



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | Cooperative Extension

Cooperative Extension, Colusa County
P.O. Box 180, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E
Colusa, Ca 95932
530-458-0570, 530-458-4628 fax
cecolusa.ucanr.edu
mgcolusa@ucdavis.edu



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

A Garden Runs Through It

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March 2014

This newsletter is
produced by:

Gerry Hernandez
Master Gardener
Coordinator

Luis Espino
Advisor

Chris Greer
County Director

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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:

Fruit Tree Workshops & Garden Irrigation

March 29, 1-3pm
See flyer for details
July 19
November 1

Family Fair
April 5, 10-2pm

Plant Clinic
Date coming soon



HELP YOUR TREES SURVIVE THE DROUGHT



BE WATER-WISE. IT'S EASY. HERE'S HOW.

Trees and water are both precious resources. Trees don't just make our houses feel like home—they also improve property values, clean our water & air, and even make our streets safer & quieter. When we water wisely and maintain our trees carefully, we enjoy a wide range of benefits at a low cost and with little effort.

YOUNG TREES

The roots of younger trees are less established & need easier access to water to establish deep root systems.

MATURE TREES

Mature trees require MORE water when growing near heat traps such as driveways & house foundations.

EXPOSED TREES

Water loss is greater where trees are exposed to hot afternoon sun & strong or constant wind.

DECIDUOUS TREES

The critical time for water is during bud-break in spring & bud formation in late summer.



THE RIGHT AMOUNT

Water young trees twice per week (about 5 gallons) & mature trees once per week in several places (the equivalent of 1 to 1.5 inches of rain).

IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Water the "drip zone," area directly beneath the foliage & shaded by the tree. Also, add mulch to lower soil temperatures & reduce water evaporation.

CONSERVE & RECYCLE WATER

Inside; place buckets in the shower to collect water. Recycle water from the dehumidifier, collect air conditioning condensation, & "save a flush" to conserve. Outside; convert irrigation systems to drip, low-flow or micro spray & fix leaks.

THE RIGHT TIME

Water early in the morning or after the sun has set as this is when trees replace the water they've lost during the day. Also less water is lost to evaporation at these times. Mulching your tree will also keep soils warmer in winter & cooler in summer.

DON'T WASTE WATER

Water so that it soaks into the ground rather than running off into the drain.

THE RIGHT WAY

During drought, water directly with a hose or 5-gallon bucket.

THE RIGHT DEPTH

Deep watering helps deep root growth & healthier trees.

THE RIGHT CHOICE

Plant native or drought resistant tree species that require less water. Choose trees over lawn as trees are a long term investment.



invest
from the
ground up
Creating Trees Make Our Neighborhoods



VISIT US:

www.InvestFromTheGroundUp.org
Facebook.com/InvestInTrees
@InvestInTrees

SUBSCRIBE:

For more tips to keep your trees healthy.

Fruit Tree Care & Garden Irrigation

- Saturday March 29, 1-3pm
- Davis Ranches, 7681 Sycamore Slough Rd, Colusa
(look for our signs at Hwy 45 & Sycamore Slough Rd)
- Information on Peaches, Nectarines, Apples, Pears, Apricots, Citrus, Cherries, Persimmons, Pomegranates, Jujube, Figs
- Lawn and garden irrigation including drip & micro irrigation



**UC Master Gardeners of
Colusa County
and
Davis Ranches**

For more information go to

<http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu>

530-458-0570

Pre-registration is preferred



Frequently Asked Question

Dear Master Gardener,

My beautiful camellia flowers are turning brown. What is it? Can I spray something on it?

Your neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

You have camellia flower blight.

- This serious disease is caused by a fungus that only attacks flowers of camellias. In late winter to early spring, black fungal resting structures in the soil produce spores that are carried by the wind to new flowers. If moisture is present, the spores germinate and cause infection. The flowers may turn completely brown within 48 hours.
- There are no sprays for this disease. Remove and destroy infected flowers to eliminate the source of new infections for the following spring. Many spores are produced in one flower. Rake up and destroy old leaves, flowers and plant debris.
- DO NOT use your leaf blower to clean up the leaves. This spreads the disease.

Your Master Gardener



What to Read this Month

Diane Vafis

VIRTUAL GARDEN TOURS AND IDEAS

Whether you are looking to landscape a new yard or just perk up an entry or replace some thirsty plants with ones making less demand on your water bill, this website can't fail to inspire you: <http://www.slowaterwiselandscaping.com>



Much of the climate in San Luis Obispo County, especially the northern part, is very similar to that of the Sacramento Valley so the multitude of design ideas and plants should work well here, too.

When you click on **Garden Tours** on the menu bar, you will have a choice of 24 gardens with up to 20 photos of each. By moving the cursor over any of the boxes drawn over the plants shown, a description and identification of that plant will appear.

