

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Making a Difference for California



Cooperative Extension, Colusa County
P.O. Box 180, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite E
Colusa, Ca 95932
530-485-0570 530-458-4625 fax
cecolusa.ucdavis.edu
mgcolusa@ucdavis.edu

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

A Garden Runs Through It

This newsletter is
produced by:

Gerry Hernandez
Melodie Johnson
Master Gardener
Co-Coordinator

Chris Greer
County Director

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday,
9am—12pm
1pm—4pm
UCCE office,
100 Sunrise Blvd,
Colusa
458-0570

Have a question?
Email us at
mgcolusa@ucdavis.edu

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August 2012

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Information Booth Locations:

Arbuckle Farmers Market

August 8
August 22

Colusa Farmers Market

August 6
August 20



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Dear Master Gardeners,

I've heard that you should plant your winter vegetables now, in the middle of summer? I question their advise. What do you think?

Your Neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

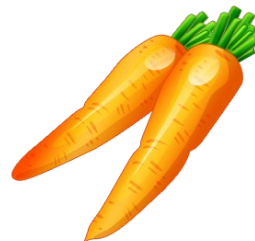
It is hard to believe that you start your winter garden in the middle of summer but it is true. You can start seeds of many winter vegetables now. Transplants are usually available in September. Winter gardens are easy and fun. Once we get past the hot summer days, plants need less water. When the rains start they may need no water (depending on rainfall). Also, winter gardens need less weeding if any. Can you imagine eating your own cauliflower, broccoli and lettuce for Thanksgiving dinner.

So sit back and enjoy your winter garden.

Our challenge to you is to try a few winter vegetables in your garden this year.

Plant these vegetables now for a Thanksgiving harvest:

- ♦ Cauliflower
- ♦ Broccoli
- ♦ Carrots
- ♦ Lettuce



Plant these vegetables now for a Christmas harvest:

- ♦ Brussel Sprouts
- ♦ Cabbage
- ♦ Cauliflower
- ♦ Broccoli
- ♦ Carrots
- ♦ Rutabaga
- ♦ Lettuce
- ♦ Turnips



If you can find transplants in August it will give you a head start on your holiday dinner.

[Click here](#) for the Vegetable Planting Guide for the Sacramento Area

Happy Gardening,
Your Master Gardener

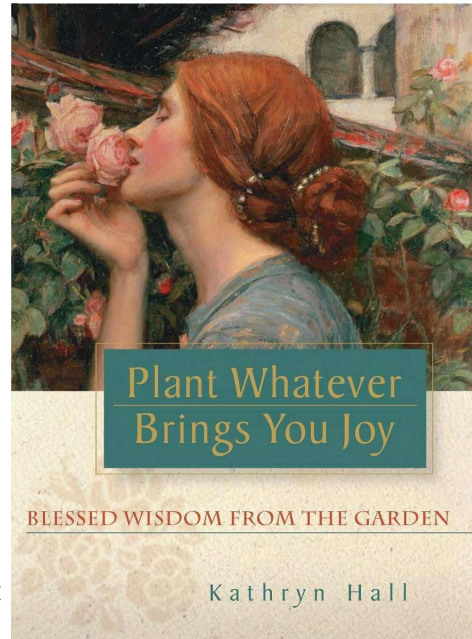


Book of the Month

Plant Whatever Brings You Joy

By Kathryn Hall

I was casting about my library (really just stacks, piles and some rows of books) looking for a book to review this month. Penny could hear my frustration level began to elevate as nothing seemed to inspire me and she mentioned the book she was presently reading—"Plant Whatever Brings You Joy". Taking courage from Cynthia's great review last month I decided to select a book that was not a nuts and bolts (or should I say a spade and shovel) look at the practical aspects of gardening but one that moves the reader into examining the relationship gardening can have to their spiritual and emotional life. Kathryn Hall has written a gentle book, one that you can easily pickup and read for a few moments and not feel guilty setting it down for you know you will again look to it for wisdom or solace. Written in a simple format of 52 chapters that examine some aspect of gardening and then relates that to a happening in her life and to aspects in all lives, the book effortlessly leads the reader from chapter to chapter as if wandering along a beautiful garden path.



