

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
Master Gardener
Coordinator

Luis Espino
Advisor

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

In This Issue:

November 2012

- ♦ Frequently Asked Question
- ♦ Book of the month— *Luther Burbank; The Wizard and the Man*
- ♦ Ornamental Plant of the Month— Lion's Tail
- ♦ Edible Garden of the Month— For November—A Reward and a Chore
- ♦ Recipe of the Month— Mushroom and Butternut Squash Bread Pudding
- ♦ Weed of the Month— Spurge
- ♦ Pest of the Month— Mice
- ♦ November in the Garden



Want to become a Master Gardener?

[Click here for information](#)

Deadline November 9th

Information Booth Locations:

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



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

Dear Master Gardeners,

I see the Master Gardeners of Colusa County have a FACEBOOK page. Why do you have one and what can I learn from it?

Your Neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

Yes, the Master Gardeners of Colusa County have a FACEBOOK page. We decided to have a page because it is another method of getting the “word” out to more people. As we know young people have grown up with social media and use it for gathering information. This is just another way for people to learn about gardening.

When you “like” our page, you will get;

- Gardening tips
- Quirky questions
- Newsletter
- Upcoming events
- Pictures
- You can also ask us a question.
- Interesting articles



Click on the Facebook logo on the first page and you be taken directly to the Master Gardener of Colusa County's page.

Happy Gardening,
Your Master Gardener



Book of the Month

Luther Burbank The Wizard and the Man

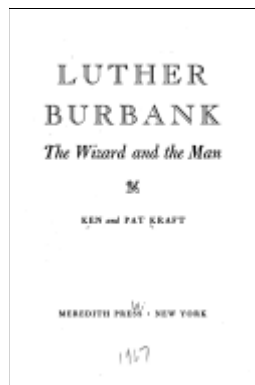
By Ken and Pat Kraft

This second book on Luther Burbank goes into more detail of his actual work than the one we reviewed last month ("Creating New and Better Plants – Luther Burbank" by Paul Bacon). They both cover his life's history in rich particular and give the reader a sense of familiarity with Luther Burbank but by no means does it extend to intimacy. After reading these two books you will probably see Burbank as a public figure that enjoyed and profited from his notoriety but also as a man that kept as much as he could of his private life from the prying press.

Luther Burbank was a man of intelligence coupled with a great work ethic and this book emphasizes both qualities with clarity and readability. A good read.

This book was printed in 1967 and is available through the Colusa County Library
Dave and Penny Dennis

David and Penny Dennis



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Leonotis leonurus

Lion's Tail

Lamiaceae

Evergreen Shrub

When I saw this plant growing in the demonstration gardens at Morningsun Herb Farm in Vacaville, I know it would have a place in my fall garden.

Leonotis leonurus is also known by the names Lion's tail and Lion's ear. It's a member of the mint family and will grow up to 8' tall under the right conditions 4' to 6' tall is more likely with spreading 3'to 4'. It has square stems, dark green foliage and produces striking blooms of bright orange tufts on upright spikes. It will bloom from October to frost.

Leonotis leonurus is not for the faint of heart gardener, it will require yearly pruning to keep it neat and in place. It will reseed if the heads are not cut after blooming. Also our zones 8 and 9 are at the edge of its frost hardiness, but any frost damage should be able to be pruned back to live wood in the spring. If you are worried about frost you can take a cutting for propagation in the fall and set it out in garden in the spring.

Give it room and a little afternoon shade in hot areas; mix it with any Mediterranean-style perennial, like lavender or salvia. Or try it with fall standards such as asters and chrysanthemums. I think it mixes well with large grasses or under planted with lantana in just about any bright shade will give you real impact in the fall garden.

Since I purchased 3 4" pots, I have put one in the ground and the other 2 in a large apple green pot with tri colored lantana, bright pink salvia and a tall spiky grass, set with all colors of pumpkins at the base for my front door fall decoration.

This plant is drought tolerant, so don't overwater, and grows quickly in rich well-drained soil. The only hybrid cultivar, 'Harrismith White', offers white blooms. Do a little research on this plant and you will find many medicinal qualities as well.

Sherry Maltby



Edible Garden of the Month

John and Diane Vafis

For November: A Reward and a Chore

Fresh, tender lettuce from the garden is a key ingredient for a classic, simple salad. Those who planted seeds in August and September are sharing this pleasure along with their family and friends. The ultimate classic salad has a homemade vinaigrette dressing that will have everyone admiring the cook's skills. Here is the recipe courtesy of Bon Appetit magazine.

