

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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OFFICE HOURS:

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1pm—4pm
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October 2012

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Want to become a Master Gardener?

[Click here for information](#)

Information Booth Locations:

Sorry, no information booth this month but please call us or come by if you have a question!



MASTER GARDENERS PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

On Wednesday someone came into the office and I was all excited because I thought she wanted to become a Master Gardener. Well, she was here for something else but said she couldn't become a Master Gardener because she sprays "Round-up".

It is a misnomer that Master Gardeners only promote organic methods.

We promote using mulch to reduce weeds. We promote using soaps, oils and Bt to control insects. We promote sealing cracks for ant control. We promote responsible water use. We also promote conventional insecticides, herbicides etc., when needed.

To clarify, Master Gardeners promote sustainable practices. Sustainable means living in harmony with other creatures that help to keep pests at acceptable levels, and using least toxic management practices whenever possible. In other words, we use both organic and conventional methods of control for insects, weeds, vertebrate pest etc.

For more information about the Master Gardeners of Colusa County

[Click here](#)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Dear Master Gardeners, I heard something about a “Colusa County Grown” project. Is it like the “Placer Grown Project”?

Your Neighbor



Dear Neighbor,

The Colusa County Resource Conservation District is working on a project called **Colusa County Grown**. This project will promote Colusa County producers who sell their agricultural products directly to the consumer. We are developing a marketing campaign, marketing materials for growers, a website and a local food guide. The project will also promote consumer education about the benefits of eating local, seasonal food.

Colusa County Grown - Update

Our Colusa County Grown project continues to be very popular with local residents. Here is the latest update:

Producers

We currently have 25 participating producers in our database, representing a wide variety of products including: peaches, apricots, almonds, pecans, eggs, honey, mixed fruit and vegetables, grass fed beef, rice, lavender and more.

If you are a producer that sells your product directly to the consumer, please contact the CCRCD to participate in this program: mary.fahey@ca.nacdnet.net or call 530-458-2931 x117

Marketing materials

We are designing our marketing materials, including posters, signs, flyers, postcards, and a local food guide. The logo is completed and the Colusa County Grown website is live: www.colusacountygrown.org

Surveys

We are conducting consumer surveys to gather baseline information that will help us measure our success with this project. The survey is very short and asks questions regarding consumer knowledge and willingness to shop locally from producers. If you are a Colusa County resident, please take the time to fill out our survey. The information you provide is very important to this project. You can access the survey on Survey Monkey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8YJSX8T>

To visit the website click here: www.colusacountygrown.org

Happy Gardening,
Your Master Gardener _____

Book of the Month

“Creating New and Better Plants-Luther Burbank”

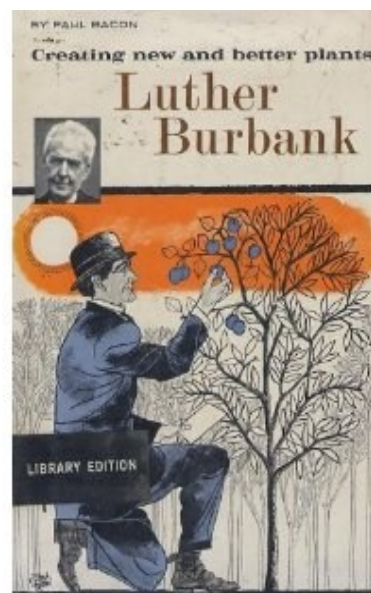
“During more than a quarter of a century, beginning about 1900, Burbank was not only a man but a legend. In the course of those years, the legend grew to staggering proportions. And as the legend grew, it has been said, his gardens became almost a shrine, and to shake hands with him a benediction.” So begins Chapter 10 of Paul Bacon’s work “Creating new and better plants-Luther Burbank” written for the young reader. These are tall words and in this biography Mr. Bacon successfully justifies their use.

Mr. Bacon follows Burbank from his birth in Lancaster, Massachusetts in 1849 to his death in Santa Rosa, California in 1926. During the journey, Burbank created over 800 new strains and varieties of fruits, flowers, vegetables, grains, grasses, and trees. He also created an industry of plant breeding on a grand scale and a religious controversy that some say led to his death.

I thought this would be a good read prior to our trip to Santa Rosa and may review a second book on Luther Burbank next month.

Colusa County Library has this book and it was copyrighted in 1961.

David and Penny Dennis



Ornamental Plant of the Month

The do's and don'ts of fall rose care

Bernice Dommer

Of course, there are a few chores to be done in the rose garden before winter sets in. But the list is pretty short for most areas of the country and includes more “don'ts” than “do's.”

1. For starters, don't cut your roses back in the autumn. If you prune now, you'll just suffer dieback and will have to cut back more severely in the spring. Wait until the forsythia blooms in your area before breaking out the secateurs.

