

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 2013

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Information Booth Locations:

Colusa County Fair

June 6,7,8,9
Colusa County Fairgrounds
Etchepare Hall

Arbuckle and Colusa Farmers Markets

Check our website calendar for dates



Frequently Asked Question

Dear Master Gardener,

My citrus tree had lots of blossoms and then lots of small fruit. Now I have very few fruit. What's up?

Your Neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

My citrus tree did the same thing and I was very frustrated because I was looking forward to lots of citrus this winter. It's called "June drop" even though it happens before June. The plant naturally drops fruit. We also had A LOT of spring wind that effected fruit drop. For more information [click here](#)

Your Master Gardener

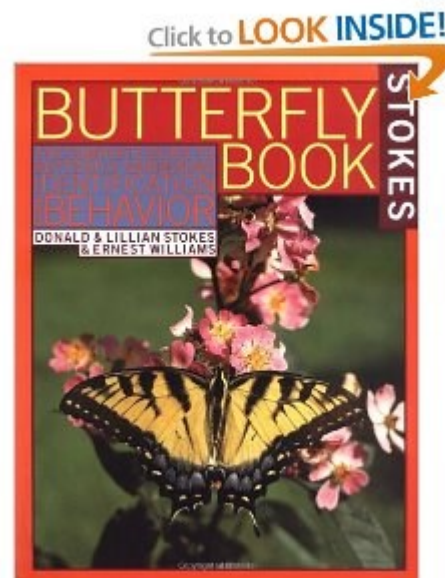
Visit the Colusa County Fair Horticulture building and learn about beneficial insects. There will be a special butterfly drawer from the Bodart Bug museum at UC Davis.



Book of the Month

David and Penny Dennis

This book is one of the Stokes Series and looks to be a good reference in creating a garden more attractive to Butterflies and has a section on identifying butterflies and caterpillars. At Amazon for a little over \$10.



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Golden Currant



Latin Name: Ribes aureum

Common Name: golden currant

Type: Shrub

Size: Large

California Native: Yes

Description: California native plant; flowers have a light, spicy fragrance; good choice for planting under native oaks; attracts butterflies and beneficial insects.

Pruning Needs: little or none

Sun Exposure: Full Sun
Part Shade

Water Needs: Low
Medium

Color(s): Yellow

Bloom Season(s): Spring
Winter

Wildlife Value: Butterflies
Beneficial Insects

Edible Garden of the Month

USE THE GOOD GUYS TO BATTLE THE INVADERS

John & Diane Vafis

Now that summer is here the pests that want to eat our flowers and vegetables are coming out in full force. How do you fight them without also killing our environment? To be responsible stewards of our world we should try to use the least toxic way to fight our garden pests.

One thing to do is encourage the natural enemies of the bad guys. Many of the beneficial insects are too small to see easily; you have to have faith that they will be around to do their job. Certain flowers encourage predators to come to your garden. Yarrow, dill, cosmos, marguerite and fennel are plants that have blooms that attract lacewings, lady bugs, syrphid flies, and other predators to your garden. If these good guys have access to the food and shelter provided by those plants, a little bit of water, and bad guys to eat, they will do a fine job of controlling those hungry pests.

Of course, using pesticides available for home gardens kills the good guys as well as the bad guys. So try using products that seem to do more harm to the pests than to the predators. One of these has a parasitic bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which kills caterpillars but nothing else. It is available as a powder or in solution. Another product that seems to be pretty safe for the good guys contains Neem oil in the solution. It kills soft-bodied insects like aphids by suffocating them. It also acts as a fungicide. These are examples of less toxic pesticides and your first line of attack.

A friend of some pests is the all too common Argentine ant. This little creature actually defends pests, such as aphids, because the pests secrete a honeydew that the ants like for food. Controlling the ant population will help the beneficial insects reduce the pest population. The most effective ant control is a dilute solution of borax compounds that kills the ants slowly. The poison works because the ants will carry it back to the nest to feed the queen and the others in the nest who will eventually die. This is available prepackaged in small bait stations. It is a slow process, taking two or three weeks to reduce ant populations, but is a more lasting solution.

Some pests are more difficult to control. Among them is the whitefly, which seems to be a survivor. Neem oil will kill the larva, but not the adults. Sticky traps are available to physically remove the whiteflies from the garden. A combination of oil spray to kill the next generation and traps to reduce the adult population will help control these bad guys.

Make a happy home for your good guys and give them a chance before attacking with the big toxic guns.

