

Garden Chatter, April 2017

Merced Garden Club, Inc.

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/mercedgardenclub>

facebook page: Merced Garden Club, Inc.



President's Message:

Maybe the theme for our spring garden tour should have been "April showers bring May flowers," as the threat of rain on April 11 and 12th is possible. I'm chasing away the dark storm clouds in my mind and making way for a bright and sunny forecast.

I hope some of you were able to enjoy the Rose Show last month in Atwater. Kathy and the Atwater garden club always do a great job of organizing and encouraging participation regardless of age or expertise.

The plant sale at Merced Junior College was the place to be on April 1 (no joke).

It was the social event of the season for plant lovers. I ran into so many friends, I hardly had time to shop!

Of course the Merced Garden Tour is the place to be on Wednesday, April 12.

Thank you, dear members, for all of your help organizing our spring tour. When our guests experience a lovely day filled with beauty, joy, new gardening ideas, shared knowledge and friendship it's because we've all contributed and we should be proud to share this day with the community.

Docents, you are on the front line. You have a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet our guests with a smile and friendly demeanor.

We have an impressive list of artists, musicians and vendors who will be at the different homes. Please let's all take a minute to tell them how much we appreciate their time and talent.

It's never too late to sell more tickets!! I'm following the generous example of my neighbor, Mary. I'm purchasing my tickets and giving them to people who have been especially helpful to me this year. Well, that and the fact that all 10 friends I wanted to sell tickets to couldn't make it this year. Really!?

I'll be seeing you wonderful men and women soon; docents I will see you at 8:45 Tuesday morning and we will be following the map starting with home number one. In Atwater we will go to home 5, then 4.

Just checked the weather and I like what I see! You can like Merced Garden Club on Facebook now too!
Love and a blooming good time to be had by all, Patty

Internet Gardening Articles You Will Enjoy

- [Tips For Growing Organic Vegetables in Your Garden](#)
You don't need to use chemicals for fertilizers and pests in your garden. Use these tips to garden the organic way.
- [Grow Asian Vegetables In Your Garden](#)
You can grow many oriental foods in your own garden without doing anything special.
- [How to Grow and Store Butternut Squash](#)
Learn how to deal with pests and diseases when growing butternut squash and the best ways to store this delicious vegetable.
- [Grow Stevia, Sweetleaf Sweetener In Your Garden](#)
Grow your own sweetener that has 0 calories and 0 carbs.
- [Urban Farmer](#)
Urban Farmer offers vegetable, flower and herb seeds, indoor herb gardens and seed potatoes. They offer a free email newsletter you might want to sign up for, because it says you'll receive coupons in it.

What to Plant in Zone 9 for Spring

<http://www.zone9garden.com/zone-9-spring-planting-guide>

Crop	Month to Plant	Recommended Verities	Notes
Beans, Green	March-April	Blue Lake, Cherokee Wax, Kentucky Wonder	Both bush and pole
Beans, Lima	March-April	Henderson, Jackson Wonder	Trellis for support!
Cantaloupes	March-April	Ambrosia, Athena, Galia	Keep fruit of soil to avoid rot
Carrots	September-March	Danvers, Nates, Imprator	Raised beds work best!
Cauliflower	January-February	Brocoverde, Snowball	Some are green headed
Celery	January-March	Utah Strains are best	Soil must remain moist
Collard Greens	February-April	Top Bunch, Georgia Southern	Will last into warm months
Corn, Sweet	March-April	Sliver Queen, Sweet Ice, Early Sunglow	Keep verities separate
Cucumbers	February-April	Poinsett, Space Master, Eureka, Boston Pickling	For slicing or pickling
Eggplant	Febuary-July	Black Beauty, Ichiban	Likes warm weather, stake!
Mustard Greens	September-May	Tander green, green wave, Florida Broad Leaf	Easily damaged by frost
Okra	March-July	Emeral, Clemson Spineless	Loves hot weather
Onions, green	August-March	Evergreen Bunching, White Lisbon	Short day types work best
Peppers	February-April	Bell, Sweet, Hot	Mulching helps production
Potatoes	January-March	Red Pontiac, Yukon gold	Do not use store bought
Potatoes, Sweet	March-June	Beauregard, Vardaman	Likes hot weather
Pumpkin	March-April	Big Max, Jack O Lantern	Requires a lot of space
Radish	September-March	Cherry Belle, Sparkler	Grows VERY fast
Squash, Summer	March-April	Summer Crookneck, Black Beauty Zucchini	Beware of summer pests
Squash, Winter	March-August	Spaghetti, Butternut	Requires pollination
Tomatoes	February-April	Celebrity, Better Boy, Cherokee, Brandy Wine	Stake for support
Turnips	January-April	Purple Top, Seven Top	Roots and Tops edible!
Watermelon	March-April	Jubilee, Crimson Sweet, Sugar Babay	Requires a lot of space

Many of the crops listed will also grow in the summer, fall and sometimes the winter. These are just a few recommendations that work well as fall crops!

My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view. ~H. Fred Dale