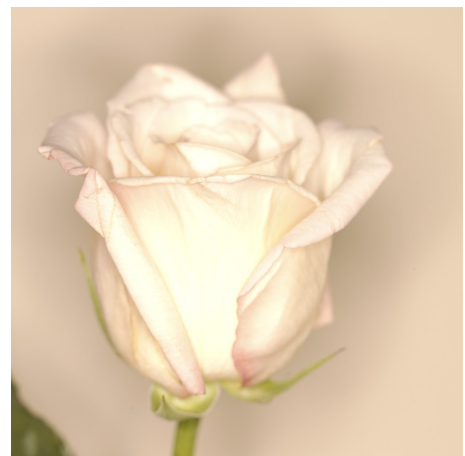
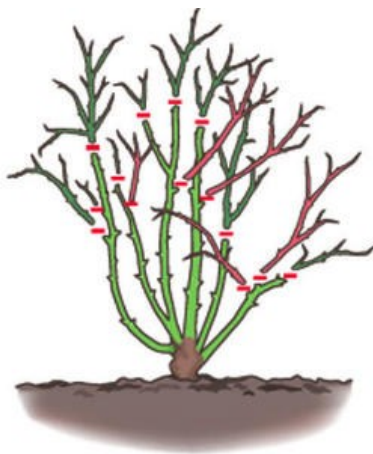
- An exception would be ramblers that bloom on old wood -- if you wait till next year to tidy them up, you may well cut off potential new flowers. Trim about one-third of the growth now and cut out any dead canes.
- I also suggest trimming back bushes that have developed extra-long canes. In my garden some English Roses have thrown out eight-foot canes. I trim those back to waist height so they don't whip around in winter winds injuring themselves, their neighbors, or me.

2. Don't trim off rose hips, the colorful fruits that form in the late summer and early fall. They often turn lovely shades of orange-red, and are a signal to the bush that it's time to get ready for a long winter's nap.

3. Do tear off and destroy any leaves that display signs of disease or insect infestation. Also dig up and discard any bushes that have died. Never put diseased leaves or dead roses in your compost pile.

4. Do identify any bushes that might need extra winter protection. Most of the newer shrubs and miniatures don't need special care. If you aren't sure whether a variety is tender or not, play it safe and add an 8-inch mound of soil, compost, leaf mold, or other organic material around the base of the bush.

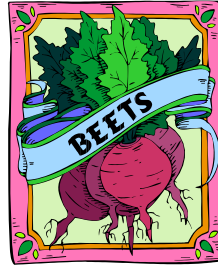
Check with an American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian or a Master Gardener in your area for additional advice and winter-protection tips.



Edible Garden of the Month

John and Diane Vafis

Looking for a Change?



The zucchini, tomatoes and peppers have lost their allure. The record warmth of this September has left many of us longing to see frost on the pumpkin or at least a change to the produce of the winter garden. Bronze or emerald lettuce leaves on seed packets beckon, and those six packs of little broccoli plants call out to us as we walk through the nursery aisles. Your winter garden planted now will have a wonderful boost from the warm soil that all those 90 degree days have provided.

Be adventurous. Heirloom seeds and plants are receiving a big boost from growers, bringing back some forgotten and exotic varieties. It may turn out you love purple carrots!

When you have pulled out your summer vegetables, you need to recharge the soil before planting your fall-winter garden. Clean up all of the leaves and bits that have been shed by the summer plants and toss them out. Do not compost diseased or fungus-infected plant material. Add compost to the bed and dig it in to replenish the soil and improve its structure.

Set out transplants of broccoli, cauliflower, and chard. Plant seeds of carrots, peas, cilantro, lettuce and spinach. Heirloom varieties are hard to find in our local nurseries, but there are on-line sources; it is a little late to order, but you can plan for the future. One advantage of using heirloom seeds is that the crop can be harvested and the seeds from the harvest saved for planting in the next year. This doesn't work for modern hybrid seeds, which do not produce fruit with seeds that come true to the parent plant.

Heirloom varieties or not, enjoy the pleasure of starting a new garden season. Put your "green thumbs" into the soil and anticipate the tender lettuces, crunchy cabbage and colorful kale and Swiss chard that will enrich your winter dinners .



Recipe of the Month Roasted Vegetables

A casserole dish of seasonal vegetables that is so easy to prepare. It can be made a day ahead and reheated before serving.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 small butternut squash, cubed
- 2 red peppers, seeded and diced
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and cubed (carrots can be used here)
- 3 Yukon Gold potatoes, cubed (may use baking potatoes)
- 1 red onion, quartered
- 1 T chopped fresh thyme
- 2 T chopped fresh rosemary
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 T balsamic vinegar (or use lemon juice)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees

In a large bowl, combine all the vegetables. Separate the red onion quarters into pieces and add them to bowl.

In a small bowl, stir together thyme, olive oil, vinegar, salt and pepper. Toss with vegetables until they are coated. Spread evenly on roasting pan.

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

Recipe from allrecipes.com

Weed of the Month

Hairy Fleabane

Hairy fleabane, a common summer annual or biennial broadleaf of disturbed, unmanaged areas and cultivated fields, may be confused with horseweed, *Conyza canadensis*. Hairy fleabane is found in the Central Valley, central-western region, and southwestern region, to about 3300 feet (1000 m). It inhabits agricultural lands and other disturbed areas competing strongly for water and growing rapidly.