David and Penny Dennis

Penny purchased this book over at the Mendocino Arts Center in Mendocino CA

Science word of the Month....Xylem

Vascular tissue primarily responsible for transporting water and mineral nutrients from the roots to the shoots; the primary component of wood in trees.

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Sherry Maltby

LAGERSTROEMIA

L. indica. Crape Myrtle 'Red Rocket'

July was ablaze with the brilliant, bright red flowers of the 'Red Rocket' Crape (or Crepe) Myrtle trees planted in my new garden as well as the one planted at the Williams Library by the Garden Club of Colusa County.

The Crepe Myrtle is one of the most planted decorative tress in the US. It originated in China but is now cultivated widely throughout the world. It is particularly well suited to our hot summer climate Zones 8 and 9, requiring infrequent but deep watering once established.

I planted 2 shrubs and 1 tree in the fall of 2011. I purchased them in 24" boxes as I was putting them into a mature landscape and wanted an immediate impact of color and size. They are slow growing trees to 20' tall, but this will vary depending on the variety you choose.

Crepe Myrtle goes completely dormant in the winter and should be pruned during this time because they bloom on new wood. If you give them a light pruning after blooming in the summer you will get another light bloom in most cases. Red Rocket has a reddish purple leaf in the spring, deep red flowers in the summer and yellow-orange fall color. As the tree matures it has beautiful smooth gray bark that peels off to reveal a pinkish inner bark. As the plant gets older pruning the lower branches and thinning the interior of the plant will expose this attractive feature making interest in the winter garden as well.

Care for Crape Myrtles

Plant in well drained, fertile soil. Fertilize for optimum bloom and growth.

Remover suckers and buds of new branches as they appear on the trunk, very important when grown in the tree form.

Watch for aphids and mold, especially in cool or humid environment. Treat if necessary.

Water the soil around the trees deeply, but keep flower and leave dry to discourage fungal diseases.



Edible Garden of the Month

John and Diane Vafis

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

This month is one of seeming contradictions. It's harvest season for all those luscious varieties of tomatoes, squash, peppers and more that we have been tending. Be sure to keep the vegetables picked so the plant will keep on making fruit. We all have had the baseball bat sized zucchini that is lurking under the plant. Pick small and often.

It is harvest time, but it is also time to plant again! As contrary as it seems, the heat of August is just what the seeds of cool season vegetables, such as lettuce and carrots, need to germinate. These plants prefer to grow in cooler weather, but they will germinate faster in warm soil.

If you don't have available space, or you don't want to pull out some summer vegetables, consider planting some lettuce or spinach in your flower beds. There are many colorful varieties of lettuce that would be attractive in a garden border. Look at seed catalogs to get an idea of what is available.

If all this new planting plus continuing to weed and water has you too pooped out to make your annual batches of marinara sauce, tomato puree or salsa, consider freezing some of those tomatoes until the chill of approaching winter makes stirring a pot of sauce more appealing. Just wash Roma (paste) tomatoes and pop them in a quart size sealable freezer bag squeezing out as much air as possible. There is no need to peel now as the skin slips off easily when you run warm tap water over the frozen tomato. Remember to write the date (and variety if you have more than one) on the bag.

Enjoy the fruits of your garden labors!



Recipe of the Month

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

Fresh Corn Salad with Avocado and Basil

6 ears of corn

2 cups halved cherry tomatoes

½ cup thinly sliced red onion

1 large avocado, cut into ½-in. cubes

1/3 cup chopped fresh basil leaves

2 tbsp. Champagne vinegar

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil

¼ tsp. each kosher salt and pepper

In a large pot of boiling water, cook corn until warmed through, 3-5 minutes. Rinse with cold water and cool.

Combine tomatoes, onion, avocado and basil in a large bowl. In a small bowl, combine remaining ingredients to make the vinaigrette, whisking until blended.

Cut corn kernels from cobs and add to salad, then pour in vinaigrette and toss gently to combine.

