

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

This newsletter is
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March 2013

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OFFICE HOURS:

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

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

Information Booth Locations:

Plant Clinic at Griff's Feed and Seed

Friday March 29

10am-4pm

Family Fair

Saturday April, 6 -10am-2pm

Colusa County Fairgrounds

Tribal Health Fair

10am-2pm

Indian Community Conference room

Drip Irrigation Workshop

Saturday April 20

9am-11am

Colusa County Fairgrounds



Citrus workshop at UC Davis, April 13, \$20

[Click here to register](#)

There are 4 locations, if you are going to DAVIS, please click on DAVIS



Agenda

8:30-9 AM	Check-in <i>Please pick up your nametag, folder and enjoy a cup of coffee.</i>
9-9:15 AM	Welcome Dave Fujino, CCUH, UC Davis Pam Geisel, Statewide Master Gardener Program
9:15-10 AM	Citrus Varieties for the Home Garden Ed Laivo, Four Winds Growers <i>(Presenting at UCD)</i> Tom Spellman, Dave Wilson Nursery <i>(Presenting at Huntington & UCR)</i>
10-10:50 AM	Citrus Pruning & Maintenance 101 Pam Geisel, Statewide Master Gardener Program
10:50-11:05 AM	Break
11:05-11:55 AM	Asian Citrus Psyllid, An Introduction Matt Daugherty, Department of Entomology, UC Riverside
11:55-12:40 PM	Lunch
12:40-1:30 PM	Asian Citrus Psyllid, Monitoring and Treatment Matt Daugherty, Department of Entomology, UC Riverside
1:30-2:15 PM	Avocado Varieties for the Home Garden Ed Laivo, Four Winds Growers <i>(Presenting at UCD)</i> Tom Spellman, Dave Wilson Nursery <i>(Presenting at Huntington & UCR)</i>
2:15-2:30 PM	Break
2:30-3:15 PM	Avocado Pruning & Maintenance 101 Ben Faber, PhD, Farm Advisor – Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties
3:15-4 PM	New Avocado Pest Alerts! Ben Faber, PhD, Farm Advisor – Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

Rose Day at UC Davis, May 4-5, Free

For more information [click here](http://ccuh.ucdavis.edu)

Your Sustainable Backyard

ccuh
CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR
URBAN HORTICULTURE
U.C. DAVIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Master Gardener
University of California
Cooperative Extension

Roses

An 'Eyeconic' Weekend

Free Open House event!

✂ 'Eyeconic' rose sale with a free mini floribunda rose as supplies last!

✂ Tours of stunning 8-acre rose collection from 12:30-3:30 PM.

✂ Informal programs for all experience levels, no registration required.

May 4-5, 2013
10 AM - 4 PM
Foundation Plant Services
UC Davis

Event Information Online at <http://ccuh.ucdavis.edu>



We need your Help!

The Master Gardeners of Colusa County are developing workshops for the 2013 year. We need your help in determining what workshops to conduct.

Please log on to the attached survey and tell us what you would like to see.

Click on this link

<http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=10337>

Thank you for your help



Book of the Month

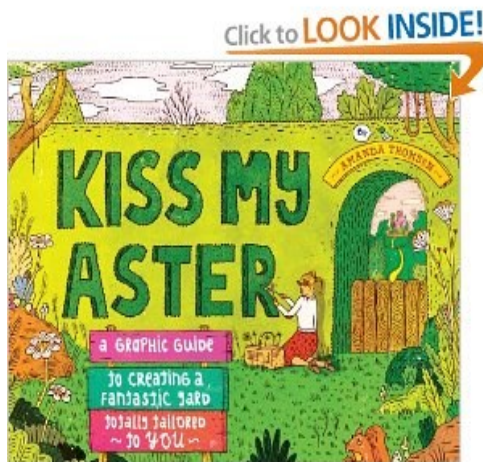
"Kiss My Aster"

Amanda Thomsen

"Who cares what the neighbors think? Kiss My Aster is a hilarious, irreverent, interactive guide to designing an outdoor space that is exactly what you want. Combining entertaining illustrations with laugh-out-loud text, Amanda Thomsen lays out the many options for home landscaping and invites you to make the choices. Whether you want privacy hedges, elegant flower beds, a patio for partying, a food garden, a kid's play space, a pond full of ducks, or all the above, you will end up with the yard you adore. Forget about the "right way" do it your way!"

