

Flourishing in our gardens

Volume 7, Issue 2

Feb., 2020

Club Founded by Cindy Drake in 1993

Gardeners know the best dirt



Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

Greetings, Fellow Gardeners,

Wasn't our January Meeting of the Scripps Mesa Garden Club exceptionally interesting and really fun! Farmer Roy, from Cadance Assisted Living, always brings to his Vegetable Garden Lectures such a depth of insight and knowledge. Roy offered us an in-depth understanding of when to get our cool weather vegetables planted to provide maximum performance for a maximum harvest. His lecture also offered insights on when to transition from our cold weather garden to our summer. In addition, we appreciated the pots of broccoli and cauliflower he provided to the membership.

We would like to thank Denise Stewart and Susan Castellana for our wonderful refreshment table filled with delightful and tasty treats.

Our speaker for our February Meeting will be Kevin Espiritu. Kevin is the author of "Urban Gardening" and lives here in San Diego. I'm sure he will provide valuable insights into gardening in our area. Kevin's website is epicgardening.com.

Our March Garden Club speaker will be Chuck McClung. This topic is going to be orchids and how to get them to rebloom.

In April we will be having a Garden Walk. Our Garden Walk will be hosted by our friend and Master Gardener Dawn Standke. It will be a wonderful experience getting to see Dawn's Garden is flourishing in our San Diego spring time.

This is the time in our Garden Club year, when we're thinking about installing new officers for our Garden Club. I have mentioned before I am not going to be able to continue as your president of the Garden Club.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our February Meeting. Please, remember to keep bringing your cuttings and other interesting things for our share table. Our \$30.00 annual dues for our 2020 Garden Club year are due now.

Sincerely,
Bob Gale, President of the Scripps Mesa Garden Club

**Next Meeting
Feb. 25**

**6 pm.
SR Library
Community Rm**

**Kevin Espiritu
of
Epic Gardening**

**9 Top-Secret
Supplements
for
EPIC
Plant Growth**

2019 Garden Club Officers

President
Bob Gale

Secretary
Jackie Brown

Speakers
Helen Plutner &
Lynnell Hallock

Room Coordinator
Louise Badham

Refreshments ...
Susan Castellana

Treasurer ...
Char Fitzgerald

**Newsletter &
Publicity...**
Denise Stewart



Kevin Espiritu to speak at February 25th meeting

9 Top-Secret Supplements for EPIC Plant Growth

Scripps Mesa Garden Club Minutes contributed by Secretary Jackie Brown

January 28, 2020

Speaker: Farmer Roy Wilburn, Director of Horticulture, Cadence Assisted Living - Poway

Topic: winter Vegetable Planting

Farmer Roy invited garden club to visit

Monthly garden lectures - 3rd Saturday's of month free to public

He grows veggies for North county food banks

He also mentors young students and teaches them about gardening and healthy food

Discussion:

When and how to plant winter crops

Prep of soil using mixture of worm casings, compost, chicken manure

He recommended All Purpose for smaller home gardens

(balanced with nitrogen-phosphorous-calcium)

Day 40 apply nitrogen fertilizer for good growth

If using seeds use a healthy seed starter mix (Miracle Gro ok)

Always be ready to plant new crop after picking

Plant lettuce between broccoli and cauliflower so there is always something to pick

(different harvest times)

Recommendations for winter veggies with excellent yields:

Pac-Man broccoli	Cheddar cauliflower	Cabbage (Napa and regular)
Marathon broccoli	Candid charm cauliflower	Red Russian Kale
Graffiti broccoli.	Via Verde cauliflower	Avalanche snow peas on trellis

Two seed catalogues that were recommended:

Johnny's Selected Seeds

Territorial Seed Company

Use organic sprays or plain water to control bugs

**Want to keep rats away from
your compost
heap?**



**Surround it with
mint!**



**Coming in March
Chuck McClung with
Orchids Re-blooming**

Scripps-Mesa Garden Club Newsletter

11152 Caminito Vista Pacifica
San Diego, CA 92131



Contributions of articles, suggestions, artwork, and gardening tips are warmly welcomed. This newsletter belongs to the Scripps-Mesa Garden Club members and is intended to reflect their gardening interests and experiences. Please take part in its mission and contribute an article or a photo.

Starting Seeds Indoors:

- Give seeds 12-16 hours of light daily. Supplement sunlight with grow lights if needed.
- Place seeds in a warm spot between 65-75°.
- Fertilize seedlings once they begin to grow. Use a diluted solution of a complete water-soluble fertilizer every other week. Follow mixing directions on the label.
- Check seedlings that you may have started indoors for sudden wilting and rotted stems caused by damping off. This fungal disease causes young seedlings to collapse. Remove infected plants as soon as they are discovered. Drench the soil with a fungicide labeled for this use. Prevent this disease by using a sterile seed starter mix and clean containers.

Planting:

- Plant seeds of cool-season annuals like larkspur and California and Iceland poppies outdoors when the soil is workable.
- Start tuberous begonias indoors for earlier and summer long flowering in containers and the garden.
- Plant transplants of cool-season annuals such as sweet alyssum, pinks, calendulas, snapdragons, and pansies as soon as they are available in the garden center.
- Plant bare-root trees and shrubs as soon as possible and when the plants are still dormant for greatest success.
- Plant container and balled-and-burlapped plants whenever they are available and the soil can be worked. Fertilize early plantings with a slow-release organic-nitrogen fertilizer.
- Water new plantings thoroughly and often enough to keep the soil around the roots slightly moist.

Bulbs:

Fertilize established bulb plantings (outdoors) once the soil has thawed and the plants begin to grow. Fertilizing before flowers emerge stimulates leaf growth, which feeds the bulb after flowering.

Pruning:

- Prune summer and fall blooming shrubs now until growth begins. Late winter/early spring pruning will not interfere with summer flowering and allows the plants to recover quickly.
- Remove damaged, crossing and rubbing branches and prune young trees to establish a strong framework once the worst of winter has passed.

Landscape Care

- Watch for frost heaving in the garden caused by freezing and thawing of the soil throughout the winter. This causes the soil to shift and can push some plants and bulbs out of the soil. Reset plants and bulbs as needed.
- Dig and divide overgrown and crowded summer and fall blooming perennials as new growth emerges.
- Cut ornamental grasses back to 4 to 6 inches before growth begins. Bind top growth of larger grasses with twine to make pruning and removal easier.
- Late winter through early spring is a good time to transplant trees and shrubs. Start planting when the ground thaws and soil is moist.
- Promote growth on trees and shrubs with spring fertilization.

Editor's note: This information was taken from the Milorganite website

Dues Increase
Beginning Jan. 2020
Garden Club Membership
Dues increase to \$30



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- Tools, Brooms, Harvest Baskets & More
- Gently Used Gardening Books
- Garden 'Green Elephant' Sale
- Lots of Free Information

Garden Tour with Farmer Roy Sat., Feb 29



Contact Helen Plutner if you would like to join Farmer Roy for a garden tour of Cadence Assisted Living Facility in Poway, Saturday Feb 29 -1pm.

Meet at food bank gardens at the end of Monte Vista Rd.

“We can take a peek there then move on up the hill. Let me know if you want to carpool. He would like a head count,” according to Helen.

SPRING

*Daughter of the light,
thy fairy step steals softly over vail and plain,
and with bright and joyous smile,
beauty and life awakens again.*

Author unknown, but a lovely memory from Bob Gale's childhood.