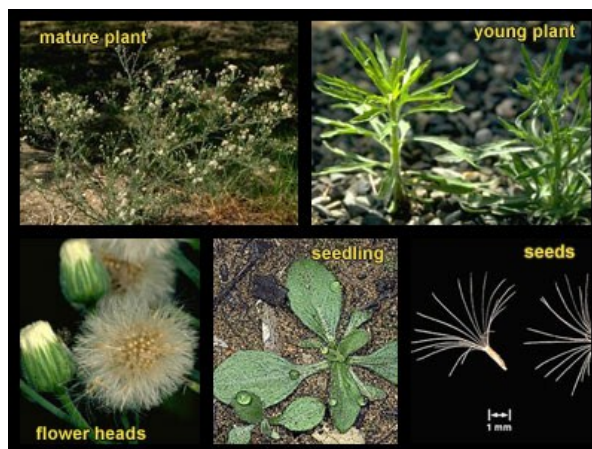
Habitat

Roadsides, agronomic croplands, landscaped areas, container nurseries, orchards, vineyards, ditch and canal banks, and urban sites, and disturbed, unmanaged areas.

Mature plant

The mature plant can reach almost 4 feet (1.2 m) tall. It is well branched. Leaves are gray green and are covered with both short, stiff and long, soft hairs. Leaves are alternate to one another along the stem. Leaf edges range from smooth to weakly toothed or lobed. Upper leaves are linear to lance shaped. Lower leaves are generally egg shaped and taper to a short stalk. Although similar to horseweed, hairy fleabane branches more, has more basal leaves, and its stems usually branch near the base. Horseweed stems usually branch only in the upper half of the plant. Horseweed leaves only have short, stiff hairs, not a combination of short, stiff and long, soft hairs found in hairy fleabane. Fleabane typically is never over 4 feet (1.2 m) tall, but horseweed can reach over 9 feet (2.7 m) tall.

Unfortunately, this weed is Round-up resistant.



[Click here for more information about Hairy Fleabane](#)

Pest of the Month

Ants

Ants are among the most prevalent pests in households. They are also found in restaurants, hospitals, offices, warehouses, and other buildings where they can find food and water. On outdoor (and sometimes indoor) plants, ants protect and care for honeydew-producing insects such as aphids, soft scales, whiteflies, and mealybugs, increasing damage from these pests. Ants also perform many useful functions in the environment, such as feeding on other pests (e.g., fleas, caterpillars, termites), dead insects, and decomposing tissue from dead animals.

There are over 12,000 species of ants throughout the world. In California, there are about 200 species but fewer than a dozen are important pests (Table 1). The most common ant occurring in and around the house and garden in California is the Argentine ant, *Linepithema humile* (formerly *Iridomyrmex humilis*). Other common ant pests include the pharaoh ant (*Monomorium pharaonis*), the odorous house ant (*Tapinoma sessile*), the thief ant (*Solenopsis molesta*), and the southern fire ant (*Solenopsis xyloni*). The velvety tree ant, *Liometopum occidentale*, nests in old wood and is a common outdoor species in landscapes.

Less common, but of great importance, is the red imported fire ant, *Solenopsis invicta*, which has recently gained a foothold in southern California. In some areas, the spread of the fire ant has been slowed by competition from the Argentine ant.

Carpenter ants, *Camponotus* spp., also invade buildings in California. Although they do not eat wood as termites do, they hollow it out to nest and may cause considerable damage. For more information on carpenter ants, see Pest Notes: Carpenter Ants, listed in "References." For color photographs and additional information on identifying the different ant species, see A Key to the Most Common and/or Economically Important Ants of California, or the online Key to Identifying Common Household Ants.

If you have an ant emergency

- Determine what the ants are attracted to and remove the food source
- Vacuum trails, wipe them with soapy water, or spray with window cleaner
- Locate entry points and caulk openings or plug with petroleum jelly
- Put out bait stations or apply gel bait at entry points
- Baits take time to work so continue to clean up trails
- Indoor sprays are not usually



Argentine Ant

[Click here for more ANT information](#)

October in the Garden:

What to plant:

- ⇒ Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, you can direct seed cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, nigella, portulaca and sweet peas.
- ⇒ If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring.
- ⇒ Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.
- ⇒ Early in the month you should buy your new bulbs and refrigerate them for six weeks before planting them in the garden.
- October is also good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. You can still rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding.
- Put your spent annuals and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile.
- Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.
- This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.
- Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present.
- If you had glads, dahlias or tuberous begonias they should be dug up and cleaned after the foliage dies. Store the corms and tubers in a cool, dry place.
- Be sure to deadhead your roses following the October bloom.
- Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin.

HAPPY FALL!



Science word of the Month....

Vernalization

A cooling period required by many plants in order to germinate, grow or flower properly.

This month's links:

- Good Day Sacramento, Chestnuts, [part 1](#)
- Good Day Sacramento, Chestnuts, [part 2](#)
- Good Day Sacramento, [Eggplant](#)

Sorry about the commercials

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.

