

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.ucanr.edu
mgcolusa@ucanr.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@ucanr.edu

In This Issue:

September 2013

- ♦ Frequently Asked Question
- ♦ Book of the month— IPM for Citrus
- ♦ Ornamental Plant of the Month— Propagating Hydrangeas
- ♦ Edible Garden of the Month— Winter Vegetable Gardening
- ♦ Recipe of the Month— Gazpacho
- ♦ Problem of the Month— Common Smut
- ♦ Smart Gardening Practices
- ♦ September in the Garden
- ♦ Garden club activities



Information Booth Locations:

Arbuckle Pumpkin Festival
Saturday October 5th

Arbuckle Car Show
Sunday October 27th



Frequently Asked Question

Dear Master Gardener,

I am trying to eat healthier and want to grow my own vegetables but I do not have room. What do you suggest?

Your neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

Check out this article in the current Sunset magazine.

Your Master Gardener



Greens to go

As temperatures drop, let these fall-winter crops brighten up your patio—and your plate. *By Johanna Silver*

WHILE SATISFYING to grow, edibles don't always deliver on the decorative front (think rangy tomatoes, dry squash vines). But cool-season greens are so striking, you'll want to show them off in pots rather than banish them to a corner bed. Our favorites: crinkly leafed 'Giant Red' mustard, purple-stemmed 'Redbor' kale, and succulent bok choy florets.

All three crops are tough enough to withstand light frosts until you harvest them for stir-fries and soups.

Once the kale and mustard greens have reached at least 6 inches tall, pick the outer leaves as needed for cooking. With bok choy, pull up the whole plant when it's loose-headed and about a foot tall. (Keep replacement plants coming by sowing seeds between the seedlings at two-week intervals.)

The vegetables look good even at the end of their life span: Let the crops go, and their tall stems of vibrant yellow flowers will attract bees before seeds set. 🐝



Plant five seedlings in a 12-in.-wide container filled with potting mix, spacing plants evenly. Water well.

The Master Gardeners of Colusa County will be conducting a training class with the Master Gardeners of Glenn County in 2014.

Classes will start Wednesday January 15th and will continue on Wednesdays until May. Trainings will be conducted in Orland.

While the intent of the Master Gardener program is to provide service at little or not cost to the public, there is a cost for training new Master Gardeners.

- The tuition fee for the training class is \$175. The Fee will be collected after your acceptance. Limited scholarship is available.
- The fee includes all lectures, handouts, CA Master Gardener Handbook, name badge, lanyard and loupe.

Now that the formal information is over....

What do Master Gardeners do?

Teach classes. Answer gardening questions. Provide information in planting and maintaining home gardens. Learn from each other. Access gardening information from UC research. Volunteer in community gardening projects.

Who are the Master Gardeners?

Men and women who love to learn and to share their knowledge are offered the opportunity to serve the Colusa County community. All you need is some gardening experience, interest in serving the public, and time available to volunteer in Master Gardener activities.

How do I find out more about becoming a Master Gardener?

- Attend one of our Information orientations (see next page)
- [Click here](#) for the information letter and application
- Ask a current Master Gardener of Colusa County
- Call our office, 458-0570
- Come in to our office, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa





Do You Like To Garden?

Do You Like To Teach Others?

Do You Like to Volunteer in Your Community?

Become a Master Gardener of Colusa County Volunteer!

Colusa County residents wanting to become part of the exciting volunteer experience as a UCCE Master Gardener need to attend our:

Information Day Orientation

This meeting will introduce you to the UCCE Master Gardener of Colusa County program and explain what is expected of a volunteer. You will also have a chance to talk with members of the Master Gardener community and get answers to your questions. Applications will be available at the meeting.

Classes begin January 15th and will be in Orland.

**Looking forward to meeting you at one of our
Information Days!**

Arbuckle

September 25th, 10am
Bento's Downtown Perk
205 5th St, Arbuckle

Williams

October 1, 1pm
Louie Cairo's patio
558 7th St, Williams

Colusa

October 2, 6pm
Steelhead Lodge
Butte Slough Rd, Colusa



Master Gardener Calendar

Yes, the Master Gardeners of Colusa County will be selling a 2014 calendar for \$10! It will include monthly tips and tricks.

You can purchase the calendar starting October 1 at our office, online and at all Master Gardener of Colusa County events.

A great gift for all your gardening friends! This calendar is suitable for climate zones in the Sacramento Valley.



UC MASTER GARDENERS OF COLUSA COUNTY
2014

What kind of gardener are you? The information provided in this calendar is appropriate for growers of ornamental and edible gardens. Sustainable gardening practices are reinforced.

