

Garden Chatter, May 2017

Merced Garden Club, Inc.

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/mercedgardenclub>

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President's Message:

It seems as spring has finally sprung and is giving us a little dose of the summer season ahead. There's always so much to do in the garden but the rewards are nothing short of wonderful.

I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to the spring garden tour committee who graciously and faithfully gave of their time to ensure a successful garden event. There isn't a sign up on the committee for a weatherman, but somehow we found the window between the rain and it was a lovely day by the 10 o'clock start time. Thanks to all who participated, sold tickets, cleaned up and fell exhausted into bed that night.

Our scholarship committee (Michelle Hogland, Salila Reddy and Peggy Faretta) have chosen this year's recipients. They have been invited to our June meeting and I look forward to hearing about their future plans.

Please take some time to look over the bylaws that the board is proposing to update you should have received an email earlier that gives you more specific information regarding the changes.

Our speaker for May is Sherry Nelson talking about garden solutions. It sounds like she will have answers to some of the problems gardeners encounter during the growing season. Sherry is an entertaining speaker and it promises to be an educational afternoon.

Happy planting and enjoy the full moon tonight, Patty the Pres.

Incompatible Garden Plants: Learn About Plants That Don't Like Each Other

By Kristi Waterworth

Gardeners do all they can to keep their plants happy and healthy, but sometimes, no matter what you do, certain plants just don't go together. Plants that don't like each other may be responding to different environmental needs, could be in direct competition with one another for major resources or one may attract insects that severely harm the other. Determining plant incompatibility can be a guess and check situation since soil types also have an influence on what plants should not be planted together.

There are a few basic rules of thumb when it comes to plants to avoid near one another. First, check that your garden plants are all about the same size and have the same light requirements. Planting very tall plants like [tomato](#)^[1] next to [bush beans](#)^[2], for example, is a very bad idea since the tomatoes will very likely shade out the beans.

When planting taller and shorter plants together, make sure that the shorter plants are spaced far enough away and [orientated](#)^[3] so the sun will shine on them during the day. Many gardeners solve this problem by putting the shortest plants in their own row on the edge of the garden or planted as a border planting.

Plants that need a lot of water will cause those water haters nearby a great deal of discomfort; the same goes for fertilizer. It's always a good idea to plant things with similar nutritional and water needs together, unless they're fiercely competitive. Even then, you can often compensate by spacing them extra wide and providing enough fertilizer and water for both types of plants. Last but not least are the [plants that are Allelopathic](#)^[4]. Allelopathic plants have the capability to chemically impede the vital systems of competing plants. These plants are usually weeds, but many landscape and crop plants have been observed leaving behind Allelopathic chemicals. Plant scientists are using these observations to develop better methods of weed control for farms and gardens alike.

Many plants are believed to have Allelopathic behaviors, but many remain in the realm of garden lore and lack substantial scientific documentation. Research in this area is sparse, but the list of plants believed to have Allelopathic properties include:

- [Asparagus](#) ^[5]
- [Beans](#) ^[6]
- [Beets](#) ^[7]
- [Broccoli](#) ^[8]
- [Cabbage](#) ^[9]
- [Cucumbers](#) ^[10]
- [Peas](#) ^[11]
- [Soybeans](#) ^[12]
- [Sunflowers](#) ^[13]
- [Tomatoes](#) ^[1]

[Black walnuts](#) ^[14] have long been known to interfere with garden plants like tomatoes, [eggplants](#) ^[15] and [corn](#) ^[16]. When planting broccoli in your garden, make sure that you practice good [crop rotation](#) ^[17] since broccoli can leave behind residue that other [cruciferous crops](#) ^[18] can't tolerate.

Some plants, like [alfalfa](#) ^[19], seem to exhibit a remarkable type of Allelopathic that interferes with the germination of their own seeds. [Garlic](#) ^[20] and [onions](#) ^[21] are believed to interfere with the growth of beans and peas, but seem to be compatible with most other garden denizens. Other commonly believed plant incompatibilities include the following plants to avoid near one another:

- [Mint](#) ^[22] and onions where asparagus is growing
- [Pole beans](#) ^[23] and [mustard](#) ^[24] near beets
- [Anise](#) ^[25] and [dill](#) ^[26] neighboring [carrots](#) ^[27]
- Cucumber, [pumpkin](#) ^[28], [radish](#) ^[29], sunflower, [squash](#) ^[30] or tomatoes close to [potato](#) ^[31] hills
- Any member of the cabbage family near [strawberries](#) ^[32]
- Cabbage, [cauliflower](#) ^[33], corn, dill and potatoes near tomatoes

Gardening Quote:

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant. ~Author unknown

2017 TRENDS IN GARDEN DESIGN

Garden and landscape designers across the country forecast noteworthy ideas shaping the gardening world in 2017 By Pam Penick

Dubbed the slowest of the performing arts, gardening can seem trend proof. After all, you can't hurry an oak's progress from acorn to shade tree, and making a garden isn't like buying a new throw rug for your home but rather stitching a few glimmering threads of your own into nature's rich tapestry. And yet tastes do change in gardening, as your once-obsessed African violet-growing parents or grandparents could tell you. Those who work with the buying public are especially attuned to what's hot and what's not. With that in mind, we asked designers and retailers across the country to share the biggest trends they anticipate for 2017. Here are 10 trends they say we'll be seeing more of:

[Natural Materials](#)

[Color Blocking](#)

[Hyperlocalism](#)

[Lawn Reimagined](#)

[Natural Dye Gardens](#)

[Old and New Mash-Up](#)

[Active Play Spaces for All Ages](#)

[Dwarf Shrubs](#)

[Haute Houseplants](#)

[Sustainability Tech](#)