

Garden Chatter December 2016

Merced Garden Club, Inc.

<http://californiagardenclubs.com/mercedgardenclub>



President's Message:

Ho Ho Ho! And a merry sound it is! It signals a change of the season for gardeners from the hoe, hoe, hoe of spring, summer and fall. We welcome the chilling hours of winter, the stark beauty of deciduous trees and the quiet dormancy of many plants and bulbs. Speaking of bulbs, Bill the bulb Baron is with us this month to speak about his passion for amaryllis, offering for sale the bulbs he so carefully cultivates. A sincere and loving thank you to Sandi and Jim Hiel who so graciously opened their home for our delight and to Joey, Michelle, Jay and Melissa for providing the wonderful luncheon. We are so blessed to have such dedicated members that so eagerly agree to cater our special events.

Highlights of the November meeting

- rescheduled dedication for Bluestar marker
- we can begin a plan for landscaping the front of Fish and wildlife building
- we need to confirm homes for our spring garden tour in April
- wildlife seeds are available to plant along Lake Road

If you have information that you would like to share with our members please see Helga who is doing a wonderful job on the newsletter. I'd like to wish each and everyone of you a happy and healthy holiday season, Love Patty

A year round garden in zone 9

http://www.backyardgardener.com/Gardening_Month/zonedec01.html

December Gardening To Do List

- Order seeds
- Sow seeds for hardy spring-blooming plants
- Plant winter- and spring-flowering shrubs
- Repot cacti and succulents, if essential, once they have finished blooming
- Plant bare-root fruit trees
- Plant citrus
- Apply dormant spray to fruit trees
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Water living Christmas tree
- Sow frost-tolerant perennials indoors
- Plant or transplant frost-tolerant perennial seedlings outdoors
- Plant bare-root roses
- Apply dormant sprays to roses
- Plant bare-root trees, shrubs, and vines
- Prune fall and winter-flowering shrubs and vines just after bloom
- Plant or transplant cool-season or winter vegetables
- Sow seeds for cool-season or winter vegetables
- Protect tender plants from frost



Gardening Quote: How did it get so late so soon?

It's night before it's afternoon.

December is here before it's June.

My goodness how the time has flown.

How did it get so late so soon?

~Dr. Seuss



Christmas plants

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Christmas plants are various flowers or vegetation from garden plants associated with the festive season of [Christmas](#). There are many different plants used around the world during Christmas. Beyond [Christmas flowers](#), there are also [Christmas foods](#), and Christmas drinks, that use traditional plants. There are also a wide variety of plants that include "Christmas" in their common name.

Logs specifically are used in the following Christmas traditions:

- [yule log](#) from the United Kingdom
- [Tio de Nadal](#) from the Catalan region of Spain
- [Chichilaki](#) from European [Georgia](#)
- [Badnjak](#) or Veseljak from the [Balkans](#)

Other plants used in Christmas celebration:

- [mistletoe](#)
- [holly](#)
- [poinsettia](#)
- [radish](#); these are carved and used for Noche de Rabanos in Oaxaca, Mexico
- [olive](#) branches for peace in the coming year (Israel)
- [cattail](#) or bulrush for prosperity (Taiwan)
- [wheat](#) sheaves for prosperity and plenty (Bulgaria)
- [opium poppy](#) pods (dried, yet still full of seed) for prosperity (Eastern Europe)
- [pomegranates](#) for prosperity (Middle East)



Christmas cactus, also known as orchid cactus, often blooms around Christmas time.

There are a number of different cactus species sold as "Christmas cactus" including [Schlumbergera opuntioides](#), [Schlumbergera kautskyi](#), and [Schlumbergera microsphaerica](#).

Christmas rose can be any of the following:

- [Helleborus](#) ssp., especially [Helleborus niger](#)
- a species of hydrangea, [Hydrangea macrophylla](#)
- [Serissa foetida](#) (also known as "snow rose" or "winter rose") originally from tropical regions of Asia; cultivated *Serissa* often blooms during the winter.

Christmas wreath as [wreaths](#) made from:

- spruce, pine or cedar branches
- [pinecones](#) from evergreen trees
- holly berries or branches