

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Making a Difference for California



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Whether it's a vegetable garden, house plants or a landscape...

A Garden Runs Through It

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June 2012

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Information Booth Locations:

June 7-10

Colusa County Fair, Etchepare Hall

June 10, starts at 1pm, Fairgrounds

8 Smart Gardening Practices presentation

June 11 & 25

Colusa Farmers Market

June 13 & 27

Arbuckle Farmers Market



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Dear Master Gardeners, I heard the Master Gardeners will talk about the “Eight Smart Gardening Practices” at the Colusa County Fair. Can you tell me more about this?

Your Neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for asking. Yes the Master Gardeners will present the “Eight Smart Gardening Practices” on **Sunday June 10th, in Etchepare Hall, starting at 1pm.** This will be an in-depth presentation. We divided it into 8 different presentations. Attend one or all.

1:00—Landscape for your Local Environment

1:30—Reduce Waste and Recycle

2:00—Nurture the Soil

2:30—Conserve Water

3:30—Conserve Energy

4:00—Responsible Pest Control

4:30—Support Beneficial Wildlife

5:00—Grow Your Own Food

Happy Gardening,
Your Master Gardener

Book of the Month

David and Penny Dennis

The Home Orchard

By: Chuck A. Ingels, Pamela M. Geisel, and Maxwell V. Norton

This is a great book that covers the basics and more when it comes to deciduous fruit and nut trees. From picking a suitable species for your area to selecting a variety, preparing the soil, plant the tree, water and fertilize, prune and graft, thin the fruit, diagnose problems, control pests, and harvest the fruit this book presents the information in a clear and easily understood format. Being a University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources publication you can be sure that Integrated Pest Management practices are recommended when possible. A nifty addition is in the appendix where Pamela M. Geisel has a crop-by-crop calendar that covers cultural practices.

University of California ANR Publication 3485 printed first in 2007

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ISBN-10: 1-879906-72-4

[Click here to purchase](#)



Science word of the Month....

Quiescent—Dormant or inactive

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Submitted Sherry Maltby

Myoporum 'Putah Creek'

Scrophulariaceae

Evergreen shrub/groundcover

Common name: Wide-leaf Myoporum

I planted about 12 one gallon *M. parvifolium* (*M.p* 'Prostratum') 'Putah Creek' late last fall and I have been rewarded with a hardy plant that has already spread over 2' and as of May 23rd was covered in bright white blooms. If this plant continues to do well over our hot William's, CA summer I will be planting more next fall.

This groundcover shrub is native to Australia and grows 6" to 12" tall and up to 8' wide. Perfect for covering banks and slopes. It can be used in a variety of landscape design styles, English Cottage, Mediterranean, Ranch, Spanish and Tropical. It would also work well around a patio, raised planter, swimming pool and with rocks. Plant it in full sun and after it is established it takes little to moderate water.

Other "Prostratum" varieties include 'Burgundy Carpet' that has red stems and purple new growth; 'Pink' bears pink flowers and 'Tucson' is more densely branched than the species and has smaller leaves.

This plant would work well to cascade over walls, help control erosion and where a large mass planting is called for. But it cannot take foot traffic.



Edible Garden of the Month

John and Diane Vafis

YOUR THIRSTY GARDEN

By

Diane and John Vafis

Indeed your garden needs water, but not all your vegetables, berry vines and fruit trees have the same water needs. And in water-wise California we don't want to use more than we need.

All your plants will appreciate a good layer of mulch that will help retain moisture in the soil and keep their roots from getting hot. This would be a three to four inch layer of organic material, such as compost, rice hulls, straw or bark. As a bonus this material will in time break down and enrich your soil. The super bonus is that you will be saving water.

Not all plants are created equal and neither are their water needs. But until established all these garden plants need more frequent watering, especially if a sudden heat wave pops up. Fruit trees have deep roots and want deep watering and less frequently than a vegetable, such as peppers, that may need to be watered daily in hot weather. With lots of water tomatoes often want to put out greenery, so stressing them a little encourages more fruit production. Most garden vegetables are not drought tolerant, of course, but they don't like soggy roots either.