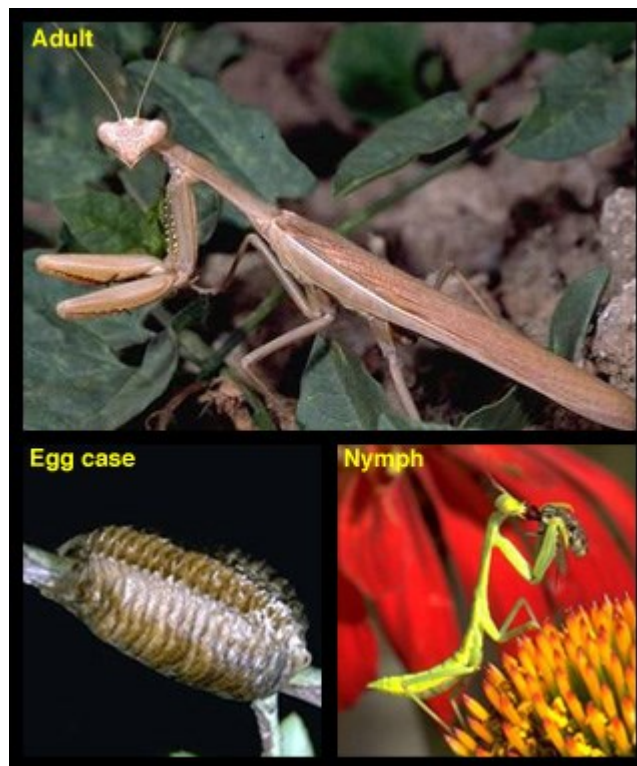


Insect of the Month

Praying Mantids

DESCRIPTION

Adults are 2 to 4 inches (5-10 cm) long and are usually yellowish, green, or brown. Mantids have incomplete metamorphosis and one generation per year. Overwintering eggs are laid in groups in hard, grayish egg cases which are glued to wood, bark, or other plant material. Adults and immatures have an elongated thorax and grasping forelegs, which they have the habit of holding up while waiting for prey. Mantids are wholly predaceous, feeding on many kinds of insects including beneficial insects and other mantids. They often wait for prey at flowers where they capture nectar- and pollen-feeding insects. Mantids grasp their prey with spined front legs and hold them while they eat. As mantids consume both pests and beneficials, they are difficult to use reliably for biological control.



Recipe of the Month

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

Black Bean, Roasted Corn and Avocado Salad on a Bed of Red Quinoa

Serves 6 to 8

1 cup Red Quinoa, cooked with broth

2 cups chicken or vegetable broth

1 – 15 oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed

2 cups roasted corn kernels (can use left-over grilled corn or frozen roasted corn)

1 avocado, cut into 1/2 inch pieces

1 pint grape tomatoes, halved

½ cup red onion, finely diced

¾ cup Cilantro Salad Dressing (El Torito brand makes a Cilantro, Pepita Caesar Dressing or use your own favorite)

½ bunch cilantro, chopped

¼ cup olive oil

Zest of 1 lime

Salt and pepper

Cook quinoa with broth according to package directions. While quinoa is cooking, combine beans, corn, avocado, tomatoes and onions. Top with salad dressing and toss gently. Add salt, pepper and lime zest to taste. Add ½ of cilantro and gently toss once more. Refrigerate.

When quinoa is cooked, toss with olive oil; add salt and pepper to taste. Cool. When ready to serve spread quinoa on a large platter and top with corn and bean mixture. Garnish with remaining cilantro. Serve with grilled chicken or flank steak for a complete meal.

Recipe from the back of Trader Joe's 16 oz. Organic Red Quinoa.

Weed of the Month

Plantains

Broadleaf and buckhorn plantain (*Plantago major* and *P. lanceolata*) are major weeds of turf, ornamentals, gardens, waste areas, forage legumes, and pastures. Broadleaf plantain is also known as common plantain and dooryard plantain. Other names for buckhorn plantain are narrow-leaf plantain, ribwort plantain, English plantain, and ribgrass. The genus, *Plantago*, consists of about 250 species worldwide, 16 of which are found in California. Both broadleaf and buckhorn plantain were introduced from Europe and followed the European settlement of North America. For this reason, one common name for the plantains is “white man’s foot.” Young leaves of broadleaf plantain are sometimes used as a potherb or in salads. Older leaves can be steeped in hot water to produce a tea that some use as a mouthwash to treat mouth sores and toothaches. A poultice is also made to treat sores, blisters, insect bites, and other external injuries. Whole seeds have a laxative effect if eaten raw. With the recent interest in medicinal plants, many plantain-related products are now available for upper respiratory tract infections and other ailments.

MANAGEMENT

Solitary new plantain seedlings along fence rows, roadsides, flowerbeds, and in turf should be removed before they produce seed. The area should then be monitored for several months to make sure that removal was complete. Areas with infestations should be isolated and seed heads removed until control can be accomplished. Turfgrass and ornamental areas should be well maintained to assure maximum vigor. A healthy competitive landscape will slow invasion of these weeds. Dense stands of turf and ornamentals will shade the soil surface making establishment of new plantain seedlings more difficult. Helpful turf management practices include soil aeration, avoiding over watering, and using the proper mower cutting height for each turf species.

For more information [click here](#)



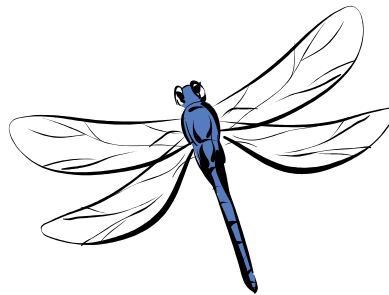
June in the Garden:

Things to plant:

- 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 green beans, radishes, carrots, pumpkins, squash, and corn.

Things to do:

- 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.
- Continue thinning fruit to 6 inches apart.
- Set your lawn mower to leave 3 inches of grass after mowing to reduce stress and conserve water.
- Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture.
- Deadhead (remove spent flowers) from your annuals and perennials to encourage another flush of blossoms. Most roses will continue to produce flowers if the faded blossoms are removed.



Science word of the Month....

Corolla—The petals of the flower, collectively.

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.