This calendar provides information for all levels of gardeners.

Book of the Month

Integrated Pest Management for Citrus—3rd Edition

Newly updated with more detail than ever!

Introducing the newly updated IPM for Citrus—3rd Edition. Now with even more pictures, more resources, and more pests! Learn to apply the principles of integrated pest management to identify and manage more than 150 common citrus pests, diseases, and disorders.

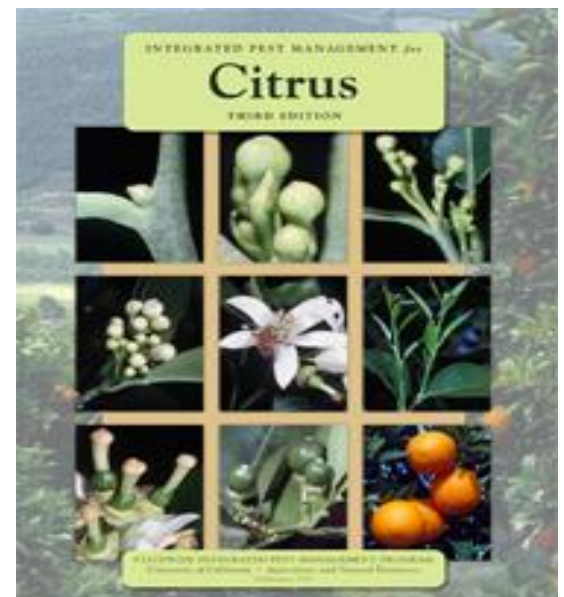
Complete with more than 550 colored photographs and 80 figures and tables, this guide provides substantial information on pest insects, mites, diseases, weeds, nematodes, and vertebrates. Look for brand new sections on Asian Citrus Psyllid, Citrus Leafminer, Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter and more!

What's new in the 3rd edition?

- More detailed figures to help distinguish between pests
- 21 new pests and 11 new diseases and disorders
- More detailed, easy-to-use table of contents
- Added index for quick and easy searching
- More detailed and vibrant photographs
- New section on exotic diseases
- More detailed information on pesticide use and its problems
- Updated monitoring and pest management recommendations

Important information on physical disorders, production problems and harvest related problems is also covered. This manual of pest information and management recommendations is an indispensable tool for citrus growers, consultants and pest management professionals alike.

To order this book, [Click here](#)



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Propagate Your Own Hydrangeas

Have you seen the beautiful blooming hydrangeas that are exhibited in the Floral Building at the annual Colusa Fair and wished that you could have one or more? I have found that now is a good time to do it and it is possible by just following the five easy steps:

Take a cutting from a branch of the hydrangea shrub about 5-6" long. Most experts say the cutting will work best if taken from a branch that did not flower this year.

Remove the lower leaves of the bottom two leaf nodes. Cut largest leaves down to about half their size.

Dip cuttings in rooting hormone (this is entirely optional) and insert into damp vermiculite, coarse sand or other sterile medium.

Water pot well and allow to drain. Make sure soil is moist but not soggy. Cover cuttings and pot with plastic. Try to keep plastic from touching leaves by adding stakes.

TIPS: Place cuttings in bright light. NEVER PLACE NEW CUTTINGS IN THE SUN. They will cook in the plastic. And even if they are not in plastic, they should be placed in a bright shady area.

Do not water again until top of soil begins to feel slightly dry. Overwatering will cause cuttings to rot.

Expect cuttings to begin to form roots in 2-3 weeks depending on temperature (faster in warm weather) and humidity. Some cuttings root in as little as one week. If a tug on the cutting resists the pull, it is rooting.

NOTE on overwintering cuttings: Getting cuttings through the first winter without a greenhouse is the hardest part of starting new hydrangeas from cuttings.

Hydrangeas do best if grown outdoors. Here are two suggestions for getting cuttings through the winter: (1) sink pots of cuttings into the ground and cover well with lightweight mulch, and (2) put smaller pots of rooted cuttings next to a foundation and cover them with large clay pots for the winter.

Bernice Dommer



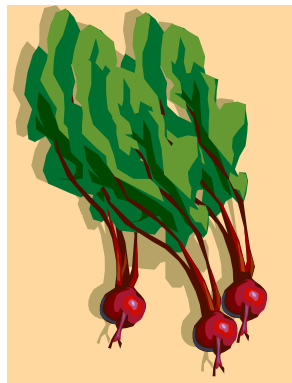
Edible Garden of the Month

John and Diane Vafis

CONSIDER PLANTING A WINTER GARDEN

The cooler temperatures and rains will cut your watering chores and the weeds will be fewer and grow slower. Although they may still be harvesting tomatoes, experienced gardeners know September is a time to start planting.