The best procedure would seem to be monitor and adjust. A programmed watering schedule for your garden may be convenient, but temperatures, even in the Sacramento Valley summer, can be variable. A soil moisture probe, which could be your finger in loose soil to feel down a few inches, or a hand trowel, rod or stick to probe further will let you know if it is time to water.

Recipe of the Month

Blueberry Walnut Salad

Prep time 10 minutes. Serves 6

Ingredients:

1 10oz. package mixed salad greens

1 pint fresh blueberries

¼ c. walnuts, slightly toasted and cooled

½ c. raspberry vinaigrette salad dressing

¼ c. crumbled feta cheese

Directions: In a large bowl, toss the salad greens with the blueberries, walnuts, and raspberry vinaigrette. Top with feta cheese to serve. Variations: Substitute other nuts such as pecans, sliced almonds for the walnuts. Add green onion or thinly sliced red onion. Other berries such as strawberries or raspberries may be used. Feta can be omitted.

Recipe from allrecipes.com

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

Weed of the Month

Puncturevine

Puncturevine (Tribulus terrestris) is an aptly named summer annual found widely in California. Native to southern Europe, it can grow under a wide range of conditions, but its success is likely due to its ability to thrive in hot and dry conditions where other plants cannot. It can be a major problem in orchards, pastures, turf, and along roadsides and ditch banks. Although it is known to be toxic to sheep, its main weedy characteristic, as indicated by its common names of puncturevine or caltrop, is its spiky seedpods. (A caltrop is a metal device, used to deter passage by vehicles with pneumatic tires or the hooves of horses; it has four projecting spikes so arranged that when three of the spikes are on the ground, the fourth points upward to poke a tire or hoof.) The seeds of puncturevine are enclosed in a hard caltrop-like case that can injure livestock, people, and pets when stepped on and can even puncture bicycle tires. Another common name is "goathead."

IDENTIFICATION AND LIFE CYCLE

Puncturevine is a summer annual broadleaf weed that generally grows low to the ground forming dense mats 2 to 5 feet in diameter. The stems radiate out from a central point at the taproot. The plant does not root from the stems. The hairy leaves are opposite each other and divided into four to eight pairs of leaflets that are also opposite each other. Yellow flowers up to 1/2 inch wide with five petals are found in the leaf axils. After the flower is pollinated, a seedpod forms that is a cluster of five flat spiny burrs containing up to five seeds. As the seedpod matures, it turns gray or tan, gets very hard and breaks apart so that the individual spikes, or burrs, can stick into passing animals and tires. These burrs disperse by adhering to tires, shoes and clothing of people, and the fur, feathers, or feet of animals.

Puncturevine germinates in the spring and summer from seeds produced the previous year. Good soil moisture and warm temperatures are needed for germination, but after the plant is established it can tolerate dry soils due to its rapidly produced deep taproot. The plant may start flowering within 3 weeks of germination and flowering will continue throughout the summer. Seeds are primarily dormant in the first season, but may germinate the next spring. Seeds may remain viable in the soil for up to five years. Puncturevine plants cannot tolerate freezing temperatures. [Click here for more information.](#)



Pest of the Month

THRIPS/TOMATO SPOTTED WILT VIRUS

Tomato spotted wilt virus

Infected plants exhibit bronzing of the upper sides of young leaves, which later develop distinct, necrotic spots. Leaves may be cupped downward. Some tip dieback may occur. On ripe fruit, chlorotic spots and blotches appear, often with concentric rings. Green fruit show slightly raised areas with faint, concentric zones.

Solutions

The tomato spotted wilt virus is transmitted by [thrips](#). Control thrips with applications of [insecticidal soap](#). Removing and destroying infected plants can help control the spread of virus.



Tomato spotted wilt symptoms on fruit

Tomato spotted wilt symptoms on leaves

For information about THRIPS [click here](#).

