

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



President's Message

by Paula Elias



Dear Manteca Garden Club Members,

Your Manteca Garden Club board, hopes this newsletter finds you and yours all well and healthy. We are disappointed in not being able to meet with you all but know our social distancing is something we all must do now. We hope you are getting out in your garden area to enjoy your plants and the sun.

It has been so disappointing to cancel our May garden tour. Especially for me since I am not the chair! Okay, that is a joke. We are not the only club to do so as Escalon and Modesto also cancelled their tours. I want to thank Jesse for his leadership with the garden tour. He said he is sad to cancel the tour and he liked being the tour chair. I replied, "oh, you can keep that title for 2021! All of the homeowners were wonderful and agreed to be in the tour in May 2021. How lucky are we! Thanks to the tour chairs for their garden tour planning and unplanning and to all of you who had reserved May 7 and May 9 for our tour. Bev tells us we have funds in savings to continue with our scholarships and our city projects. Good planning on our part! We have an entire year to make up the funds we lost with the garden tour, about \$5,000. I know we can make it up with member donations and possible grants. More to come on fundraising!

Speaking of scholarships, Marsha and Tom have been in contact with school counselors and hope to start receiving scholarship applications by mid April. Scholarship announcements probably will be delivered via the mail instead of in person as they have done in the past. Just a change for this year. We sure appreciate the ongoing scholarship work by Marsha and Tom as they have developed long lasting relationship with the schools to support graduating students. Wonderful work!

Tom P. shares he is in contact with Cody at the city and when things are back in swing they will work together on the city project and Arbor Day which just may be a May or June planting! That's fine, as our goal is to plant trees in Tree City USA, Manteca. We appreciate you Tom!

Hank is busy checking the rose garden weekly. He assures us the roses are doing wonderfully. We hope we can start our rose trimming teams soon. Thanks to Hank for his hard work with the roses which are a joy to see in full bloom in front of the senior center.

Beth has been on top of mailing out cards for our member birthdays and when we hear someone needs a bit of a cheer from illness or surgery. Please keep Beth updated when you hear about a member who might appreciate a card from us. We can always count on Beth to be on top of sending a greeting!

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A thank you to Barbara too for keeping our website updated with our activities. www.mantecagardenclub.org Make sure to access the website monthly or more for the latest and greatest of club activities even if we are apart. Barbara has added a new way for us all to see what we are doing in our gardens! Awesome Barbara.

Your board continues with their monthly work. Thanks to Lorna for this awesome newsletter. Thanks too to Cate for her addition to the newsletter. Thanks to Bev for keeping our bookkeeping in order. Gloria and Pat can't wait to plan our next meeting and our next adventure. Thanks to Pam for keeping me on top of my duties too.

We are hopeful to have a May meeting. We will be announcing our board nomination for next year's board. Bev has raised her hand to serve as treasurer two more years and we will be nominating new member, Michelle Perez as our secretary taking minutes and attending our club board meetings. We are thrilled to have Bev continue as she is totally awesome and we are tickled to have Michele join us on the board and learn more about the club. Pat, Gloria and I continue one more year in our positions. We will really miss Lorna as our secretary, serving six years. That's right, six! Lorna is top notch. We know she will still be a member and will help us as needed. See if Lorna can do six years, it isn't that bad! :)

The goal now is for all us to stay healthy. It's a strange time, but we can get through this and then start with our fun garden club activities to achieve our goals.

Please take care as we want to see you at the next meeting. It will be a glorious time!

Have a sunny day until then.

Paula

Quarantine Gardening Gallery

By Barbara Stoner, Webmaster

Many gardeners are finding more time to spend in their gardens now that the state-wide quarantine is in effect. But, while our gardens are beginning to come into their own during this Spring season, we can't invite anyone over to enjoy the results of all our labor.

We in the Garden Club have an opportunity to share with each other by way of an online gallery. Our website also has a blog page that has been underutilized. So, you can also comment on the photos that are particularly enjoyable and ask questions about how the results were accomplished.

Please send whatever you would like to share to mantecagardenclub@yahoo.com and your entries will be posted on the Members page. Let's see that plant or flower that is bursting with color!!