This looks to be a fun read.

David and Penny Dennis



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Orchid in Bloom is Gorgeous – then WHAT?!?

In 1731, an English botanist received a dried herbarium species from New Providence in the Bahamas. He potted it carefully when he noticed that it seemed to have life in it. After considerable nurturing it revived and the next year brought forth handsome pink and rose-colored flowers. This was a *Bletia purpurea*. This was the first tropical orchid to flower in England. It was just the beginning of something that had been around for about 120 million years, when dinosaurs roamed the earth. It thrived on every continent but Antarctica. At least 35,000 orchid species now populate the planet with the possibility that unknown species still await discovery.

Today we might receive or buy the lovely blooming orchid in the local market or store and after the blooms begin to fade and the leaves start to turn brown it is likely to hit the compost pile rather than ever bloom again. The vast majority of orchids grown in the home are epiphytes, meaning they live in nature by clinging to trees or even stones. The roots of these plants are highly specialized organs that differ dramatically from normal plant roots.

Orchid roots are surrounded by a tissue-paper thin membrane called velamen which soaks up large amounts of water quickly, adheres to rough surfaces, and promotes the exchange of minerals and salts. Learning to read your orchid roots is the best method to getting watering right. Remember: most orchids would rather be slightly under watered than overwatered. Orchid roots that are kept constantly wet will rot, and the plant will decline. No matter what kind of orchid you grow, **always water in the morning**. Always! Nighttime watering allows water to stagnate in the growing tips of phalaenopsis or the flower sheaths of cattleyas. This encourages bacterial and fungal diseases. Orchid plants should be absolutely dry heading into night.

If you have any plans on keeping the orchid, make sure it has plenty of fresh medium to grow in such as sphagnum moss packed around its roots or the redwood or cedar bark chips found commercially. A notable grower in the Durham area suggests repotting in a fresh “orchid” type with lots of drain holes as soon as you get the your orchid home. I have two reblooming proofs of the validity of this. They are in the bathroom window getting lots of diffused light year around and are still in bloom after nearly 3 months. What a reward for a little bit of care!!

The internet is full of great ideas about orchids that will be a wonderful addition to your home. Here we are in the end of winter and the orchid still makes us believe in spring.

Cynthia White



Edible Garden of the Month

John and Diane Vafis



From Little Seeds a Garden Grows

Many home gardeners go to a nursery or big box store to buy their vegetable starts in six packs or four inch pots. However, it can be less expensive and quite rewarding to grow them from seed. The racks of seed packets offer far more choices of varieties and are often the only places to find heirloom vegetables.

There are still enough cool days ahead to add to, or even start, a cool season garden. Many lovely mixed green salads of various leaf lettuces can be yours for the picking in about four weeks. Beets and carrots can still be planted. Look for baby carrot varieties, such as Babette, a most delicious, tender carrot, far superior to those found in the produce department. Those of you who grew up with access to a home garden will immediately recognize the wonderful flavor of home-grown, freshly picked vegetable.

However, madly tossing out seed is no guarantee of success. Read the back of the seed packet CAREFULLY. Plant the seeds with the spacing and at the depth indicated on the packet. Some seeds are not even covered, but require light exposure in order to germinate. The greatest cause of seed failure is not following the specifications on the packet. Look for the time of year for planting on the packet; it will give a range of months in which the seed can be sown. For instance, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers and other summer crops want nice warm soil, so the seeds have to be planted late in the spring.

The summer crops can be started indoors six to eight weeks before the soil is ready for the plants. If you aren't sure about growing seeds indoors, you can pick up a small "greenhouse" that has everything you need in it except the seeds and water. For not much money you can get your seeds started well ahead of the season and gain the confidence to do more next year.

One last word, packets often contain far more seeds than you need. Find a friend, or friends, with whom to share and maybe add to the population of gardeners in this world!

Weed of the Month

Do you like to research and investigate plants? What is that plant? How does it grow? You can do the same thing for weeds!

The tutorial below is very helpful.

When you are ready to KEY out your weed [click here](#).

