**Anticipation!** This garden season is exciting! Plants are putting out new leaves and buds, seeds are sprouting, and my daily walks through the garden reveal a constantly changing scene. If you come to visit, you’ll see seedlings and a lot of dirt. I see the potential; my mind’s eye sees the plants as they will be this summer: the whole thing more full, more colors, an oasis for the birds and critters.

This past three-day weekend, Presidents’ Day, I was in the garden most of the daylight hours. I’d head out just to take a look, then wind up crouching over a seedling or plant to observe it in more detail. While close to the ground, I’d pick out weeds — mostly mustard and grass. You know how that goes, pretty soon I’m on my hands and knees, weeding more and more. I’m pretty convinced that every wayward blade and weed were picked out that weekend. Nevertheless, by this weekend a new crop of weeds — now it’s a lot of feverfew — and grass have popped up. Good thing I don’t mind weeding.

Earlier in December, I had planted arroyo lupine, *Penstemon pseudospectabilis*, and rubber rabbitbush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) in pots and in the ground. I had made cuttings of coyote mint and buckwheat, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*. I also sprinkled leftovers of last year’s poppy seeds and a wildflower mix from Theodore Payne that included bladderpod, owl’s clover, elegant clarkia, monkeyflower, chia and black sage. The results are mixed. Theodore Payne’s wildflower mix is doing well. I don’t see any monkeyflower or owl’s clover, but the elegant clarkia is doing very well and the bladderpod, chia and black sage are growing here and there. I am not seeing any *Penstemon pseudospectabilis*, either in the pots or in the ground. Checking around on the internet seems to indicate the seeds need to be placed in a moist, cold location for 30 days before planting. So we’ll see if they will come up or not. The rabbitbush came up in the pots and have been planted out already. I’ve also got some California fuchsia growing. Last fall, after they had bloomed, I’d grab a pinch of the fluffy seeds from my various fuchsias and put them in a flowerpot. They started to sprout and have been re-potted to thin them out. But now I don’t remember which variety they are. Oh, well. We’ll see when they bloom. The cuttings of coyote mint are very tiny and hopefully they will start growing more when it warms up. The buckwheat never developed roots, so they got tossed. The Arroyo lupine in the pots sprouted within two weeks. I’ve planted them out as well, but noticed the plants are susceptible to snails. I use Cory’s to deal with snails.

What else is growing? Some of the milkweeds are coming back, even one that I had transplanted. The desert mallows stayed evergreen and are beginning to bloom again. I had cut back the California fuchsias to about 8 inches tall and they are growing new leaves for the season. Desert marigolds also did well all winter. The plants that had gotten more water froze and turned nasty. I just trimmed that off and they will often regrow. The desert marigolds that did not get much supplemental water look much better all year round. The *Ceanothus* and *Salvia* flowers are starting to bud.

Well, I need to go out now and see if anything has changed since this morning!