longer stems. Jade plants, of the *Crassula* species, grow into handsome shrubs from 2 to 4 feet tall. The possibilities are almost endless!

General guidelines for growing succulents include giving them only enough water to keep their leaves from shriveling. Since they can rot from too much moisture, they are best grown in light sandy soil, making our Manteca sandy loam ideal. If you have heavy garden soil, plant succulents on a raised mound, which will keep their roots from getting waterlogged. When planting in pots, use potting soil especially formulated for succulents and cacti.

In our climate zone, many succulents appreciate some afternoon shade, especially from the hot summer sun, and protection in winter when temperatures get frosty. Growing them in pots allows you to move them around as the sun's angle changes, and to bring them under your patio cover in the winter. Check with your nursery or a source such as the Sunset Garden Book to determine the light and temperature requirements of the particular plant you are growing. Few pests attack succulents, although snails sometimes munch on their leaves.

Succulents make ideal potted plants. Most have shallow roots, so they will thrive small shallow containers. Growing them in containers is also good way to show off their unusual shapes and colors. Plant several smaller types together in bowl shaped container, or group a number of small containers together for an attractive display. Succulents also are fun to grow in unusual vessels such as old coffee cups or other small pottery items, large shells, and even large rocks that have depressions deep enough for a little soil and a small plant.

Propagation of succulents is easy. Cut off a short length of stem with a few leaves, break off a rosette or even an individual leaf. Let it air dry for several days or longer until it forms a callus, or dries at the point of breakage. Then plant the stem or anchor the rosette or leaf base in the appropriate potting mix and keep slightly damp. Soon, new growth will appear. So get in on the succulent craze and start a new garden adventure!

May Garden Checklist

- Control ants with baits or traps. Eliminate standing water under flowerpots, and in 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, roses and stone fruits. Control with neem oil.
- Control aphids with insecticidal soap or neem oil.
- Put out and maintain Yellowjacket traps.
- Plant or sow seeds of cucumber, squash, and melons. Start seed potatoes. It's still time to plant tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. Also plant summer annuals such as zinnias, petunias, portulaca and vinca.
- Aerate lawns that get heavy foot traffic.
- Fertilize cane berries, citrus, deciduous fruit trees, palms, and heavily flowering shrubs with slow release fertilizer if not done in March or April.

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



Flowering Echeveria



Collection of mid-size succulents



Small succulent grouping

Picture by Cate White

Plant of the Month

by Eric Teberg

Geranium, *x cantabrigiense* 'Karmina'

Height: 6-8 inches
Width: 18-24 inches
Exposure: Full sun to part shade
Soil: Well drained



Geranium, *cantabrigiense* 'Cambridge'

Height: 8-12 inches
Width: 18" inches
Exposure: Full sun to part shade
Soil: Normal to sandy to clay
Flowers: Bright magenta to pink
Blooms: Late Spring to Late Summer



Refreshments

By Sandie Harris and Linda Schneider

The following members have volunteered to bring refreshments to the May 20, 2019 Garden Club Meeting.

Refreshments start at 12:30pm.

Jeanette Farley
Jean Glenn
Linda Schneider

Beth Stitt
Joy Whitcomb



May Birthdays

7	Alene Griffin	14	Judy Sullivan
8	Patricia Paulin-Doscher	16	Linda Crothers
13	Dena Rossi	21	Barbara Stoner

