



Newsletter of the Paradise Garden Club, Paradise CA [newsletter@paradisegardenclub.org](mailto:newsletter@paradisegardenclub.org) [ParadiseGardenClub.org](http://ParadiseGardenClub.org)



As autumn yields to winter, our gardens rest beneath the cool embrace of Ridge mornings. While this season brings a slower pace, it also offers time to nourish the soil, prune perennials, and plan for the blooms of spring. Many of us find joy while caring for hardy winter greens or turning compost that will enrich next year's beds, keeping our hands connected to the earth even as the days grow shorter. The holiday season reminds us how deeply our gardens connect us, not just to nature but to one another. Sharing bulbs, seeds, and homemade preserves has always been part of our Ridge tradition.

Whether it is a wreath made from native pine or a bouquet of winter berries, these small creations bring color and warmth to our homes and remind us of the beauty that thrives even in the coldest months. Life on the Ridge has taught us resilience and gratitude. The landscape around us, shaped by both time, fire and renewal, mirrors the rhythm of our gardens. As we gather this season, may we celebrate the quiet strength of our community and the promise waiting in every dormant bud. From all of us here in Paradise, may your holidays be peaceful, your roots strong, and your gardens full of hope for the months ahead.

This month's meeting, Monday, December 8 will be our Christmas potluck. Always a spectacular time, so bring a favorite dish, an appetite, and your love of community and gardening.

I hope to see you all there.

Thank you, T3



## **December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. PGCi Potluck & Holiday Celebration**

*We are having a potluck at our December meeting. Bring food you love to share.*

*Hot, cold, sweet or savory, snack plate, casserole, side dish - whatever you like.*



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## Beautification Team Report



November was a quiet month for us. Rainy weather kept us indoors, but there was not much to do in our public garden spots. All the areas look good except Elliott. The pine tree at Elliott shed a huge amount of pine needles which covered everything. I thought we would wait for the next deluge of needles before the team came to thin it out. It is mother nature's way of putting the garden to sleep for the winter. After the next fall of pine needles, we will remove a portion of that layer.

At Elliott Nancy and Jeudie spray painted all the tall agapanthus seed pods in multiple colors to decorate for the Christmas season. We did that last year but this year we used really, bright spray paint! Please enjoy the sight as you drive by.

Look forward to joining with us to do light cleanup in all of our garden areas next month as the weather permits.

Stay cozy, *Jeudie*

Seed pods of any kind to be pruned off later are fun to paint. A dinner paper plate with 1/4" cut out to center, see Jeudie's example. This protects the plant so spray only hits the pods. Use disposable gloves! Two people minimizes the bits of wet paint decorating your face and arms as seen here. Colorful memories.



## Thank you, DAVE !

At our November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, Dave Duncan, Butte County Master Gardener, helped us better understand the different options available for drip irrigation systems, how to install, inspect, trouble shoot, and make needed repairs. Questions asked and answered benefited all of us. Plus a hands on look at many samples.





## UPCOMING EVENTS



Paradise Garden Club meets every second Monday of each month at 1:00 at the Terry Ashe Center. All are welcome. Odd months we bring cuttings, plants, or seeds to share while even months we share snacks. **\*Bring your own beverage.\***

### **December 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. PGCI Potluck & Holiday Celebration**

*We are having a potluck at our December meeting. Bring food you love to share. Hot, cold, sweet or savory, snack plate, casserole, or side dish. Together, we will enjoy a festive atmosphere with conversation, food and whatever comes. (The PGCI Member Panel was moved to January so we could just hang out & eat together at Christmastime.)*

### **January 12 at 1pm PGCI Member Panel**

Our own garden club members will share their individual and collective expertise in a variety of areas including tool maintenance, native plants in the garden and more. Bring your questions and your expertise. We all have something to share!

**February 9 at 1pm "Bring Back the Pollinators"** speaker Michelle Graydon with the Xerces Society.

**March 9 at 1pm Swede Hanski, "the Goat Guy"** will cover how the activity of goats is useful in our Butte County landscapes.

# Meeting at PID December 9

**Who:** Mark at PID (Paradise Irrigation District) invitation to the Beautification Team.

**What:** Community discussion about the PID garden, one of our tender loving care places.

**When:** December 9 at 9:00am (THIS month!)

**Where:** PID board room, 6332 Clark Rd

**Why:** An abundance of colorful, drought resistant plants are needed.

**How:** Write down your ideas, plant name, size, root depth. Non invasives.

### Master Gardener News

For detailed information and to sign up go to: <https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-master-gardeners-butte-county>





Winter blooms at Elliott Triangle, vibrant pops of colors amongst thick layers of pine tinsel.

Above: paperwhites, a type of narcissus. Below: salmon colored geranium sharing space with more paperwhites.



Easily overlooked, short stemmed iris, so close to the ground and the tiny flowers of the Coleonema, aka Breath of Heaven.





Meeting commenced at 11:36 AM Present: Todd Hummel, Cheryl Habriel, Margaret Hawe, Jeudie Lovell, Anne Pace, guests Wendy Wicklund and Nancy Howe.

