

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 9

October 2011

October Meeting

Saturday, October 1, 2011

Rancho Santiago Community College Rm. 107
2323 North Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Setup Plants 'n Things
9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Business Meeting
9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Plants 'n Things
10:00– 11:00 a.m. **Program**
11:00 Clean-up

Members with last names starting with **R - Z**, please bring a breakfast snack. Other members are also welcome to bring goodies. Also, please bring along any items you wish to contribute to our Plants 'n Things raffle and any gardening catalogs or magazines you'd like to share.

Enrichment Program: Herbs

Rita Corpin is a past president of the Orange County Herb Society and has an encyclopedic knowledge of herbs. Bring your questions and she'll give you the answers, plus more information than you'll know what to do with.

And, just in case you didn't know this little tidbit, the International Herb Association pick for the Herb of the Year for 2011 is Horse Radish. I'm sure Rita will have a lot to say about that!

Board Meeting: precedes general meeting.

Reminder! Dues are due!

Please pay \$20 at the October meeting
or mail to:
Anne Porter
1931 Winney Circle
Placentia, CA 92870

Gardening Events

Fullerton Arboretum. Pre-register for all classes by calling 657/278-3407

Sat. & Sun. Oct. 8 - 9: "California Native Plant Sale". 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

One of the first native plant sales of the season. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens' sale is in November.

Theodore Payne Foundation. 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352. Website: <http://www.theodorepayne.org>

Fri. & Sat. Oct. 14 – 15: "Native Plant Sale"
8:30am – 4:30pm

Offers the region's best selection of California natives. Members 15% off plants, non-members 10%. Expert advice from staff and volunteers Vendors, live music and more! 10% discount on seed on all days. Member days of the sale are the previous weekend. Could be worth the drive!

Sherman Gardens, 2647 East Pacific Coast Highway, Corona del Mar, CA 92625

Sat. & Sun. Oct. 22 - 23: "National Chrysanthemum Show". Sat. 1-4 pm; Sun. 10am-4pm

Hundreds of mums will be on display and will be judged by certified national judges. Both single stem and container grown mums will be on sale.

UCI Arboretum. Campus Dr. near the corner of Jamboree Rd., Irvine, CA, 92697. (949) 824-5833

Sat. Oct. 15: "Fall Art & Flower Festival"
10am – 3pm. \$2.00 per person

The UCI Arboretum and Orange County Fine Arts, Inc. present the annual Fall Art and Flower Festival featuring art in a variety of

styles and media inspired by California' s
vivid landscapes.

Leaves from the President



Welcome to Fall everyone. To me it seems like the days are rushing by and I am eager to start planting again. It always seems that the time between the hot summer and the cold winter is too brief and I have so much to accomplish. What with planting native plants, transplanting plants that over the summer have grown out of their pots, and trimming fruit trees and roses, the days go by so fast.

Those who didn't attend last month's meeting missed a great speaker. Valerie Loew gave a great talk on pruning, not only regular trees, but also fruit trees. She was excellent and I am thinking about asking her back next year to give a talk on propagation. She is not to be missed. You might want to check our web site because the handouts she had will soon be uploaded.

Rita Corpin will give a talk on herbs at October's meeting. It seems everyone is interested in herbs these days, even if they aren't interested in other type of gardening. As Master Gardeners we need to be knowledgeable so we can give good advice and Rita is an expert on this subject. Those of us who took the Master Gardener's class 5 years ago had Rita as an instructor for one of our classes and she was very good. If you have any herb cuttings to bring in, that would be great, as Rita could use them as examples.

See you at October's meeting! And remember to wear your badges!

Jill O'Neill, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

Congratulations to---

We congratulate new lifetime members Rita Corpin and Jill O'Neill. They join a select group of members who have donated more than 750 hours of their time in volunteer efforts.

Jean Rice would like to take this opportunity to remind all of you to turn in your volunteer hours. You, too, can become a lifetime member!

