



Blue Ribbon Certified
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December 2019 Newsletter

President	Paula Elias
Co-Vice President	Pat Fidler
Co-Vice President	Gloria Martinez
Treasurer	Beverly Ensley
Secretary	Lorna Powell
Parliamentarian	Pam Dias



President's Message

by Paula Elias



Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

This year we have six unique gardens that are located from Del Webb, with four more gardens going down through town on Union, then to a country home by the river and lastly a garden by the waterslide lakes. Our refreshment and raffle will be our fourth house this year! Thanks to all of the members who helped Jesse and me find houses. Without you finding the houses and the homeowners volunteering to share their gardens we couldn't have a tour. As our only fundraiser, we ask all members to participate with our fund raiser by buying at least two garden tour tickets then selling them, giving them to friends or relatives or use as I do, enter into the door prize drawing. What a wonderful Mother's Day gift too. You will hear more about the tour and how each of us can do our part. And remember, it's our only fundraiser for scholarships and city projects. A big thanks to Jesse for his work with the homeowners too!

All of this rain will help keep those gardens healthy for our tour! Remember to turn off your outdoor watering and put those potted plants in the path of the rain. There's nothing like rain water!

I'm excited to announce we now have 75 members! At each meeting, please get to know someone new!

We are looking forward to our holiday lunch. Thanks to our co VP, Gloria, for planning the event and to those who are helping!

Happy Holidays!

Paula

Key Dates

Monday, December 16	Holiday Luncheon at Chez Shari, Manteca Golf Course, 305 Union Road, 12:00 noon
Monday, January 20	Manteca Garden Club Meeting , McFall Room, Manteca Library, 320 W. Center St.; Refreshments 12:30 p.m., Meeting 1:00 p.m. Speaker: Barry Boulton; Topic: Birds in the Garden

Gardener's Corner for December

by San Joaquin County Master Gardener Cate White

Now that December is here, most of us are busy decorating for the holidays. Often, that involves bringing live plants indoors. Here are a few tips for caring for some common holiday plants.

Poinsettias are among the most popular of all holiday plants. Their brightly colored leaf bracts look like large flowers. Many colors are available, from white to pink to variegated to bright red. Poinsettias do well in bright light indoors. If the pots are wrapped in foil, be sure to remove it to avoid fungal growth. Keep them moist, but do not let them stand in water. Once the flowers fade, the stems should be cut back to keep the plant from becoming too leggy. Poinsettias can be grown as houseplants, but because of complicated light requirements, it is very difficult to get them to re-bloom. While they are not poisonous, the sap can irritate the skin or stomach if eaten. Our winter temperatures are too cold for them to be grown outside.

Another useful plant for holiday color is cyclamen. These have flowers in colors similar to poinsettias. They can tolerate being inside for several weeks and need bright indirect light and moderate water. After living inside, they should be placed back outdoors, preferably in a shaded area or one with only a few hours of sunlight each day. They are easily grown in pots, and will die back each spring. Once dormant, put them in a heavily shaded location with minimal water until they begin to leaf out again in the fall. They will come back year after year and produce delightful winter flowers.

Evergreen trees, such as pine, spruce or even rosemary are also popular plants to bring inside for holiday decorating. These plants are all happiest outside, since inside temperatures are too warm and humidity levels are too low for them to thrive for long. Rosemary is probably the best choice for inside, but needs strong bright light to avoid spindly growth. All these evergreens can be used inside for a week to ten days at most, then they should be moved back outside. They can be grown in pots for use again next year although large evergreens should be planted in the ground where they have plenty of room to grow to their full size.

An evergreen plant that does well as a houseplant year-round is ivy. There are a number of varieties, including some with miniature or variegated leaves. They can be trained to grow in various topiary shapes, such as wreaths or small trees. They prefer indirect sunlight, and should be allowed to dry out between watering.

Amaryllis bulbs are very popular at this time of year and are practically foolproof. They also come in shades of white, pink and red. Plant them in good potting soil, with the top one-third of the bulb sticking out of the soil. Place in bright light, but not all day sunshine. Water sparingly until you see an inch or two of growth, then water regularly. These bulbs will send up a sturdy flower stalk that grows amazingly fast. Turn the pot regularly to keep the stalk from leaning over. The flowers usually appear within four to six weeks.

Wishing you all the best for happy, healthy holidays!

December Garden Checklist

- 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.
- Plant pre-chilled tulip and hyacinth bulbs outside now.
- Purchase cyclamen, violas and primroses for winter color in pots or flower-beds
- Remember plants 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. Water all these plants when the soil feels dry, about once a week.



Ivy Topiary Tree



Red Amaryllis

Eric's World

By Eric Teberg

Westringia wynyabbie gem

Height: 3-4 Feet
Width: 3-4 Feet
Flower color: Mauve
Soil: Loamy, sandy, clay, potting mix, poor soil
Exposure: Sun, partial shade
Moisture: Well-drained



Cupressus macro 'gold crest'

Height: 6 Feet
Width: 18 inches
Exposure: Full sun
Moisture: Well-drained
Soil: Chalk, clay, sand, loam



December Birthdays

5 Josie Padua
8 Patti Dowling
8 Gail Hannon



Manteca Garden Club



Holiday Luncheon

Monday, December 16

12:00 noon