The minutes from the October meetings were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – \$28,999 balance. For more detail see Treasurer's report.

**Beautification** – The group planted daffodils at the PID Demonstration Garden and cleaned up at the Elliott Triangle. The project at the Monument is waiting on timing from the Clampers.

**Meeting Format** – A request was made to have the Business portion of the meeting after the speaker. We will try that today.

**Garden Tour** – Ellen, Toby, Anne and Wendy will be looking for gardens for the 2026 Tour.

**Today's Speaker** – Dave Duncan, Master Gardener on Irrigation

#### **Upcoming Activities**

**December Meeting** – Christmas Potluck. Carrie, Toby, Betty/Melissa and Tina will decorate tables.

#### **Good of the Order**

Nancy will advise Josh (webmaster) making changes to the web site to facilitate finding the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

**Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance** – President Todd Hummel

**Today's Speaker** – Dave Duncan, Master Gardener on Irrigation

**Penny Pines** - Joanie

**Treasurer's Report** – \$28,999 balance. For more detail see Treasurer's report.

**Beautification** – The group planted daffodils at the PID Demonstration Garden and cleaned up at the Elliott Triangle. The project at the Monument is waiting on timing from the Clampers.

Cheryl reported there are still daffodils remaining for purchase.

#### **Good of the Order**

Members introduced themselves and shared what they are grateful for, (Popcorn Praise).

If you brought a plant, cuttings or seeds tell us what they are.

**December Meeting** – Holiday Potluck

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Habriel, Recording Secretary

# 2026 Garden Tour Preparations Update

*A team of four volunteers signed up to find the home gardens for our 2026 Garden Tour in June. Please contact one of these people (in the roster) if you know of a home garden that you think would be great for the tour. The team will appreciate your input. Text, email or phone call is appreciated. Anne, Toby, Ellen and Wendy. Cheryl is also a contact as she is our collector of Garden Tour ideas, information, etc.*



*Work from home on projects that others sew by turning them out & ironing flat. We need you. Please sign up at the back table during our monthly meeting or contact Cheryl or Wendy.*

Paradise Garden Club members,

We need one of our members to volunteer to be our **Vice President of Publicity**. If you have a friend or two who would enjoy assisting you in this endeavor, great. A few things this position covers will be to

- attend monthly PGCI board meetings
- gather information from fellow board members on upcoming events
- distributing that information for our website updates, the newsletter editor, and various local news media including the Town of Paradise, the Paradise Chamber of Commerce, and local television stations.

Some of this can be done at home from your computer.

Why get involved? It is so much fun to be part of the board and make an impact in our community. Interested? Contact Todd or Anne in your roster.

## Newsletter Welcomes Your Input

Photos for the newsletter. You know those times you gaze at the beauty in your yard or a plant you notice during a walk or drive? Email or text those photos and they'll find a place in the newsletter for everyone to enjoy. Please note the names of plants when possible.

Is there a plant, a tool, a gardening experience you'd like to share with the group? Email your write up and photo. Everyone will appreciate it.

Would you like to write a regular column for the newsletter? Let's talk.

Text or email Nancy. Contact info in the roster.



## MAGNESIUM ... HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?

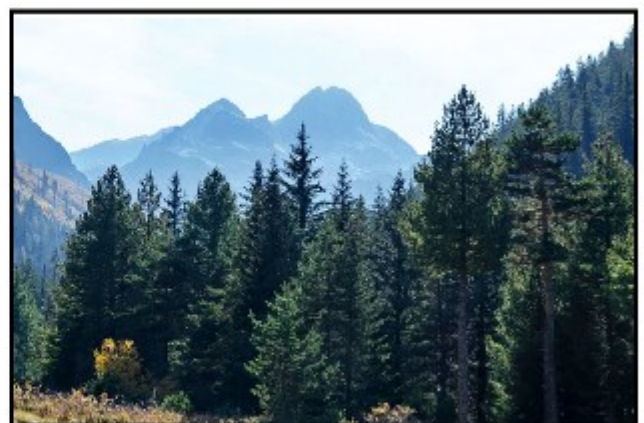
From the Newsletter of Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

If plants lack magnesium, they cannot make chlorophyll which is the green coloring in plants which converts to carbon dioxide from the air into food for the plant. A sickly, pale plant is the result. Shortage of magnesium can occur if plants are left too long in the same soil or, because of frequent watering, the minerals in the compost have all been washed out of the soil.

Repotting into a fresh soil mix will make magnesium once again available. For very large plants not easily repotted, remove a few inches of the soil on top of the pot and replace with fresh soil. You can also drench the soil with a mix of Epsom salts and water, which is a useful source of magnesium for pot plants or even garden plants. Use a teaspoon of the salts to one gallon of water. Improvement in sick plants due to lack of magnesium is often quick and remarkable.