Gardener's Corner for April

by Cate White, San Joaquin County Master Gardener

Summer is just around the corner. Many of us are planting our summer vegetable gardens, most likely including tomatoes, since tomatoes are one of the most commonly planted summer vegetables. There is nothing like the taste of a warm summer tomato just plucked from the garden.

Luckily, our area is prime tomato growing country, and April to early May is the perfect time to set out young plants. Tomatoes grow best in temperatures between 80 and 90 degrees, and the minimum nighttime temperature for fruit set is around 55 degrees.

As you select your tomato plants, there are several things to keep in mind. Try to find varieties that are disease resistant: they should be marked VFN. Also, tomatoes should be marked "determinate" or "indeterminate". This refers to growth and bearing habits. Determinate tomatoes will grow until they start bearing fruit, which usually ripens all at once; then they are finished for the season. Indeterminate tomatoes will keep growing and bearing until cold weather sets in. Since they have a longer growing season, plants will be larger. There are many varieties of each type; you can choose from small cherry size tomatoes to huge beefsteak slicers. Some varieties are even bred to do well in large pots. Buy plants that have 3 to 4 sets of leaves and sturdy stems.

When planting tomatoes, choose a location that gets at least 4 to 6 hours of full sun. Amending the soil with compost is always a good idea, and a fertilizer high in phosphorus may also be helpful. Excessive nitrogen fertilizer is not advisable. Dig a hole deep enough to plant the tomato up to its first set of leaves. Plants should be set at least 2 feet apart, and can be placed in rows about 4 feet apart with watering ditches in between, or on individual mounds encircled by moats to hold water. Keep evenly moist. A single healthy plant can produce 10 to 15 pounds of fruit (tomatoes are technically fruits) in a season, so 3 to 4 plants should provide for a small family. For best results, grow tomatoes in cages to keep plants upright.

Tomatoes can develop problems. Most serious are Fusarium and Verticillium wilts, which will cause even well watered plants to wilt and eventually die. Certain soil nematodes can also attack the roots, causing stunted growth and poor fruit production. Plants marked VFN are bred to resist these problems. Rotating tomato plantings from place to place in the garden each year is also a good practice. Sometimes, even though there are plenty of blooms, tomatoes fail to set. Tapping on the blossoming stems 3 times a week may help distribute pollen and encourage fruit set. Another problem is blossom end rot. This causes a large dark brown leathery spot to form on the blossom end of the fruit. The interior of the fruit may also be affected. Unfortunately, there is no remedy for this problem, although it can be aggravated by low moisture content in sandy soils. Some varieties are more susceptible than others. This should not be confused with sunburn, which causes light brown spots on the fruits. Lastly there are tomato hornworms, which can be very destructive. A spray of bT (bacillus thuringiensis) should eradicate them. So plant now, and enjoy juicy homegrown tomatoes this summer! (continued on page 4)

April Garden Checklist

- Start planting frost sensitive plants now, including citrus, tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and basil
- Control aphids by spraying plants with a strong stream of water or applying insecticidal soaps or oils. Monitor citrus for Asian Citrus Psyllid.
- Fertilize citrus, deciduous fruit trees and flowering shrubs with a slow release fertilizer if not done in March
- Adjust irrigation according to the weather and be sure plants are properly mulched
- Prune winter flowering shrubs like camellias
- Keep up with weeds by pulling or cultivating
- San Joaquin Master Gardeners will hold an Open Garden day Sat. April 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. Tour the demonstration garden, get your tools sharpened (limit 3) and check out the plants for sale (including tomatoes). At the R.J. Cabral Agricultural Center 2101 E. Earhart Ave., Stockton.

Gardener's Corner

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UC Statewide IPM Project
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Tomato hornworm UCANR.edu photo



extension.tennessee.edu photo



photo by Cate White

April Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Margaret Sciaroni | 19 Mary Jo Sachs |
| 1 Jesse Soto | 24 Laneia Bolle |
| 7 David Pickering | 25 Gloria Martinez |
| 13 Lorna Powell | 29 Patsy Baker |
| 15 Scott Griffin | 29 Sandie Harris |

