



Pomegranate (*Granada*)
(*Punica granatum*)

October in the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

The pomegranate, *granada* in Spanish, has been depicted in art and literature for more than 2000 years. It has been found on ancient Chinese porcelains, Turkish textiles and the ancient ruins of Greece and Roman. It is mentioned in Greek mythology, the Bible and the Torah.

The pomegranate is an interesting fruit, not only for its beauty and the challenge of eating it, but also for its renown as a religious and mythical symbol over the centuries. The significance of the pomegranate crosses geographical, political and religious boundaries.

There is a reference to the Holy Temple built by Solomon in Jerusalem, on which was carved 200 pomegranates. In early Christian doctrine, the pomegranate's many seeds were symbolic of the individual members of the church that were brought together by their faith.

The pomegranate was first cultivated in the Middle East and spread throughout the Mediterranean. Pomegranates proliferated in southern Spain and eventually the city of **Granada** was named for them. When Queen Isabela and King Ferdinand conquered the last stronghold of the Muslims in Granada in 1492, they believed it such a significant milestone that a pomegranate was added to the monarchs' coat of arms. The pomegranate was also featured on the coat of arms of their daughter, Catherine of Aragón (the first of the six wives to England's King Henry VIII).

Spanish colonists introduced the pomegranate to the Americas shortly after the conquest. In the late 1530s the Spanish chronicler Motolinía wrote that in Puebla, Mexico, "fruit trees of every kind prosper extremely well, especially pomegranates..."

-Sandy Krutilek

What's in a Name?

by Diane Conejo

Kalanchoe thyrsiflora - "Flapjacks or, Paddle Plant"

Listed as #7 of Plants You'll Want to Grow This Year by Sunset, this plant can be a real stunner in your garden.

The leaves don't send me inside to make pancakes, but I get the drift. The flower is a tall spike called a **thyse** (a floral cluster with a central spike that has side branches also clustered with flowers) and the blooms are yellow. It puts out 'pups', so you will have plenty of these in time.



Sedum morganianum - "Donkey's Tail"

Another sedum (sedentary) and named for Dr. Meredith Morgan, who first grew the species. It is a native of Mexico and the Honduras. The leaves snap off the stem with little provocation. There is another variety called Sedum burrito (or, **little burro**) that is not so prone to breaking. Either way, it is the perfect plant to place along the edge of a succulent container.



Orostachys iwarenge - "Chinese Duncce Cap"

This plant begins as a low, spreading mat of small bluegrey rosettes only to form an assortment of pinkish, coneheads! These cones eventually become white and pink flowering towers. Orostachys comes from the Greek which means **spike-y mountains**. It sends out new plantlets on runners and flowers in late Summer to Fall.



Senecio rowleyanus - "String of Pearls Plant"

Senecio is Latin form meaning **old man alludes to the hairy fruits**. The species is named after Gordon Douglas Rowley who was a 20th century succulent enthusiast. This succulent plant's beauty is best displayed as a hanging plant.



"There is a story behind every plant."



Sunday Plant Sale

Featured this month are the one gallon pots of **Lion's Tails** (*Leonotis leonurus*) at \$5 per pot. Plant sales are held every Sunday at the CVBG from 10:30-2:30 in the area next to the Kids' Adventure Garden, located at 350 W. Gainsborough Rd. California natives, hardy, water wise perennials, shrubs, trees and succulents, reasonably priced are available. CVBG volunteers will be happy to help you with selections and share their expertise.



SPECIAL PLANT SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

Irene Benyoung is willing, by special appointment only, to meet customers at the Plant Sale area on Wednesdays. Please contact her by e-mail to make an appointment. ibenyoung@yahoo.com

Birthday Parties

The birthday parties held at the KAG on Saturdays have become very popular. So popular that Betty needs more volunteers to give her some help. It is a lot of fun and not too much work. Sometimes the kids come in costumes, depending on what the 'theme' of the party may be. The adults set up and take down the tables and chairs. There is a donation to use the garden. You help by keeping your eyes on the kids as they get excited about having a party at the KAG. Sometimes you even get a piece of birthday cake. If you are willing to help by giving a few hours of your time, give Betty a call at 1-818-889-0560.



Learn Flower Design

Learn Flower Design in the Sogetsu Style. Develop creative self-expression through flower arrangement and learn the beauty of line and space. Keiko (Camille) Van Ast holds a First Teacher's degree from the Sogetsu School of Ikebana in Tokyo, Japan. She has studied Ikebana for more than 25 years.

For Registration call Camille at 805-498-7421

Classes will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month
9:00-11:30 a.m. in the

Kids' Adventure Garden

Classes are ongoing

A one time fee of \$20 for a textbook is required.

Class fee of \$25 per class includes the flower fee of \$10

Want to Help us Grow?

Do you love Conejo Valley Botanic Garden and would like to help, but just don't have the time to volunteer? Even though much of the work you see going on in the garden is done by volunteers, we still have expenses for planting, heavy pruning and new

improvements. These projects are funded through grants and donations from the community. If you would like to help us grow, tax deductible donations are always welcome and may be made out and sent to Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, PO Box 6614, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359. Thanks for all your support!

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden Needs You!

The Garden is managed and maintained by community volunteers. Without your help, the garden cannot thrive.

None of the volunteer positions at CVBG has a minimum number of volunteer hours attached. If you can help for a few hours a month, great! For more information on any of our volunteer opportunities, please go to our web site at www.conejogarden.org and click "Volunteers."

WE CURRENTLY NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Assistant to the Volunteer Coordinator: Help recruit new volunteers and match them with garden jobs they might enjoy.

Adopt A Garden: We have an ongoing need for volunteers to join the teams working in our theme gardens. Days and hours are flexible so give us a call.

Garden Nursery: There is no better way to learn about California native and water wise plants than to join the teams working in the propagation and sales nurseries.

The Kids Adventure Garden: KAG is open from 11:00 to 3:00 each Sunday. Docents welcome families to the garden, answer questions and ensure everyone is safe and has fun. You will train with an experienced Docent. You can sign up for one shift a month or as many as you want.

Email: conejogarden1623@hotmail.com .

For information and directions to the garden, visit our web site at www.conejogarden.org.

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