*In the forests where pine trees stand,  
Their needles touch the sky's own hand.  
With cones so firm and bark so strong,  
They sing the woodland's timeless song.  
Through winter's cold and summer's light,  
Pine trees guard the forest's night.  
In every ring, a story's told,  
Of nature's wonders, pure and bold.  
Pines in their endless grace,  
A testament to nature's place.*







# Sweet Potatoes

By Trish Bender



As most of us prepare for a long stretch of cooking and eating and visiting with loved ones, gardeners have the special luxury of bringing their home-grown items to the table. Perhaps it's the thyme and sage you add to the stuffing or the hot peppers you slip in to the cornbread. It could be the corn you harvested in July and froze just for the special occasion. Maybe you are hard core enough to add the main course to the table, dressing it with herbs and butter you churned yourself. If, however, you are more like the average gardener, one simple crop that is guaranteed to wow your guests is the home grown sweet potato.

This mild mannered vegetable is rarely the star of the table and yet it is definitely a team player, pairing well with other root crops like carrots, parsnips, beets, and onions. Its versatility is boundless, lending to savory as well as sweet dishes and one of the most overlooked of its features are its edible leaves that taste like a sweeter version of the spinach most of us adore.

**Growing sweet potatoes requires almost zero effort after planting. All that is required is a phosphorus rich, neutral pH soil, 100 days of sunlight and temperatures over 50 degrees.**

For most North American gardeners, you can plant sweet potatoes outside once temperatures reach an average of 50 degrees, or start slips indoors in a bucket, burlap growing bag, or a pot. Steady moisture allows for more even growth.

Although you can technically throw a potato into the ground and grow more, the better method is to make slips by placing a potato in a jar or glass of water and



allowing leafy growth to reach about 4-6" with a minimum of 2 sets of leaves. Cut the shoots as close to the potato as you can and replant in a bucket or pot with light soil that is enhanced with phosphorus. Phosphorus promotes root growth and signals the plant to put most of the energy into storing starches. To do this, the plant will produce as many leaves as possible to convert sunlight into sugar which is then transported into thick, starchy potatoes.

All sweet potatoes are edible including the ornamental hybrids that are sold for their hot yellow-green color. However, the best varieties can usually be found at farm supply stores in your area. These are generally more appropriate for your local soil type. Two of my favorites in the Southern garden are Beauregard and O'Henry.

Sweet potato plants make an excellent border crop and can even be grown in the hell strip near the curb as they prosper in direct sunlight and warm soil. If space is at a premium, these can also be grown as potted specimens on a porch or balcony, provided they get the full sun experience required to generate lots of growth.

As sweet potatoes grow, they will generate long leggy vines of leaves. These can be easily pinched into your desired form but do not throw away the leaves. Toss both leaves and stems into your favorite stir fry or steam the leaves and serve as you would spinach. At harvest time, you can also collect all of the leaves and parboil them to put up as a frozen vegetable. These can be used in place of spinach in your favorite winter quiche.

Harvesting sweet potatoes is as simple as dumping the bucket in which they grow or lightly turning the soil with a pitch fork, being cautious not to scar the potatoes you harvest. Once out of the ground, you can leave them out for a few days at room temperature to cure before eating. If you plan to store them for longterm use, the preferred method is to lay them out on racks in a warm, humid environment for about two weeks. The stress of sudden exposure to such a humid environment will signal the sweet potato to form an anti-microbial barrier called a Suberin(1) coat. Once this forms, the sweet potato can last in cool storage for up to a one year.



# Cozy Winter Yums



## SWEET POTATO LEAF QUICHE

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Ready made frozen pie crust
- 1 medium onion minced
- 2 cups parboiled sweet potato leaves, chopped
- 1-2 tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp tarragon
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 4 oz feta cheese crumbled

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Saute onion, then add sweet potato leaves to mix well
- Mix with tomato and spices
- Add Salt and pepper to taste
- Pour into pie shells
- Crumble feta over mix in the pie shells
- Combine eggs and milk and pour over shells
- Place on a foil covered baking tray
- Bake at 375° for 25 minutes

Serve warm .

The National Garden Club, November 26, 2024,  
<https://gardenclub.org/blog/sweet-potatoes>



## HOLIDAY SPINACH SALAD WITH RASPBERRY LEMON DRESSING

By Nancy Sills, Pioneer Garden Club

--From February 2015 *Golden Gardens eNews*

### Ingredients:

- 1 avocado, sliced
- 1/2 c fresh raspberries
- 1/2 c pecan pieces, chopped or broken
- 1/2 c pomegranate seeds

- Wash spinach, blot with paper towel, place in serving bowl.
- Add sliced avocado on top of greens.
- Sprinkle with fresh raspberries, pecan pieces and pomegranate seeds.

### Dressing:

- 1/4 c crushed raspberries
- 1/2 c fresh Meyer lemon juice
- 1/4 c of pure honey
- 1/4 c olive oil

- Crush raspberries with fork
- Add other ingredients
- Stir together

Serves 4.



# Contemplate



Silvery beauty  
Renewing love of nature  
white sage a year-round giver.