☎ Contacts

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Website: [http:// www.ocmastergardeners.org](http://www.ocmastergardeners.org)

From the Grapevine

I visited lifetime member Bob Anspach on Friday to admire the new landscaping he's installed in his front yard. The lawn is gone and in its place are Euphorbias and other succulents. Never fear, the plumerias still abound. Bob has one by the front door and several line his backyard, large enough to create an atmosphere of privacy and seclusion. All are in the ground and were still blooming in a riot of glorious colors. Bob has invited us to add his house on our next member garden tour. He has hundreds of plant photographs from his travels and will set up an outside slide show to view while on the tour. Any other members willing to offer up their yard for a tour?

Lychee and Its Cousins

Lychee (*Litchi chinensis*), longan (*Dimocarpus longan*), rambutan (*Nephelium lappaceum*), ackee (*Blighia sapida*), Spanish lime, soapberry, and pulasan (*N. mutabile*) are all related. Lychee is native to south China. Lychee is a round-topped, long-lived, subtropical evergreen tree growing to 40 feet in height. Leaves are pinnate with one to five pairs of leaflets. Flowers are small, greenish-white or yellow, lacking petals, and borne in large numbers on branched, terminal panicles up to 12 inches long. The fruit is a tubercled, oval to ovoid drupe about 1 inch in diameter by 1 ½ inches long with rough, brittle, red skin. The fruit flesh is juicy, white, translucent, and gelatinous, and (usually) does not adhere to the seed. The single seed is usually large. The best climates for growing lychee have a warm, wet spring and summer followed by a cool, dry fall and winter. Think Hawaii.

Longan fruit, known as “dragon’s eye,” is similar to lychee but smaller and rounder, with smoother, dull yellow to light brown skin, and a more aromatic, spicy fruit. The tree, which can reach as high as 100 feet, can be grown in some parts of California and Florida, where 30 – 40 feet is the typical height. Longans produce more reliably in areas characterized by low non-freezing temperatures (59°F or less) and a dry period during the fall and winter (October-February). Warm temperatures (70-85°F) during spring, followed by high summer temperatures (80-95°F;) and nonlimiting soil moisture are best for fruit development.

Warm and rainy winters are conducive to vegetative growth and reduce flowering and fruit production. Excessive rains during flowering cause flower drop and may reduce pollination and fruit set. Young longan leaves are sensitive to strong winds during vegetative flushing which may result in leaf dehydration, browning and deformation.

Longan is tolerant of dry soil conditions.

Withholding or reducing watering during the

late summer/early fall through winter is recommended to stop or reduce excessive vegetative growth and enhance subsequent flowering during the spring. However, for optimum fruit production and quality, regular irrigation is recommended from flowering through harvest. Air layering (marcottage) is the most common propagation method as seeds do not breed true and the fruit are generally inferior. Trees may bear fruit 2 to 3 years after planting.

In general, longan trees bear erratically (i.e., not every year) and in some years little to no fruit is produced. Yields from individual mature trees may range from 50 to over 500 lbs. Homeowners



should plant longan trees 22 to 25 feet or more away from other trees and structures. Trees planted too close to other trees or structures may not grow normally or

produce much fruit due to shading. Longan trees thrive on various soil types provided they are well drained. They do well on sandy loams, sand and calcareous, rocky soils.

Rambutan and pulasan are more tropical in origin than lychee or longan.

Rambutan is native to Malaysia. The interior fruit is almost identical to a lychee but the exterior red skin is covered by soft, hairy spines. The tree, growing to 50-80 feet in height, prefers a moist humid climate where the average temperature year-round is about 81° F, relative humidity is 82%, rainfall is 71 inches-about 165 rainy days.

The dry season should not last much over 3 months.

Sources:

Hawaii Cooperative Extension:

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/HC-1.pdf>

University of Florida IFAS Extension:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg049>

Purdue University of Agriculture:

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/rambutan.html>