Identify your weeds



Broadleaf identification

Leaves are wide, veins branch out in different directions.

| [Tutorial](#) | [Broadleaf list](#) |



Grass identification

Leaves are narrow, arranged in sets of two; stems are rounded or flattened.

| [Tutorial](#) | [Grass list](#) |

Recipe of the Month

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

LEMON PUDDING POUND CAKE

4 eggs

1 package 2-layer-size yellow cake mix

1- 3 3/4 or 3 5/8 ounce package instant lemon pudding

3/4 cup water

1/3 cup cooking oil

1/3 cup lemon juice

2 cups sifted powdered sugar

Beat eggs till thick and lemon colored. Add cake mix, pudding (dry), water, and oil; beat at medium speed, 10 minutes. Pour into ungreased 10-inch tube pan with removable bottom. Bake at 350 degrees about 50 minutes. Remove hot cake, on pan bottom, from pan. Gently remove pan bottom and invert on plate. Using a 2-tined fork, prick holes in top of cake; drizzle glaze over top and spread on sides of cake. For glaze: combine lemon juice and powdered sugar; heat to boiling.



Pest of the Month

APHIDS

Almost every plant has one or more aphid species that occasionally feed on it, but low to moderate numbers of aphids usually aren't damaging to gardens or landscape trees. Although aphids can curl leaves and produce sticky honeydew, they rarely kill plants and you usually can wash them off with water. When aphid numbers get high, natural enemies frequently feed on them, eliminating the need for pesticides. When pesticides are necessary, use less toxic products such as insecticidal soaps and oils.

Aphids are common in your garden because:

- Aphids like lush new growth. Don't over fertilize. Use organic or slow-release products.
- Aphids build up on flowering plums, roses, tulip trees, crape myrtles, apples, and many vegetables. Expect aphids when you grow these plants.

Ants protect aphids from beneficial insects. Keep ants off plants to help natural enemies do their job.

To reduce aphids:

- Prune out infested leaves and stems.
- Knock aphid populations off plants by shaking the plant or spraying it with a strong stream of water.
- Protect seedlings with covers or aluminum foil mulches.

Wait for hot weather; most aphids are heat-intolerant and will be gone by mid-June.

Protect aphids' natural enemies:

- Lady beetles, both adults and larvae;
- Lacewings;
- Syrphid fly larvae;
- Soldier beetles; and
- Parasitic mini-wasps that turn aphids into crusty mummies.

Beneficial insects such as lady beetles and lacewings will come into your garden naturally when aphids are abundant. Protect these good bugs by avoiding the use of insecticides that can be toxic to a broad variety of insects.



If insecticides seem necessary, use the safest products.

- Use nonchemical pest control methods first to manage aphid populations. However, if you feel insecticides are necessary, choose less toxic products.
- Insecticidal oils and soaps are the safest products. When properly used, these materials solve most pest problems.
- Oils and soaps work by smothering aphids, so apply these products thoroughly. Don't apply them to drought-stressed plants or when it is very hot. A few plants are sensitive to these products.
- Apply insecticidal soaps, soap-pyrethrum mixtures, or neem oils on vegetables or small bushes such as roses.
- Narrow range oils, such as parafinic, supreme, or superior oils, are appropriate for larger trees.
- Oils and soaps don't kill aphids hidden within curled leaves. Prune these out. Systemic insecticides can kill hidden aphids, but they are much more toxic and not registered for use on garden vegetables or fruit trees.

Read more about [Aphids](#).

Minimize the use of pesticides that pollute our waterways. Use nonchemical alternatives or less toxic pesticide products whenever possible. Read product labels carefully and follow instructions on [proper use, storage, and disposal](#).

March in the Garden:

Things to plant:

- It might be possible to still find bare-root trees and shrubs to plant, but it is getting late.
- Potatoes can be planted in the middle of the month (think St. Patrick's Day.)
- Hardy perennials like coneflower and black-eyed Susan can be planted now. Tender annuals should wait until the middle of the month when frost is much less likely. (Our average last frost date is March 14.)

Things to do:

- Fertilize your roses and berries when the new growth begins as the weather warms. Fertilize citrus and deciduous fruit trees as well.
- Watch for aphids on new growth. Try removing them with a strong spray of water instead of pesticides.
- Spray apricots with a fungicide containing copper as the petals drop to prevent brown rot.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs (like lilacs) after bloom.
- Be sure to check your irrigation system for necessary maintenance. Drip systems are not trouble free!



Science word of the Month....

Hydroponics

A method of gardening with a water-based solution rather than soil. In some system, an inert medium such as rockwool is used to anchor plant roots.

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.

