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Whether it's a vegetable garden, house plants or a landscape...



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OFFICE HOURS:

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Have a question? Email us at <u>mgcolusa@ucanr.edu</u>

In This Issue:

- Frequently Asked Question
- Book of the month— The Butchart Gardens
- Ornamental Plant of the Month— Buddleja
- Edible Garden of the Month- Compost Happens
- Recipe of the Month— Pear Bread Pudding
- Problem of the Month— Aphids
- Smart Gardening Practices
- October in the Garden
- Garden club activities



October 2013

Information Booth Locations:

Arbuckle Pumpkin Festival Saturday October 5th

Colusa Harvest Festival Saturday October 12th

Arbuckle Car Show Sunday October 27th





Frequently Asked Question

Dear Master Gardener, I want to put water wise plants in my yard but really don't know where to start. Can you help? Your neighbor

Dear Neighbor, Luckily Sunset magazine has a layout of water wise plants in the current issue. For more information <u>click here</u>. Your Master Gardener



LOW WATER, BIG IMPACT

Recently, on the heels of another dry spell in California, I surveyed a patch of brown grass in my backyard and wondered: What does climate change mean for gardeners? With experts warning that droughts will only get worse, should we bother planting anything at all?

Glancing at the redflowered penstemons blooming lustily despite my neglect, I realized: absolutely. Hundreds of plants not only tolerate drought, but do so beautifully. And of course the water-wise garden has practical benefits namely, less maintenamely, less maintename ond lower water bills.

On the following pages, we offer ideas to help you make the shift this fall, and plenty of proof that unthirsty gardens can be as interesting as well-watered greenbelts-perhaps even more so. -Kathleen N. Brenzel, Garden Editar

Landscape irrigation accounts for 30% to 60% of residential water use—and about balf of tbat is wasted, according to the EPA.



Striking & sculptural

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S rare rains provide the only water that Chris and Margaret Sullivan's front yard gets. Yet its barrel and columnar cactus, Mexican blue fan palms, and *Yucca rostrata* all thrive. Arranged among boulders in randomly spaced groups like pieces of art, the plants grow in a decomposed granite-cactus mix blend, top-dressed with ³/e-inch Palm Springs Gold gravel. "This garden is 100 times less work than a lawn," says Chris, who hoses off the barrel cactus in summer only if they're dusty, and uses long-handled tweezers to extract weeds. "Rabbits eat neighboring gardens, but they've shown no interest in ours." —*Debra Lee Baldwin*

Home & Garden



COREOPSIS VERTICILLATA

Wild & romantic

How a basic lawn can become a garden full of flowers and life

FOR YEARS, Pam and Mark Goodman cringed at the sight of their struggling lawn from the living room windows. Dreaming of a thriving garden, Pam started clipping photos of plants. By the time the couple met with garden designer Rebecca Sweet, Pam "must have had a thousand photos." says Sweet.

Thumbing through the pictures, Sweet could see the couple loved a lush.



colorful look. So she suggested planting unthirsty perennials with bright flowers and long bloom times, as well as replacing the lawn with low-water

silver-blue Dymondia margaretae, which can handle foot traffic. Since then, the garden has come alive

with the bees, birds, and butterflies that the flowers attract. Now it's hard to walk through the living room without lingering by a window, says Pam. "It's like a foreverchanging painting." DESIGN Rebecca Sweet, Los Altos, CA;

harmonyinthegarden.com

By JOHANNA SILVER





LEAFY REED GRASS (CALAMAGROSTIS FOLIOSA)







(DRAGON'S BLOOD' WITH DYMONDIA MARGARETAE



LION'S TAIL (LEONOTIS LEONURUS)



INVITE MEANDERING A winding flogstone path (large campato) heto) leads wisitars through the garden. Its steppingstones are interplanted with dymondia and inty sedums and edged with low, billowy Sedum rupestre [S.r. 'Blue Spruce' is pictured at bottom left).

CREATE A BIRD PARADISE The fountain, plants, and nesting-ready trees have drawn all kinds of birds to the yard. Hummingbirds score in on the red blooms of dwarf bottlebrush [Califistemon vinnis]s "Little John"; targe center photo].

BRIGHTEN BORDERS Lovender fringes the fountain with a patch of purple flowers (sprigs shown opposite). Lion's tail (leonatic foundrus) adds bents of velvety orange flowers to the border; it's deerreeistant and drought-tolerant.

PICK NONSTOP BLOOMERS Along the path to the seating area, yellow-and-orange blenket flower (Gaillardia x grandificar Arizona Sun') blooms constantly. "It's so worth the \$8 to buy it in a gallon," says Sweet. Elsewhere in the yard, Careopsis (C. verticillard: Moonbeam'), with pale yellow flowers, blossoms from summer to fall as long as upent flowers are clipped.