This recipe can be adjusted many ways. Frozen or grilled corn can be used. Add sliced cucumbers, sliced olives, celery or a little crumbled cheese such as feta. For the dressing, substitute your own favorite prepare vinaigrette.

Serves 6

From Sunset Garden Fresh Recipes

Weed of the Month

Spurge

Spotted spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*) is an annual plant native to the eastern United States. In California, it is the most common species of the spurge family, which also includes creeping spurge (*E. serpens*) and petty spurge (*E. peplus*). These weeds invade many of the state's crops, affecting vegetables, trees, citrus, turf, ornamental beds, and container ornamentals. Management of all the spurges is similar.

IDENTIFICATION

Spotted spurge grows close to the ground, often forming a dense mat. Its dark green leaves, which grow in pairs called "opposites," are 1/8 to 1/2 inch long and about 1/8 inch wide. Frequently a red spot will mark the leaf halfway down its center vein. [Click here](#) for more info.



Pest of the Month

Boxelder Bug

The western boxelder bug (*Boisea rubrolineata*) is often a nuisance pest around and in homes. Boxelder bugs usually feed on the leaves, flowers, and seedpods of the female or seedbearing box elder tree (*Acer negundo*). They may also subsist on male box elder trees and occasionally occur on maple and ash trees. They may feed on the fruits of almond, apple, cherry, peach, pear, and plum trees, and on grapes, where their feeding punctures cause the fruit to become deformed. Large numbers of the bug usually occur only on female box elder trees.

IDENTIFICATION

When full grown, this bug is about 1/2 inch long and one-third as wide. Adults are mostly black and have three red lines on the pronotum of the thorax and several fine red lines on each wing. The wings lie flat on the bug's back when it is at rest. The abdomen is red. The young nymphs are bright red and when about half-grown become marked with black and begin to develop black wing pads. Eggs are yellow when first laid, but become red as nymphs develop inside.

[Click here](#) for more information.



August in the Garden:

August garden tasks:

- ♦ You can plant directly in the garden seeds of carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach and turnips. Indoors you can start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, kale, bunching onions, and radicchio.
- ♦ Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers.
- ♦ Continue to weed. Be especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds.
- ♦ Check the mulch you have spread around and be sure it is thick enough to suppress weeds. (3 to 4 inches)
- ♦ Cut off spent flowers of perennials and annuals for continued bloom.

Featured Publication

IPM FOR CITRUS

Newly updated with more detail than ever!

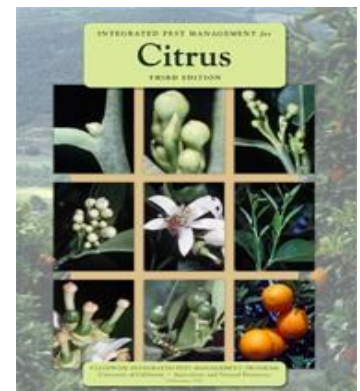
Introducing the newly updated IPM for Citrus—3rd Edition. Now with even more pictures, more resources, and more pests! Learn to apply the principles of integrated pest management to identify and manage more than 150 common citrus pests, diseases, and disorders.

Complete with more than 550 colored photographs and 80 figures and tables, this guide provides substantial information on pest insects, mites, diseases, weeds, nematodes, and vertebrates. Look for brand new sections on Asian Citrus Psyllid, Citrus Leafminer, Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter and more!

What's new in the 3rd edition?

- More detailed figures to help distinguish between pests
- 21 new pests and 11 new diseases and disorders
- More detailed, easy-to-use table of contents
- Added index for quick and easy searching
- More detailed and vibrant photographs
- New section on exotic diseases
- More detailed information on pesticide use and its problems
- Updated monitoring and pest management recommendations

Important information on physical disorders, production problems and harvest related problems is also covered. This manual of pest information and management recommendations is an indispensable tool for citrus growers, consultants and pest management professionals alike. [Click here](#) to purchase this book.



This month's links:

- Good Day Sacramento, [Potato Picking](#), pt. 3
- Good Day Sacramento, [Potato Picking](#), pt. 2
- Good Day Sacramento, [Potato Picking Season](#), pt 1

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.

