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# Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

Meeting 4th Tues. of the month

## Next Meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 24

Scripps Ranch Library, Community Room, 6pm.

Our speaker for October is Shital Parikh a Master Gardener and school garden consultant. She will be talking about companion planting, understanding plant families and the roles they play in companion planting. Shital will add to our knowledge of the role of companion planting, soil amendment, and cycles of companion planting. We will learn more about rotating between beds, seasonally and annually and how that will improve our gardening techniques.



A rare red orchid tree (*Bauhinia galpinii*) grows up the bank in Lynnell Hallock's backyard covering the hill with beautiful blooms. It was planted about five years ago and can grow up to 10 feet tall, she says.

## How To Save Seeds

From the Old Farmers Almanac

- \* Gather seeds on a dry, sunny day
- \* Clean the seeds thoroughly
- \* Spread the seeds out on paper to dry for about a week
- \* Place the seeds in an envelope with plant name, height, and color.
- \* Date the envelopes.
- \* Store the envelopes in an airtight container in a cool, dry, dark location.
- \* The fridge or freezer is a good place for seed storage because the colder they are kept, the longer they will remain viable for future germination.

*Annuals such as zinnias, sunflowers, cosmos, marigolds, California poppies, impatiens, petunias, cleome, snapdragons, and calendula are easy seeds to harvest and replant.*



# October Garden Chores



- ◆ Herbs to plant as the weather cools: parsley, sage, rosemary, thyme, chives, lavender, cilantro, and mint
- ◆ Cooler weather veggies to plant: brussels sprouts, broccoli, green onions, cauliflower, lettuce, beans
- ◆ Trees and shrubs are best planted as the weather cools and they have time to grow roots before the heat returns (See p.3 for more information)
- ◆ Plant ground cover crops
- ◆ Protect ripening grapes from birds and other animals after your tasty crop
- ◆ Stop fertilizing and watering spent flowers and plants
- ◆ Clear out dead plants from your garden
- ◆ Add them to your compost pile
- ◆ Turn and dampen your compost
- ◆ Dry out the seeds from your favorite tomatoes and save them for next year



## Plagued by ants?

Instead of insecticide, make a concoction of dish soap and water. Spray it on the invaded surfaces and ant lines from outdoors to your home to kill the ants.



**Worried about fire on your roof?** Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters. Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney. (SD Union Tribune Sept3, 2003)

**What plants should be avoided?** Because of volatile oils these plants ignite quickly: Acacia, Cedar, Eucalyptus, Juniper, and Pepper trees. (SD Union Tribune, Sept.3,2013)



## Scripps-Mesa Garden Club

Email: [denise.stewart@hotmail.com](mailto:denise.stewart@hotmail.com)

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.



## President's Message



Enid H. Haupt Gardens, Washington, DC



Susan Castellana

Large lavender hibiscus



# Minutes from the September Meeting

by Barbara Measelle, Secretary

## Scripps Mesa Garden Club

Our presenter, Eric Hoffman, comes by his enthusiasm for fruit trees, in the most natural way. He's been growing them over 20 years and shares his enthusiasm with specific suggestions among which include:

Planting: wide hole, not deep, use local dirt only;

Irrigation: deep and infrequent, low and slow;

Mulch: absolutely 4-6", reduces evaporation, suppresses weeds, use wood chips not bark;

Pests: avoid pesticides, control ants with borax, wash ant trails with something stringent;

Fertilizer: apply in early March, May and after harvesting, good quality, follow directions;

- Pruning: prune to increase sunlight and air flow, keep branches off ground to avoid access for pests, summer pruning can seal wounds, have strong branches in different regions, cut down strong vertical branches, winter pruning no more than 20 – 35%, prune cross branches.

Two serving spoons were left behind after the potluck at Erica Berick's garden. If you want them back, contact her.

## Use Trash Cans for Rain Barrels

Rather than using the very much larger and more expensive rain barrels here in our infrequent and light rain environment, try using trash cans at the end of gutter downspouts.

Sprinkle used coffee grounds around plants to keep the slugs and snails away.

Instead of pouring the water left over from cooking vegetables down the sink drain, take the pot out to your garden and fertilize your plants. It also works for cold water used for washing vegetables.

Got a jar of cinnamon that has gone out of date for use in the kitchen? Sprinkle its contents in your garden. It works as a rooting hormone.



## Master Gardener Fall Festival

Oct. 14, 8am to 3 pm

SD County Operations Center,  
off Hazard Way, Kearny Mesa

- More than 40 garden information booths
- Family Scavenger Hunt
- Tools sharpened for first 50 guests

**Registration for Fall Festival Seminars and Workshops is now open!**

For more information go to:  
[seminars@mastergardenerssandiego.org](mailto:seminars@mastergardenerssandiego.org)