SOFTEN THE EDGES To create a sense of flow, Sweet used curving borders and plants that spill over the edges. Leafy read grass (Cafamograshs folicso), for example, creates little bursts of green foliage that blend the planting bad with the dymandia lawn.

SUNSET & OCTOBER 2015 35

CASE STUDY #3: SAN MARINO. CA Tailored & textured

Home & Garden

Bands of succulents, grasses, and shrubs create a living tapestry.

PLANTS MAY BE a new medium for interior designer Diane Lam, but she has years of experience with combining textures and colors. So when she and her husband, David Omori, decided to replace the grass and ivy in their front yard, her love of texture and color guided the design. Working with landscape designer Darren Shirai and landscape

WATERED INLY ONCE A WEEK

architect Jeremy Taylor, Lam. organized unthirsty groundcovers into bands that cross the yard like giant stripes on a rug. All told, the bands feature six

kinds of succulents, three kinds of shrubs, and one kind of grass. "It's a kaleidoscope of changing colors," Lam says. The plants get watered weekly using a drip-irrigation system and need little trimming. And Lam actually relishes the maintenance that comes with easy-to-propagate succulents. When one of the plants grows too big for a space, she pulls it out and restarts snippets elsewhere in the gardenor pots it up to give as a gift. **PSIGN** Bosque Design, Pasadena;

ET JOHANNA SILVER

bosque-la.com.



AEONIUM ARBOREUM





SENECIO TALINOIDES WITH CRASSVLA CAPITELLA 'CAMPFIRE'







CARIBBEAN COPPER PLANT (EUPHORBIA COTINIFOLIA)

IDEAS TO STEAL

CHANNEL RAINWATER A permeable pothway made of broken concrete packed with sand (apposite page) allows rainwater to pass into the ground, where it's accessible to plant roots.

GROW IN ROWS Planting in long bands, ranging from 16 inches to 5 feet wide, gives structure to Lam and Omori's gardan. But the look ian't rigid. "Wind and light add complexity with shadows and morement," says Lam. "The garden is always changing."

EXPLORE A SPECTRUM "We have every shade of green and blue, from chortreuss to forest green and silvery blue-all shades that work well together," says tam. Crossule capitella thyraffora "Campfine" (front row in large photo), "Elijah Blue" fescue (second row and bottom left), and silver-blue Senecio (shird row) are accented by a deep burgundy Caribbean copper plant.

MARK THE SEASONS An avergreen hedge of pins and pitosporum grows at the back of the gardem. To add to the color show, Shirai planted aloes that bloom in spring to the existing decideous Japanese maple (with vibrant fall folioge) next to the front door.

SUNSET & OCTOBER 2015 37

Home & Garden

PLANT PICKS Low-water bloomers

These sbrubs and perennials flower effortlessly in colors ranging from sky blue to flame orange.

LIFT A river of purple Spanish lavender (Lavandula stoechas) runs through a Napa Valley garden designed by Ron Lutsko (lutsko associates.com), while clusters of chartreuse Euphorbia rigida add a spritz of lime. Both thrive with only

The cool crowd

In oderate water. ABOVE Sea holly (*Eryngium amethystinum*), whose silvery blue stems are topped with amethyst flower heads, attracts butterflies and needs moderate water. BOTTOM LEFT The papery blooms of statice (*Limonium*) retain their color when dried. It requires moderate water. BELOW Hummingbird favorite *Salivia* 'Amistad' grows fast to 4 feet tall with little water.



SALV/A 'AMISTAD'





The hot list

MICHELE LEE WILLSON, IC: PAGE: JEFFERY CROS

SAXON

TOP Velvety kangaroo paws (Anigosantbos 'Orange Cross' and Bush Gems series) add spicy color against golden grasses in a garden in Tiburon, California, designed by Arterra Landscape Architects (arterralip.com). The plants tolerate drought but flower best with some water in summer and excellent drainage in light sandy soil. ABOVE Blanket flower (Gaillardia) features gorgeous golden tips and requires moderate water. BIOHT African daisy (Arctotis), with orange blooms, needs moderate water.

PROPICKS

Nan Sterman, a San Diego-based author and water-wise garden expert, loves these plants on both ends of the color spectrum for dry gardens.

PINCUSHION

FLOWER (Laucospermum 'Veld Fire') "The plants make great informal hedges, start blooming in January and February, and pump out showy orange flowers for cutting."

CEANOTHUS

"Dark Star" "Its purple buds open to intense blue flowers that attract bees. The leaves are dark green, small, and quilted, and the plant needs no summer water."