FRESH PEACH CAKE

- 1 c. softened butter or margarine
- 1 ½ c. sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 c. fresh ripe peaches, mashed
- 2 c. flour
- 1 tsp. allspice
- 1 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 T. unsweetened baking cocoa
- 1 c. raisins

Cream together butter, sugar, and eggs. Heat mashed peaches to a simmer; cool. Add peaches to creamed mixture. Sift flour, allspice, cloves, cinnamon, baking soda, and cocoa together. Add to peach mixture. Mix in raisins. Bake at 350 degrees in a greased 9 x 13-inch pan for 30 minutes. Cool and frost with:

Frosting:

½ c. butter or margarine, 1 c. brown sugar, ¼ c. milk, 1 ¾ c. powdered sugar.

Mix and boil butter and brown sugar for 2 minutes. Add milk and powdered sugar, beat well. Additional powdered sugar can be added if needed. Frost cooled cake. Excellent for picnics. A very dense cake.

Recipe originally from Ruth Ann Ramos Criner

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

June in the Garden:

- In the flower garden you can still plant seeds of marigolds, zinnias, cosmos and sunflowers. You can set out transplants of perennials like yarrow, verbena, black-eyed Susan, and dahlias.
- In the vegetable garden you can plant seeds of pumpkins, squash, and corn.
- Be sure to water early in the day to conserve water and minimize plant disease. Regularly check your sprinklers and drip emitters for needed repairs and adjustments. Monitor soil moisture in hot weather to be sure you are irrigating enough. (Use a metal rod to push into the ground. If it goes in easily, the soil is moist.)
- Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Later in the month use a fertilizer for acid-loving plants like azaleas and camellias. Always follow the directions for proper dilution of concentrates.
- Dig and divide spring-flowering bulbs when the tops have died down.
- Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture.

For information on insect control visit www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

Featured Publication

Oaks in the Urban Landscape

This publication offers a comprehensive look at the management of oaks in urban areas. As development moves into oak woodland areas, more and more oaks are becoming “urban” oaks.

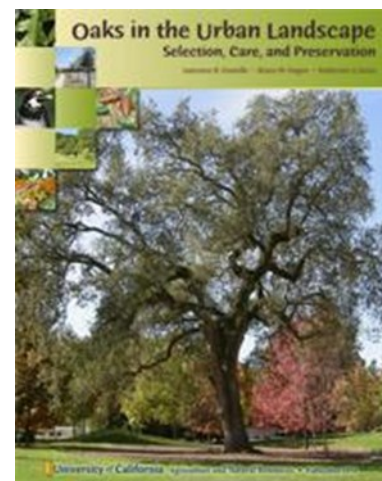
Oaks are highly valued in urban areas for their aesthetic, environmental, economic and cultural benefits. However, significant impacts to the health and structural stability of oaks have resulted from urban encroachment. Changes in environment, incompatible cultural practices, and pest problems can all lead to the early demise of our stately oaks.

Using this book you'll learn how to effectively manage and protect oaks in urban areas – existing oaks as well as the planting of new oaks. Three key areas are addressed: selection, care, and preservation. You'll learn how cultural practices, pest management, risk management, preservation during development, and genetic diversity can all play a role in preserving urban oaks.

Arborists, urban foresters, landscape architects, planners and designers, golf course superintendents, academics, and Master Gardeners alike will find this to be an invaluable reference guide.

Working together we can help assure that oaks will be a robust and integral component of the urban landscape for years to come.

[Click here to purchase](#)



This month's links:

- [Olives: Safe Methods for Home Pickling](#)
- [Bats](#)
- [Ground Squirrels](#)

Additional Links

Integrated Pest Management www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

UC Davis Arboretum www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu

McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens turtlebay.org

Invasive Plants www.cal-ipc.org

Plant Right www.plantright.org

PG&E www.pge.com

Save Our Water www.water.ca.gov

The Colusa County Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a partnership among the University of California, USDA, Colusa County and the Colusa County Farm Bureau. Master Gardener volunteers extend horticultural information and offer educational programs and garden-related demonstrations in Colusa County.

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To simply information, trade names of products have been used. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

University of California, United States Department of Agriculture, Colusa County Cooperating.
For special assistance regarding our programs, please contact us.