CLASSIC SALAD (4-6 servings)

1 small clove garlic, chopped

1 anchovy filet packed in oil, drained & chopped (optional)

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 1/2 Tbsp. white wine vinegar OR fresh lemon juice

1/4 cup (or more) extra-virgin olive oil

About 6 cups of freshest possible lettuce, leaves washed and separated, torn if large

1/2 cup minced chives

Using a wooden spoon, mash garlic, anchovy, and a pinch each salt and pepper in a large bowl. Stir in vinegar, then 1/4 cup oil. Season to taste with more salt, pepper and more oil, if desired. Add lettuce and chives just before serving and toss.

BACK TO THE GARDEN! Your lettuce, carrots, peas and onions should be showing good growth by now. You can continue to plant lettuce while temperatures are in the 60s or above. You also need to keep an eye on your peach and nectarine trees. November is the month for the first application of a copper-based fungicide to prevent peach leaf curl next year. This should be done after November 15; thinking Thanksgiving is an easy way to remember the timing for the first spraying. Thoroughly spray all of the branches; it won't be effective if the entire surface isn't covered. Be sure to pick up all of the leaf litter as well because that is where the fungus spores will persist. Your second and third sprayings will be around Christmas and Valentine's Day, so mark your calendar.



Weed of the Month

Spotted Spurge

**This fall has been warm and now damp. Spurge loves these conditions. Mulch is one of the best methods of control. For more information [click here](#).*

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.

Cultural Control

Mulch

Probably the most common strategy for controlling weeds in ornamental plantings is to use organic or synthetic mulches, which prevent light from reaching weed seeds and seedlings, starving them before they can start making food through photosynthesis. Bark, compost, or straw laid at least 2 inches thick can effectively control many weed seeds including many spurge species. A large, coarse bark will require a 3- to 4-inch layer to be effective; however, larger, coarser mulches last longer than finely shredded ones. Thick mulch eventually can accumulate soil, decaying organic matter, and weed seeds that can germinate. All organic mulch needs periodic replacement.

Black, synthetic polypropylene weed barriers (fabrics or geotextiles), which are available at nurseries, also block sunlight and starve weed seedlings. The fabrics are porous to allow water to drain through them. Often a synthetic barrier with bark or rock on top makes the area more aesthetically pleasing. Organic mulches such as bark and straw don't need to be as thick if you also are using the fabric. Since mulches and weed barriers reduce evaporation from the soil surface, adjust the irrigation cycle to prevent overwatering.

Chemical Control

Preemergent herbicides

Preemergent herbicides can help prevent spotted spurge outbreaks if you apply them in late winter before weed seeds germinate. Time the application, so it occurs before the soil temperature exceeds 55° to 60°F at a depth of 1 inch.

Preemergent chemicals are almost never used in home vegetable gardens, because chemical residues last for months after application, and product labels routinely regulate against such use. Herbicide recommendations for commercial orchard and vegetable crops are available online; see the UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines.

Postemergent herbicides

Postemergent herbicides available to home gardeners include 2,4-D/MCPP/dicamba combination products, triclopyr (Turflon), and glyphosate (available for both commercial and home landscape use). In general, 2,4-D and its combinations don't control the larger, more mature spotted spurge plants.



Recipe of the Month

Mushroom and Butternut Squash Bread Pudding

Serves 8 to 10.

Takes about an hour and a half. This dish works well as a side dish or as a main dish too.

3 cups cubed butternut squash, cut into $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch chunks.

1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. kosher salt, divided

1 tsp. pepper, divided

About 4 tbsp. unsalted butter, divided

3 leeks, white and green parts only, thinly sliced and rinsed well

2 garlic cloves, minced

$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. mixed mushrooms (white, brown or wild), sliced

1 tbsp. fresh thyme leaves

6 cups cubed rustic white bread, cut into 1-inch cubes, lightly toasted

3 cups half-and-half

4 large eggs

1 tbsp. flour

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup shredded parmesan cheese

1 cup shredded gruyere cheese

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Heap squash on a rimmed baking sheet, drizzle with oil and toss to coat. Bake, stirring occasionally, until tender and golden brown, about 35 minutes. Transfer to a bowl.

2. Melt 2 tbsp. butter in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add leeks with $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt; cook until softened. Add garlic, cook 2 minutes, and add to squash.

3. Melt remaining 2 tbsp. butter in same pan over medium heat. Add mushrooms and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. each of salt and pepper. Increase heat to medium-high and cook, stirring, until mushrooms have released their liquid and are beginning to brown, about 6 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in thyme.