MEXICAN LILY

(Beschorneria yuccoides) "It's underrated. Succulent leaves are soft and flexible, and the drooping clusters of coral blooms remind me of Little Shop of Horrors."

ALOES

"Dramatic leaves and striking blooms of yellow, red, or orange make them all-around perfect."

SUNDROPS (Calylophus) "Low, mounding plants with nonstop yellow flowers."

Even more water-wise plants: sunset.com/ waterwise

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. <u>Trainings will be conducted in Orland.</u>

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)
- <u>Click here</u> 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 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







For more information call 458-0570

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.



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

The Butchart Gardens

Published by the Butchart Gardens

This is a short booklet that Penny and I bought while we were visiting the Butchart Gardens. For about nine bucks it really does a great job covering the history, beauty and features of the creation of Jennie Butchart. From an open pit limestone mine with a cement plant belching noise, dust and smoke running hard to produce the Portland Cement so needed from Seattle down to San Francisco to a quiet, serene place of wonder was the result of her vision.

The photographs are of the highest quality and after reading through the 32 pages if you don't have a desire to visit I would be very surprised.

ISBN 1-894197-06-2



Dave and Penny Dennis

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Buddleja

Butterfly Bush

Evergreen, Semi evergreen, or Deciduous Shrub

Many of us have grown one of the many species of Buddleja in our garden. I have found the most common is the B. daviddii, Butterfly Bush or Summer Lilac. I personally have two very large bushes in my yard, I love the flowers, the fragrances, the birds and butterflies love them too. What I don't like is how big and rangy they get by the end of the summer.

This spring I planted a new variety by Monrovia, called Buddleja Lo & Behold 'Blue Chip' P.P. #19,991. It is the new star of my perennial garden.



Average size	2' to 3' feet
Growth rate	fast
Growth habit	round, compact and tidy
Gold hardiness	Zones 5-9
Blooms	Mid-summer to mid fall
Flower color	Purple
Foliage color	dark green
Landscape use	Border, Container or mass planting.
Deciduous	Yes
Light & water	full sun and average water

Try this beautiful little shrub; you will enjoy cutting the flowers for arrangement too. Cut back and fertilize in the spring for a summer full of blooms.

Sherry Maltby



Edible Garden of the Month

John and Diane Vafis

COMPOST HAPPENS

With all of the fall clean up of the garden there is going to be plenty of material to develop compost to reinvigorate your garden.

Three things are needed to make compost: green vegetation, dried vegetation, and water. This could be from plants removed from the garden, lawn clippings, and fallen leaves.

All of the material needs to be broken up into small pieces so that the composting takes place more quickly. Compost will happen no matter what, but it could take months if the material is not chopped into small pieces. Run a lawn mower over the stuff to be composted so that you can reduce the particle size. (It will require a lot of chopping with a machete if you don't use the mower.)

The composting works best in a pile that is about a cubic yard in size and shape. You could use old pallets or purchase wire composting cages to hold the material. Add about three inches of chopped up plant material and then wet it thoroughly. Keep adding material and water until the pile is about three feet high and wide.

Next comes the work: the pile needs to be turned. The more frequently the pile is turned the more quickly the composting will take place. Turning increases the oxygen supply for the composting microbes to energize themselves. Using a pitchfork rotate the material so that what was on the edges is moved to the center and the material in the center is moved to the edges of the pile.

During this process the pile will heat up to 160° and kill most pathogens and weed seeds in the material. The high temperature is going to be in the center of the pile, so turning the material is critical to efficient composting.

Keep the pile covered with plastic to keep the heat in the pile and to prevent rain from leaching out the beneficial by-products of the process..

After 4-6 weeks, if your particles were small enough, usable compost will be ready. It will take a little longer if the particle size was larger.



Problem of the Month

Aphids in trees and shrubs are a problem in the fall. They produce sticky honeydew that falls to the ground and covers the sidewalk and your car. The honeydew also attracts ants. Below are some exerts from the IPM aphid pest notes.

Identification

Generally adult aphids are wingless, but most species also occur in winged forms, especially when populations are high or during spring and fall. The ability to produce winged individuals provides the pest with a way to disperse to other plants when the quality of the food source deteriorates. Although they may be found singly, aphids often feed in dense groups on leaves or stems.

Management

Although aphids seldom kill a mature plant, the damage they do and unsightly honeydew they generate sometimes warrant control. Consider the nonchemical controls discussed below, as most insecticides will destroy beneficial insects along with the pest. On mature trees, such as in citrus orchards, aphids and the honeydew they produce can provide a valuable food source for beneficial insects.

