

**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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July 2013

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## Information Booth Locations:

### Arbuckle Farmers Market

Wednesdays  
July 17  
August 7 & 21

### Colusa Farmers Market

Mondays  
July 15  
August 5 & 19



## Frequently Asked Question

Dear Master Gardener,

My redwood tree is starting to look bad. The needle tips are browning and seems to get worse every year.

Your Neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

I'm sorry to hear about your redwood tree. Redwood trees are native to the coastal areas. They get lots of cool rain and fog. In the valley it is dry and hot. Once redwood trees start to decline there is very little you can do for it. There is very little research about the trees in the valley but what I can find says that each tree needs 10 gallons of water a day, every day. That's a lot of water for our climate. If you plant a redwood tree you may get 10 to 15 years out of it but it will decline after that.

Redwood trees are my all time favorite tree but they should not be planted in our hot dry valley.

Your Master Gardener

## Redwoods in the Valley, UC Davis Arboretum, July 13

[click here for info](#)



# Book of the Month

David and Penny Dennis

## Container Gardening

### A Sunset Outdoor Design & Build Guide

By Hank Jenkins and the Editors of Sunset

No pots here mon these be containers (sorry but that what happens when I listen to Bob Marley while writing) and what containers they are in this wonderful book.

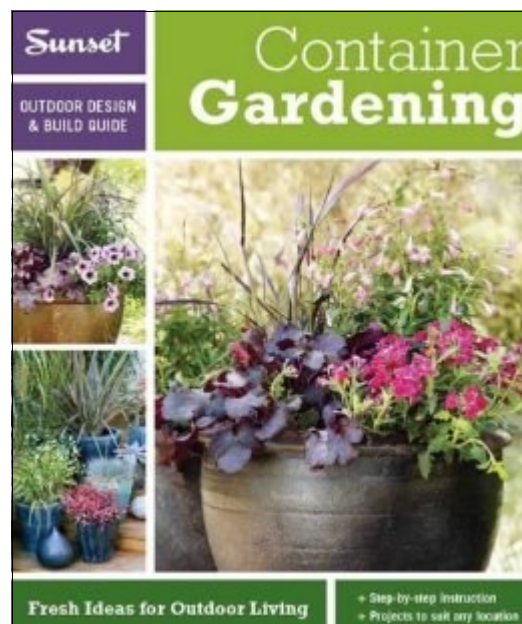
Container/pot shapes, size, styles, materials and colors are all discussed and beautifully illustrated in photos showing plantings in patios and many other settings. The chapters on "Inspiration" and "Designing Your Container" are a big help in deciding what might work for you.

"Projects" includes planting diagrams, plant list and information about soil, sun, watering and fertilizing.

"Culture and Care" gives great advice on tools, watering, fertilizing, repotting, pruning, and combating pests and diseases.

"Finishing the Look" has tips on grouping and placement for maximum impact.

Under 200 pages and \$20.00 this is fun and valuable addition to your gardening library.



# Ornamental Plant of the Month

## Hibiscus

### Malvaceae

### Perennial Shrub

Big, bold and tropical, many of us have been lured in at the nursery by the beautiful bright flowers and the glossy green foliage of a Hibiscus in the summer, only to have it freeze and die during the winter. There are many species of Hibiscus and the zones will vary, so check the tag carefully if you want it to survive below 20 degrees.

H. moscheutos. Perennial Hibiscus, Hardy Hibiscus or Rose-Mallow is a good choice for our zones 8 & 9 and is good down to zone 4.

It is native to the eastern U.S. and produces the largest flowers of all hibiscus, some reaching 1ft. across; grows up to 6-8 ft. tall and 3 ft. across, but this varies by variety. The Luna series grows only to 3' high with 6' to 8" flowers in shades of red, rose, white and pink. Also check out the Summerific Series they have been developed to bloom along the entire stem and can be grown in pots as well.

- Blooms late spring until frost.
- Plants die to the ground in the winter, even in mild climates, but will come back in the spring.
- Likes regular fertilizer at 6 to 8 week intervals.
- Plant in full sun and give regular water.
- Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.
- Deer don't seem to like them.

If you are looking for summer color and a bold statement in your garden give this plant a try.

**Submitted by Sherry Maltby**



Summer Storm Rose Mallow

## ***Edible Garden of the Month***

### **HOT AND DRY JULY**

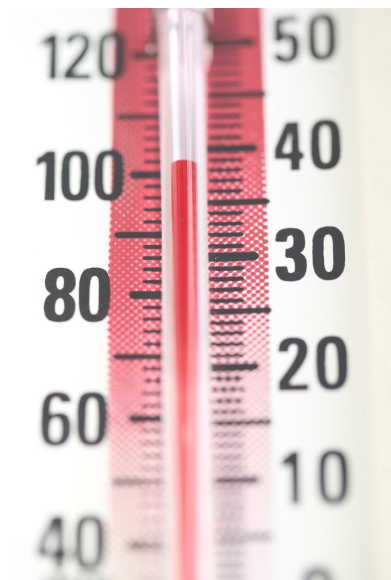
It's summertime! That means it is not going to rain much, if at all, and it is going to be generally warm to hot every day. What does this mean for your garden?