- Grow what you and your family will eat. That is both the kinds of vegetables and their quantities. Don't let chard become the zucchini of winter anonymous gifts to neighbors!
- Now is the time to plant lettuce, peas, radishes, onions, turnips, beets, carrots and potatoes directly into your freshly re-composted garden beds. Be sure to follow the planting directions on the seed packet.
- Transplant broccoli, cabbage, kale, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower and lettuce seedlings.
- This is also the best time of year to plant perennials in your flower border. The warm soils will encourage root growth before the winter cooling and the plants will take off quickly in the spring.
- Monitor the watering of your freshly planted garden until the winter rains begin. Because of the cooler weather you may not have to water as frequently, but the plants will still need irrigation.
- Once all the fruit is harvested, clean up debris from under the trees so that diseases, such as brown rot, do not infect next year's crop. Then feed the trees for a good crop next year.



Problem of the Month

Common smut—*Ustilago maydis*

Common smut is easily recognized by the tumorlike galls that form on any aboveground plant part. Galls at first are a glistening, greenish white to silvery white. Galls on ears and stems expand and fill with masses of powdery, dark olive brown to black spores. Galls on leaves and tassels remain small and become hard and dry. Ear and stem galls rupture, and wind, rain, or irrigation water spread them through the garden.

Seasonal development and life cycle—Common smut

Spores overwinter in the soil. Under favorable conditions they form secondary spores that are carried by air currents or splashed by water to young, developing corn tissues. Development of common smut is favored by dry conditions and temperatures between 78° and 93° F. The incidence of smut is higher in soils high in nitrogen or after heavy applications of manure. Injury to the plant tissue of any kind increases the potential for smut infection.

Solutions

Remove and destroy tumorlike growths as soon as noticed; keep the black powder in galls from getting into the soil. Plant early as common smut becomes more prevalent in later harvests. All corn varieties are susceptible to common smut to some degree. Try to plant varieties that are the least susceptible to the disease. Rotating out of corn for as long as possible can help reduce overwintering spores in the soil.



Recipe of the Month

GAZPACHO

2 cloves garlic
2 teaspoons salt
1/3 cup chopped mushrooms
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon pepper
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon tabasco sauce
1 teaspoon worcestershire sauce
1/4 cup wine vinegar
3 cups tomato juice

Finely chop:
1 cup onion
2 cups tomatoes (I use more)
1 1/4 cups bell pepper
1 cup celery
1 cup cucumber
2 teaspoons chives or green onion
1 Tablespoon parsley

Crush garlic in 1 teaspoon salt. Saute mushrooms in oil until lightly browned. Combine all ingredients in large bowl. Adjust seasonings to taste. Cover and chill for 3 hours or overnight. Serve with a dollop of sour cream and/or croutons.

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson



Smart Gardening Practices

LANDSCAPE FOR YOUR LOCAL CLIMATE

1. Evaluate your micro-climate and sun exposure

A. Do you have sunny, shady and part shady areas?

Sun-full sunlight all day long except for 1 hour or so of shade at the beginning or end of a summer day

Partial shade-shade for half the day or for at least 3 hours during the hottest part of the day

Shade-prefers little or no direct sunlight

B. What is the shape and size of the planting area?

C. Do you have areas with difficult access?

D. Do you neighbors trees shade or not shade your garden?

2. Soil

A. What does your soil feel like?

Is the soil slick, gritty or sandy?

B. How fast does the water percolate thru the soil?

C. Use a shovel or trowel to look at your soil

3. Wildlife

A. California natives will attract wildlife to your garden

B. What wildlife is already attracted to your garden?

4. Fire Safety

A. Trees and shrubs should not reach your house. Branches make it easy for fire to jump to your house

B. Decks can also be fire hazards. Construct the deck from fire resistant materials

C. Avoid fine mulch next to your buildings. Use a course bark or rock. Rubber mulch is flammable and should not be used next to your home.

A simple way to think about Landscaping for your Local Environment is “don’t plant marigolds in the shade and don’t plant pansies in the sun”.



September in the Garden:

Things to plant:

- Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now.
- Also, transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale can be planted this month.
- Direct see peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.

Things to do:

- September is good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. It is also a good time to 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.
- Keep deadheading roses



Science word of the Month....

Abscission:

A natural dropping of leaves, flowers, and other plant parts.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Next meeting Monday September 23rd, 6:30pm
- 642 Fifth St. (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church)
- Speaker, John Vafis, Propagation of Plants

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.