Ants are often associated with aphid populations, especially on trees and shrubs, and frequently are a clue that an aphid infestation is present. If you see large numbers of ants climbing your tree trunks, check higher up the tree for aphids or other honeydew-producing insects that might be on limbs and leaves. To protect their food source, ants ward off many predators and parasites of aphids. Managing ants is a key component of aphid management. (See Cultural Control.)

Monitoring

In landscape settings, you can monitor aphids by using water-sensitive paper to measure honeydew dripping from a tree. This type of monitoring is of particular interest where there is a low tolerance for dripping honeydew, such as in groups of trees along city streets or in parks and for tall trees where aphid colonies may be located too high to detect.

Ant Management

In some situations ants tend aphids and feed on the honeydew aphids excrete. At the same time, ants protect the aphids from natural enemies. If you see ants crawling up aphid-infested trees or woody plants, put a band of sticky material (e.g., Tanglefoot) around the trunk to prevent ants from climbing up. (Don't apply sticky material directly to the bark of young or thin-barked trees or to trees that have been severely pruned, as the material may have phytotoxic effects. Wrap the trunk with fabric tree wrap or duct tape and apply sticky material to the wrap.) Alternatively, ant stakes or containerized baits may be used on the ground to control ants without affecting aphids or their natural enemies. Prune out other ant routes such as branches touching buildings, the ground, or other trees.

Click here for more information including cultural and chemical control

Recipe of the Month

Pear Bread Pudding

Serves: 4. Total time: 1 hour 10 min.

Ingredients:

2 cups whole milk

1/2 cup sugar

3 teaspoons unsalted butter

¼ teaspoon salt

4 eggs

5 slices whole-wheat bread each cut in half

2 pears, peeled, cored, and cut into eighths

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/4 pound thinly sliced Cheddar

Directions:

- 1. Heat oven to 375 degrees.
- 2. Butter a 9-inch square pan.
- 3. In a saucepan, heat the milk, sugar, butter, and salt until small bubbles form. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, then add the warm milk mixture in a slow stream, whisking constantly.
- 4. Layer the square pan with the bread. Top with the pears. Pour the milk-egg mixture into the baking pan and sprinkle with the cinnamon.
- 5. Bake until golden, about 35 minutes. Top with the Cheddar, if desired, and bake until the cheese is melted, 5 to 10 minutes. Serve warm.



Smart Gardening Practices

Reduce Waste and Recycle

A. Compost is natures gold.

- a. Compost is a mixture that consists largely of decayed organic matter. It is made up of mostly yard debris and kitchen scraps.
- b. You can use compost to reduce fertilizer use

B. Grasscycling

- a. Grasscycling is putting the grass clippings back into the lawn. If you use a mulching mower, you are grasscycling
- b. Lawn clippings contain 4% nitrogen

C. Prune Correctly

- a. Prune at the proper time of the year
- b. Pruning should strengthen the structural integrity of the plant
- c. DO NOT top a tree. Thin the branches out.
- D. Reduce irrigation and fertilizer use
 - a. Watering and fertilizing wisely prevents excessive growth. Most lawns in California need very little fertilizer.
- E. Salvage and Recycle
 - a. Reuse or give away unwanted material
 - b. Broken concrete, called urbanite, can be used

F. DO NOT plant invasive plants.



October in the Garden:

Things to plant:

- Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, you can direct seed cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, nigella, portulaca and sweet peas.
- If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring.
- Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.
- Early in the month you should buy your new bulbs and refrigerate them for six weeks before planting them in the garden.

Things to do:

- October is also good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. You can still rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding.
- Put your spent annuals and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile. Squash and tomato plants should probably be thrown away rather than composted to avoid adding diseases to the pile.
- Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before replanting in those beds.
- This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant bearded iris and overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.
- Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present.
- If you had glads, dahlias or tuberous begonias they should be dug up and cleaned after the foliage dies. Store the corms and tubers in a cool, dry place.
- Be sure to deadhead your roses following the October bloom.
- Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin.



Science word of the Month....

Anther—The upper portion of the stamen that produces pollen grains.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Next meeting Monday October 28 6:30pm
- 642 Fifth St. (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church)
- Speaker, Howard Garrison, Straw Bale Gardening

Additional Links

Integrated Pest Management <u>www.ipm.ucdavis.edu</u>

UC Davis Arboretum <u>www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu</u>

McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens <u>turtlebay.org</u>

Invasive Plants <u>www.cal-ipc.org</u>

Plant Right <u>www.plantright.org</u>

PG&E <u>www.pge.com</u>

Save Our Water <u>www.water.ca.gov</u>

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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