It means water management is going to be critical to garden well-being.

- Check your drip emitters regularly; that means not just once but every couple of weeks. Repair or replace if necessary. Check soil moisture below the surface.
- Mulch the bare ground in your beds. Put three inches of material on the soil to insulate it from the hot sun. Leave space around the trunks or stems of the plants to prevent fungus problems.
- Monitor your lawn watering to be sure the water is not running off into the gutter. Remember it is better to put the water on slowly (or in short intervals) to be sure it penetrates.

In the vegetable garden summer means monitoring for pests and harvesting the crops.

- Stink bugs and tomato hornworms are big enough to pick off the plant and destroy by hand.
- Use *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) as an insecticide for all sorts of caterpillars. It does not harm beneficial insects or you.
- Control aphids and whitefly by controlling the ants that farm them.
- Pick veggies as soon as they are mature or, for many, even as young specimens. Green beans, squash, and cucumbers are often better harvested on the young, small side.
- Keep your herbs from flowering so they continue to produce the tasty leaves.
- Go after weeds while they are still small. They are competing with your plants for water and nutrients.



**John and Diane Vafis**



# Problem of the Month

## Poor or incomplete pollination

Plants with poor pollination have fruit of normal color, but small or flattened in shape. Few or no seeds are found inside the fruit.

### Solutions

Poor pollination occurs in low light or at low temperatures. In peppers, normal pollination and fruit set do not occur when night temperatures fall below 58° F or when daytime temperatures are above 85° F. Plant in full sunlight.

We have had such extreme weather this year and this has been a big problem for pollination.



## Recipe of the Month

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

### FRESH FRUIT COBBLER

1/2 cup milk  
2 tsp vegetable oil  
1/3 cup white sugar  
1 cup all purpose baking mix

Whisk the milk, oil, sugar and baking mix until no large lumps remain. Pour into a 9x9 greased baking dish.

2/3 cup white sugar  
1 cup water  
2 cups fresh fruit (blackberries, apricots or peaches)

Whisk the sugar with the water until mixed. Add the fruit. Spread gently over the baking mix batter.

Bake at 375 degrees for 45 minutes.

(recipe from All Recipies.com)



## Weed of the Month

### Puncturevine

Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*) is an aptly named summer annual found widely in California. Native to southern Europe, it can grow under a wide range of conditions, but its success is likely due to its ability to thrive in hot and dry conditions where other plants cannot. It can be a major problem in orchards, pastures, turf, and along roadsides and ditch banks. Although it is known to be toxic to sheep, its main weedy characteristic, as indicated by its common names of puncturevine or caltrop, is its spiky seedpods. (A caltrop is a metal device, used to deter passage by vehicles with pneumatic tires or the hooves of horses; it has four projecting spikes so arranged that when three of the spikes are on the ground, the fourth points upward to poke a tire or hoof.) The seeds of puncturevine are enclosed in a hard caltrop-like case that can injure livestock, people, and pets when stepped on and can even puncture bicycle tires. Another common name is "goathead."

For more information [click here](#)





## July in the Garden:

### Things to plant:

- You can still plant seeds of annuals: zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers and alyssum will grow and bloom this year.

### Things to do:

- If you have blackberries in your garden, cut the canes that bore fruit to the ground. Tie up 3-5 of the new canes and fertilize to promote new growth.
- Cut canna stems to the ground as they finish flowering to encourage new stems to grow.
- Dig and divide bearded iris that have not been divided for 3 yrs. Cut the foliage on the divisions to 6-8 inches, replanting only new rhizomes and discarding the old rhizomes.
- You can dig and divide other bulbs after the foliage has died off. The bulbs are dormant and can be stored in a relatively cool, dark place and planted later. Or, you can plant them immediately.
- Deadhead blooming plants as they finish flowering to promote continuing bloom. Fertilize roses after each burst of blooms.
- Cut back lavender after flowering to promote a second bloom. You can prune by half to keep the plant in bounds.
- If you have fruit trees, be sure to pick up dropped fruit to prevent brown rot from developing and leaving spores for future infection.



## Science word of the Month....

**Exocarp**—Outermost layer of the fruit wall; often the skin of the fruit.

## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

Next meeting 26th

More details to come

## Additional Links

Integrated Pest Management [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)

UC Davis Arboretum [www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens [turtlebay.org](http://turtlebay.org)

Invasive Plants [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)

Plant Right [www.plantright.org](http://www.plantright.org)

PG&E [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com)

Save Our Water [www.water.ca.gov](http://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.*

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For special assistance regarding our programs, please contact us.