4. Add mushrooms to squash-leek mixture. Stir in bread; scoop into a buttered 9- by 13-in. baking dish.

5. Whisk together half-and-half, eggs, remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp pepper, the flour, and parmesan in a medium bowl. Pour custard over bread mixture and let stand 10 minutes. Top with gruyere, then bake, uncovered, until cheese is melted and beginning to brown and custard is set (poke with a knife to check), 30 to 35 minutes.

Submitted by Penny Dennis from Sunset, Nov. 2011

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

Pest of the Month

House Mouse

The house mouse, *Mus musculus*, is one of the most troublesome and costly rodents in the United States. House mice thrive under a variety of conditions; they are found in and around homes and commercial structures as well as in open fields and on agricultural land. House mice consume and contaminate food meant for humans, pets, livestock, or other animals. In addition, they cause considerable damage to structures and property, and they can transmit pathogens that cause diseases such as salmonellosis, a form of food poisoning.

BIOLOGY

Although house mice usually prefer to eat cereal grains, they are nibblers and will sample many different foods. Mice have keen senses of taste, hearing, smell, and touch. They also are excellent climbers and can run up any rough vertical surface. They will run horizontally along wire cables or ropes and can jump up to 12 inches from the floor onto a flat surface. Mice can squeeze through openings slightly larger than 1/4 inch across. House mice frequently enter homes in autumn, when outdoor temperatures at night become colder.

CONTROLLING HOUSE MICE

Because house mice are so small, they can gain entry into homes and other buildings much more easily than rats. As a result, house mouse infestations are probably 10 to 20 times more common than rat infestations. Effective control involves sanitation, exclusion, and population reduction. Sanitation and exclusion are preventive measures. When a mouse infestation already exists, some form of population reduction such as trapping or baiting is almost always necessary.

A key to successful long-term mouse control is limiting shelter and food sources wherever possible. Trapping works well, especially when a sufficient number of traps are placed in strategic locations. Trapping also can be used as a follow-up measure after a baiting program. When considering a baiting program, decide if the presence of dead mice will cause an odor or sanitation problem. If so, trapping may be the best approach. After removing mice, take steps to exclude them so that the problem doesn't recur.

Sanitation

Because mice can survive in very small areas with limited amounts of food and shelter, controlling them can be very challenging, especially in and around older structures. Most buildings in which food is stored, handled, or used will support house mice if the mice aren't excluded, no matter how good the sanitation. While good sanitation seldom will completely control mice, poor sanitation is sure to attract them and will permit them to thrive in greater numbers. Pay particular attention to eliminating places where mice can find shelter. If they have few places to hide, rest, build nests, or rear their young, they can't survive in large numbers.

Exclusion

Exclusion is the most successful and permanent form of house mouse control. Build them out by eliminating all gaps and openings larger than 1/4 inch. Stainless steel scouring pads make a good temporary plug. Seal cracks in building foundations and around openings for water pipes, vents, and utility cables with metal or concrete. Doors, windows, and screens should fit tightly. It may be necessary to cover the edges of doors and windows with metal to prevent gnawing. Plastic screening, rubber, vinyl, insulating foam, wood, and other gnawable materials are unsuitable for plugging holes used by mice.

For additional information [click here](#).



UC Statewide IPM Project
© 2000 Regents, University of California

November in the Garden:

November garden tasks:

- You can still sow seeds of wildflowers this month. Plant California poppy, calendula, clarkia, and sweet peas.
- In the veggie garden plant seeds for lettuce, mustard, spinach, radishes and peas.
- If you didn't get your new tree planted last month, it is not too late to take advantage of the fall root growth that will give your new tree a strong start in the spring.
- Look at your camellias and remove excess buds to get larger flowers.
- In the middle of the month fertilize the veggies and flowers that were planted in October.

Also, this is the time to plant the chilled bulbs, and the spring flowering tubers and corms. Clean up all the fallen/falling leaves and other plant debris and dispose of diseased materials.



Science word of the Month....

Aerobic

Occurring only in the presence of oxygen, or requiring oxygen.

Anaerobic

Occurring in the absence of oxygen, or not requiring oxygen.

This month's links:

None this month

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.

The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994: service in the uniformed services includes membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services) in any of its programs or activities. University policy also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person in any of its programs or activities for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment or for using or participating in the investigation or resolution process of any such complaint. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-0096.

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.

