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*Gardeners know
the best dirt*

Website:
scrippsmesagardenclub.com

Flourishing in our gardens

Scripps-Mesa Garden Club



Planting and Raising Gourds for Fall Harvest

By Bob Gale

I usually plant the gourd seeds towards the end of April or beginning of May. I have planted them even as early as April 1st depending on the weather forecasts. If we are going to get a lot of rain, I get them in early. That way with the cooler weather, I don't

Cont. p.3

S-M GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE

*Scrippsmesa
gardenclub.com*

*Share some of
those photos
you take of your
garden.*

The webpage

*Brydon Bennett, at
bcjj@sbcglobal.
net*

or

the newsletter

(Look left)

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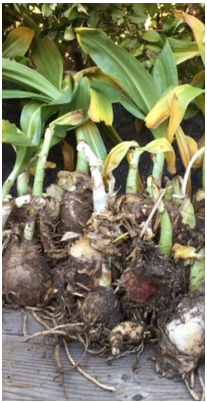


The Scent of roses ...

As I walked my garden in the mist one morning, I couldn't help but think of the inspirational words of Gerard De Nerval. As I looked at the various blossoms in my garden I could hear him saying, "Every flower is a soul blooming in nature."

As I thought these words, I became filled with the delight of the beauty and perfection of each of the blossoms in my garden. I thought what a wonderful way to start a day!

Bob Gale



FREE Corina Bulbs



Mike Tussey gave over 50 Corina bulbs to the club, and there may be more in mid-Nov! Some of the bulbs are as big as 7" across. Some are clusters of several.

The Corina will grow quite nicely in a fairly large pot. They are in the Amaryllis family, Mike says.

Regarding the planting of the near-bullet proof Corina, place the bulb in a pot in full or partial sun, half below richly amended soil. The bulb is best planted one half above soil, one half below.

If you would like some of these bulbs for your garden, contact Susan Castellana at her email and she will arrange a time for pick-up.



Char Fitzgerald's garden, on the edge of a hill, has a view of Scripps Ranch to the southeast.

Scripps-Mesa Garden Club Newsletter

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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.

have to be tended almost

Gourds cont.

really have to water them as much. Then they get off to a really robust start almost on their own. That way they are off and running on their own, I don't have to be tending almost daily. Then it is just a matter of getting them tied up on the fence. Again, this is almost the daily routine once they really get rolling or at the job must be done very least a couple times a week. Because, once they start moving out, let me tell you, they move out. Then they kind of reach where they want to be and then they burst into bloom and then there's baby gourds everywhere. They do start booming when they're very young, but once they've reached their appropriate height, they really put the blooms out. Sometimes the vines are so loaded with baby gourds that I just have to pick a few of the younger ones off and toss them, because they're just weighing the plant down way too much.

I never thought it was really interesting enough to take pictures of them. However, again, like with my grapes, I didn't take pictures when they were mature, which I should have. As with all of life, we live and learns don't we?

My dear grandmother always used to say to me, when I was a kid (and I really didn't understand till I got older,) she would say, "Too soon old, too late smart!" Unfortunately, I now understand the phrase, all too well.

The gourds are beautiful hanging on the fence, but the vines are now half dead and turning brown and yellow with mildew stains on them, and not very attractive to even look at. Therefore, I never thought it would be worth taking pictures of them.

Sorry, so there are no photos of my young growing vines and or of the old dying vines.



These aren't exactly flowers in my yard, but these orchids rebloomed and have beautified my living room throughout most of the pandemic. I can't believe how long they have lasted.

Contributed by Kathy Shattuck

Every gardener loves a praying mantis because it eats aphids and other garden pests.



A female makes a nest on my Asian pear tree every year and many of the babies stick around.

"Advice to Grow by... Ask us!"

Looking for some detailed info about your current garden concern?

Hotline: (858) 822-6910

help@MasterGardenerSD.org





November Chores

For the best display of flowers, climbing roses require both pruning and training. Autumn is a good time to do both, as once you've finished, long shoots will be safely tied to their supports and will be less likely to be damaged during windy winter weather. You can prune climbing roses at any time between now and February though – whenever the rose isn't in leaf.

Start by cutting out all weak and dead or dying growth from your climbing rose. Next, tie in any new shoots that are growing in the right place to fill gaps in the display. If the rose is on a wall, you can increase the number of flowers you'll get next summer by training the stems into a fan shape. Tying them in horizontally encourages the stems to bloom right along their lengths as opposed to just on the ends.

The next step is to trim back all the sideshoots that have flowered to about two thirds of their length, or to two or three buds from a main stem. Finally, if the climbing rose is mature and it's getting to the point that it has too many stems, remove a few of the oldest right at the base to promote fresh new growth.

Prune and train your climbing roses like this each year, and you won't be disappointed.



Pruning Climbing Roses

Sturdy, protective gloves are essential



Fire Safety Rules for the Gardener

It was 17 years ago in late October that hundreds of homes in Scripps Ranch were destroyed by fire

Plan for fire safety. To reduce the risk of fire damage to your home and landscape in the future, take time now to assess where your property is vulnerable and make necessary changes.

Fire safety organizations recommend creating “buffer zones” around the house made up of hardscape and other nonflammable materials. If your property space allows, leave 30 feet on all sides of the house for Zone 1. In this area, rely on nonflammable hardscape materials and remove all dead or dry vegetation. Prune tree branches back at least 10 feet from the chimney.

Farther out from the house, in Zone 2, take steps to reduce the available fuel for a fire and prevent flames jumping from tree to tree or shrub to shrub. Mow dried ornamental grasses down to 4 inches, space shrubs at a distance of two to six times the shrubs’ height, and space trees 10 feet apart. **Plan for fire safety.** To reduce the risk of fire damage to your home and landscape in the future, take time now to assess where your property is vulnerable and make necessary changes.

Any bushes growing close to the house should be pruned down to three feet away from the roof overhang.

Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council has a detailed information for local homeowners. Check out their website. srfiresafe.org