

President's Message - July 2020

The Open Garden on July 11th at Sharon Pearce's home was impressive. Sharon has a wide collection of Pelargoniums and Geraniums, some of which are shown in the pictures on page 2.

I had just been reading about the Geraniums from the arid areas of South Africa, and Sharon had one in bloom. It looked totally dead but there were blooms on it.

Just when I thought that we might be able to hold a meeting in September plans are on hold due to the latest COVID shutdown. Instead, we will have a Zoom meeting with a speaker and a presentation. If you do not have a computer or are not able to use ZOOM, you can join us with the conference call:

Topic: SDGS September Zoom Meeting
Time: Sep 15, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84760500838?pwd=T1R0eE1GRUJGODRhQ2JWMWhjM3Y0UT09>

Meeting ID: 847 6050 0838
Passcode: 905165

Conference Call: (669)900 6833
Meeting ID: 847 6050 0838
Passcode: 905165

I look forward to seeing/hearing from you in September!
Happy Gardening!

Patrick Powell/President



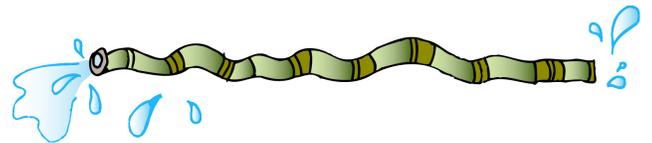
Summer Care for Your Geraniums

As summer heat ramps up, our gardens can start looking worn and withered - but there are steps that can be taken to refresh our plants and get them blooming again!

1. **Dead Head your plants!** Removing spent/dead blooms/foliage will encourage your plants to put out new blooms, and will keep the plant healthier, too. Leaving dead leaves on the plant is not only unattractive, they can prevent good airflow through the plant, which is essential in preventing a number of diseases, most notably botrytis. AND - yellowing/brown leaves will continue sucking out nutrients from the plant - wasting valuable nutrients your plant needs to thrive and bloom! While you're dead heading, be on the lookout for pests - this is the time of year that we're all fighting worms - by "grooming" your plant you'll see who's doing the damage and know which plants need a little extra TLC to keep them pest free.

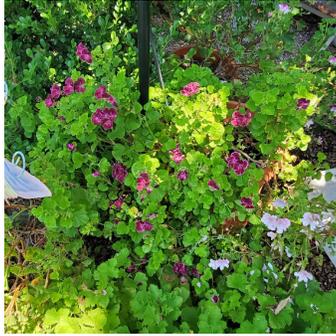


2. **Fertilize** Geraniums do not require heavy nutrients to grow well and bloom, but a small dose of all-purpose 10-10-10 organic fertilizer once a month in-season can keep blooms coming on. When planting in flowerbeds, be sure to mix in generous amounts of compost to keep soil light and well-drained.



3. **Water** It is better to water geraniums less-frequently but with more water, than small doses of daily water. This forces roots deeper and develops a stronger plant. Water the soil - not the foliage. A little water on the foliage isn't going to hurt the plant, but if you just water over the top of the plant, it may never reach the soil, and your plant will be parched.
4. **Sun** While geraniums are very sun tolerant, summer sun in the afternoon can be brutal and damage some plants - especially those with light colored foliage (like some fancy leaf geraniums). If your plants start taking on a yellow or washed out look as the sun intensifies, move it to an area that doesn't get afternoon sun - it will be happier!

Sharon's Garden



I ♥ MY GARDEN