



Scripps Miramar Seed Library

“Grow & Share”

Newsletter

December 2022

WINTER GARDENING

Fall weather in Southern California can be quite variable. There are Santa Ana winds that can make days brutally hot in midwinter. Rains may not arrive until January and can be insufficient in adding much moisture to the garden.

Since winter is here with cool, short days in San Diego, warm season plants are fading and exhausted after months of growing. Now is the best time for the plants that require dimmer and shorter periods of light and chillier temperatures. The winter is good for certain greens and bulbs.



With mild temperatures, seasonal rainfall, and shorter days, plants can establish themselves more easily in a winter garden. They will spend the shortest days of the year growing roots deep in the ground, allowing for bigger blooms on your flowers and more healthy vegetable plants. So, if you have never attempted to



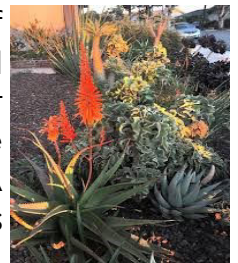
grow plants in the winter, it is worth giving it a try! Here are some of the amazing benefits to growing a Fall or Winter garden:

Cooler weather. The lower temperatures allow for a more comfortable environment to work in the garden .

Less pests and disease. The cooler weather seems to slow the spread of insects and plant disease.

Less watering. Winter weather allows for more rain which reduces the amount of watering needed.

Low maintenance plants. A lot of the crops we grow during fall and winter don't demand frequent harvesting and preserving like the summer tomatoes or zucchini. A lot of cool weather vegetables can be harvested as needed



New crops to eat. One of the best parts about seasonal living and garden-to-table meals is the ability to eat what's available.

San Diego County contains USDA Growing Zones

9 and 10, areas with differing average annual minimum winter temperature. Crops that are able to develop in these zones in December include broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and other members of the cabbage family; root crops such as beets, carrots, radishes, onions, garlic, and potatoes; leafy vegetables like lettuce, spinach, kale, arugula, chard, and Asian greens; peas, celery, artichokes, and asparagus.



Care in December

To refresh your raised bed, pull out old plants and if possible, compost it. Use organic vegetable fertilizer and plant seeds of beets and carrots into the soil. Also, if you have seedlings of kale, broccoli, or brussels sprouts, plant them now. You may purchase seedlings for transplant in a garden store as well.

Adjust irrigation settings to accommodate for less daylight and fewer scorching days. Turn off your irrigation system during a rainy day, but don't forget to turn it back on!

Succulents



These plants have the ability to store water in leaves and stems and therefore they will not wilt if you forget to water them. Succulents start readily from cuttings or offset, and most of them are noninvasive. Native to harsh environments, the plants tolerate neglect but flourish when pampered. They can fill the most difficult part of your garden very easily. Also, because succulents come in nearly every hue, you needn't rely solely on ephemeral flowers for color. Succulents can be part of garden beds, containers or even in bouquets. Grown en masse, succulents with multicolored foliage make an unforgettable .

display. Most succulents need protection from the scorching sun and freezing temperatures. However they prefer a dry environment with minimal water.

In general, a garden of succulents and comparably drought tolerant ornamentals need one-to two-thirds less water than a traditional lawn-and-flowerbed landscape. Less maintenance, also.

Jade is perhaps most widely grown (or known) of all succulents, doubtless because it is highly forgiving of neglect. Jade, aloes, yuccas, agaves, and cacti are the best sort of plants: low maintenance, low water, green all year round and free if a friend or neighbor provides a cutting.



Festival time ideas-Gift wrapping-



Use brown paper and a red string, tie it in different ways to create a memorable presentation.

Newspaper, especially foreign language papers, make wonderful gift wrapping as well.



Wrap presents in sheet music or photocopied pages from vintage books. You can find this in used bookstores. Choosing favorite composers or authors will personalize the gift, also.



You can also embellish your gifts with a seashell instead of a bow.



Another approach can be to run ribbons lengthwise across gifts, instead of the classic criss-cross.

Seed Library Plant pick- Garlic

Garlic is the edible bulb from a plant in the lily



family. It was traditionally used for health purposes by people in many parts of the world, including the Egyptians, Greeks,

Romans, Chinese, and Japanese.

Garlic enjoys cool temperatures and cold winter days. It can grow in very cold climates if thoroughly mulched with straw to prevent it from



completely freezing. In Zones 9 and 10, garlic is planted in the fall and left in the garden until the following summer. Before planting, make sure garlic bulbs get enough exposure to the cold (vernalization) by placing them in the fridge for 40 days. This ensures adequate vernalization in the event of a warm winter.

Seed Library Pick- Recipe- Candied Citrus Peel

What You need

2 oranges or 2 lemons

6 cups of water

2 cups of sugar

1 cup of water

1 cup of sugar



What you do

Cut the oranges or lemons in half and squeeze out the juice. Boil the rinds in 6 cups of water for 30 minutes. Drain. With a spoon, carefully scrape out all the white pith, leaving just the outside peel. Cut the peel into strips with scissors.

Mix 2 cups of sugar in 1 cup of water and bring it to a boil. Add the cut peel and simmer for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Drain using a sieve. Toss the drained peel in 1 cup of sugar to coat. Lay out on a single layer of waxed paper to dry overnight. Store in a closed container.

Book Suggestion:

This book will give you ideas inspired by your waste and recycling bins. You can take these suggestions and think outside the box to make your festivals memorable and creative.



References-

Editors of Country Living, (2007) "Merry & Bright, 301 Festive Ideas for Celebrating Christmas". Published by Hearst Books

Dahlstrom, Carol Field,(2003) "Christmas Make it Sparkle". Published by Brave Ink Press

There are multiple sources available at the Scripps Ranch Library that are not cited here.

We request that you share pictures of your garden and tell us about your experiences, which can be helpful for other gardeners. Also, we invite you to send in your garden related questions and we will answer them in the next newsletter .

This newsletter composed by Ashu Agarwal & edited by Jeff Lash

For any questions, please contact Matt Beatty (MBeatty@sandiego.gov)

Scripps Miramar Ranch Library

10301 Scripps Lake Dr. San Diego 92131

858-538- 8158

