

Sacramento Garden Notes

May 2015

Written & Published

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May Garden Notes:

Well, our mixed up weather has continued with April being dry and temps at or above normal. It has caused a lot of plants to be way out of schedule, although a few are actually not reacting well to the warm winter just past. Several ground orchid species I put in pots in December haven't come up. The bulbs are fine, but I think they wanted a bit more chill than they got. The Pleione group did fine, but the eastern species I was trying for the first time didn't.

With May comes the first of the HOT weather, with 100 degrees possible and often hit by the end of the month.

With watering restrictions, this may be rough on those items not fully established or that like more water. I'm saving the water from waiting for the tap water to warm up in gallon milk containers and will use it for those items that need extra water and some of the potted plants.

Normally I'd recommend regular feeding in ground plants at this time of year, but with less watering feeding should also be reduced. Unless the plants start looking yellow from lack of nutrients, cut your regular feeding schedule to say one a month rather than every 2 weeks.

Once they finish blooming, I'm going to be taking out such water lovers as Foxglove or at least move them into more shade. I'm

slowly converting the yard to drip, which should reduce that water use by about 75-80%.

Interestingly enough I had a huge foxglove in the city strip that dried up without winter rains, but once the city turned on the sprinklers, even with reduced schedule, it started new growth from the dead looking center crown. It just goes to show that many items that are considered water lovers, have their own methods of surviving drought times.



I still have all 3 forms of Rudbeckia available, and will have them at the Gifted Gardener on the 9th.

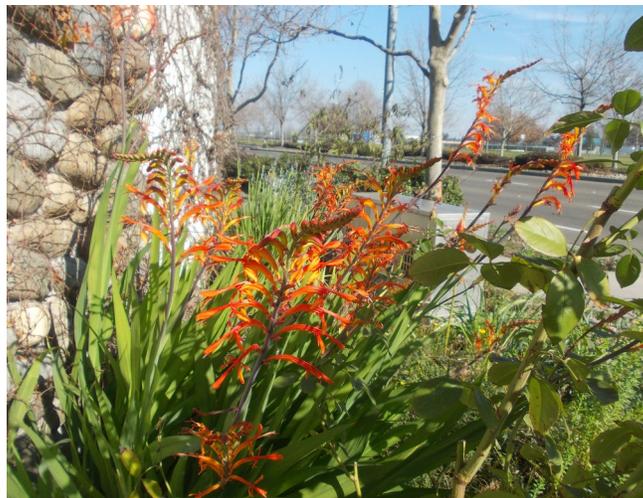
Visitors: If you'd like to make an appointment to stop by before the sale at GG, call or email me. Please note that you may need to step over things in the yard, so unfortunately is not good for those with walkers etc.

I'm working on thinning the perennials and some other items way down, and even have some stock items such as Calocasias, large size Rhipsalis, and even a few Perennials in the ground that I'm willing to sell.



Above, Ipheion 'Rolf Fiedler' a dark blue form (darker than picture shows) and top of next page, Chasmanthe – both of these winter growing, spring blooming bulbs are going dormant for me and I'll be digging them shortly. If you'd like to get some, let me know and we'll arrange pick up.

Note that the Chasmanthe does not like much frost, so while common in downtown areas, may not do well in colder areas. Both of these bulbs can be bone dry in summer when dormant, but will tolerate summer watering.



Make \$100 – since no one volunteered I need 2 persons to help load and unload the truck for the clearance sale at Gifted Gardener on Saturday the 9th – your hours would be approx 7:30 to 10 AM and 3 to 6 PM. Please contact me immediately if interested. If I don't have the persons scheduled by Wed the 6th, I will place an ad on Craigslist for a day laborer.

You must be able to get back and forth from Downtown to South Natomas. Payment at end of day after we unload the

leftovers back at the house in Natomas.



Achillea 'Moonbeam' – a sun loving upright drought resistant CLUMPING yarrow. Doesn't run like many of the smaller forms do.



I will have a few smaller starts of Brugsmansia (Angels Trumpet) at the sale on the 9th.



Dierama – Angels Wand – drought resistant South African – starters available



One of the newer double flowered Clemantine Columbine I have, the dark purple is shown below



Note on above: In lower light than this picture was taken, can look almost black.

Tropical Notes:

I will have a good supply of Begonia starters at the sale, including at least a few of those proven hardy in our climate. I will also be bringing some of the rarer species and Terrarium Begonias for the Begonia lovers out there.

On the top of the next column is a picture of Begonia U 489.. this yet unidentified species has proven winter hardy in Washington D.C.

I will be bringing some Cacti and Succulents, including some larger plants I

want to get rid of since I don't have room for them. If you'd like to make an appointment to stop by this week and look at the bigger items so I don't have to lug them downtown, give a call.



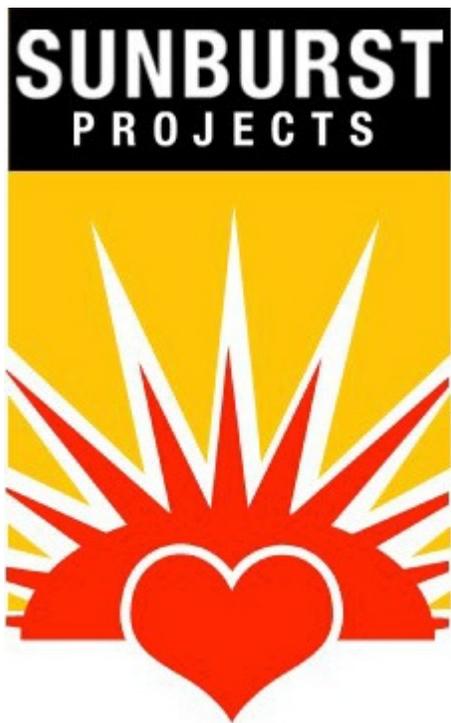
The red flowered Louisiana Iris shown below is available – a couple in pots, and more I can dig. Cost is \$5 ea for the pots, \$3 each for dug divisions. If you want dug divisions, let me know before the sale, so can dig and bag them. Color is slightly darker than picture shows.



Household update:

David's new kidney is working well and his Doctors visit Wednesday showed all is going well. My doctors visit yesterday showed the Arthritis in the lower back getting worse and my balance getting poorer due to the Neuropathy in my feet, so I am looking at sharply cutting back on the perennials and plant sales.

Kyle is holding steady right now.



Plant
Sale
May
9th
10-3

The
Gifted
Gardener
on 18th St.
btwn J&K St

A great selection
of Perennials,
Begonias,
Calocasias,
succulents and
other assorted
plants. Cash &
Checks Only!