Garden Gallery offers 30 choices of landscape situations from front yards to patios, lawn alternatives to walkways, dry stream beds to trellises and so forth. Within each of these landscaping situations, there are up to 45 photos of ideas that have been implemented. Again plants are identified.

Selecting **Plants** on the menu bar brings up a page titled **Common Categories Plant Lists**, gives 30 categories of plants such as shade plants, low maintenance, attracts butterflies or low water perennials. "CA native plants" category, for instance, provides thumbnail photos of 200 plants. Clicking on any of these brings up details of the plant's anatomy (height, flower and leaf color, etc) and its culture (sun, water, soil needs and growth rate.) It is probably advisable if you are seriously interested to refer also to Sunset Western Garden Book on culture and varieties.

My List on the menu bar is where any plants or gardens you have chosen to "add" from the plants or gardens viewing will be stored. **Resources** provides directions on how to use the website, how to design and install a water-wise garden, irrigation methods and equipment. **Watering Guide** is just what it says, how often, how much and when to water and more.

This is an incredibly rich, in-depth and well-designed website that should inspire California gardeners.

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Tall Fescue grass

Qualities

Tall fescue is a cool-season grass, well adapted to sunny or partially shady areas. When densely sown, a pure stand forms a moderate to coarse-textured lawn that is uniform in appearance with good weed and disease resistance. Tall fescue tolerates warm summer temperatures and stays green during cool, but not severe winter conditions. New varieties that are finer in texture and shorter in stature are known as turf-type tall fescues and dwarf turf-type tall fescues. Tall fescue is a good species to plant for general lawn use and is the most common lawn grass in California.

Identifying tips

A coarse-textured medium to dark-green grass. Leaves are rolled in the bud. It has short, rounded auricles, a short membranous ligule, and an extensive root system. Because tall fescue has a bunch-type growth habit rather than a creeping-type, open areas may develop and need to be reseeded.

Maintenance

Low maintenance. Tall fescue has excellent tolerance for heat stress and drought. It will tolerate moderate traffic and infrequent mowing. This species is not well adapted to high altitudes.

For more information [click here](#)



Edible Garden of the Month

Here are Some Factors to Keep in Mind when Planning your Vegetable Garden:

Soil

- Your local garden store could be an excellent resource for determining special needs (fertilizer and amendments) for your soil and how to address those needs. Almost all soils can be improved by the addition of decomposed organic matter (compost) throughout the root zone. Water holding capacity and water and root penetration will also be enhanced.
- The squeeze test is a good way to determine if your soil is ready to till. Squeeze a handful of soil: if it forms a clump it is too wet, if it worked at this time it will form hard clods that will cause problems later on, if it crumbles easily it is ready to till.

Water

- Have a nearby supply of water that can be reached with a garden hose. Reliability in this drought year is an important consideration, you don't want to have your garden run out of water before harvest. Use a "water wise" method of irrigation to conserve water, such as drip irrigation.

Light

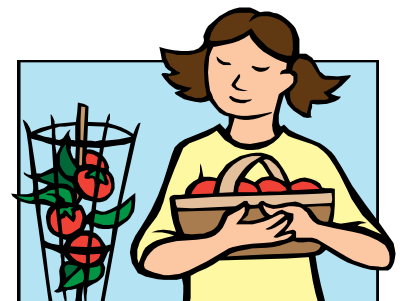
- Vegetables need at least 8 hours of daylight per day for best growth. Trees, shrubs, walls and fences will shade vegetable plants and reduce the hours of daylight they actually receive.

Plant varieties

- Seed catalogs are an excellent source of information to choose what you actually plant. Varieties vary in days to harvest and plant size, both of which will effect water usage.

Layout

- Plan your garden so the taller plants don't shade out smaller plants. Plants requiring similar watering practices should be on the same watering grid. Allow plenty of room between planting beds to access plants during growing and also harvest seasons. Another "water wise" tip is to interplant your vegetables in your flower beds-you can utilize an existing watering system and add a different look to your yard.



Smart Gardening Practices

CONSERVE ENERGY

1. Plant Trees

- A. Plant trees to the west of your home.
- B. Select evergreen trees for a windbreak. Especially if you live in the countryside.
- C. Plant large trees at least 20 feet from the foundation.

Benefit: When properly placed mature trees can reduce your inside temperature by 20 degrees.

2. Shade paved areas

- A. Driveways and paved areas are huge sources of heat.
- B. Choose trees with root systems that do not sucker or damage the surface.

Benefit: Patios and cars are more comfortable, cooling cost may be lowered.

3. Shade the air conditioner

Benefit: Reduced utility cost.



Recipe of the Month

Peg's Easy Sausage Stuffed Mushrooms

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

1 lb. mushrooms, either brown or white. Remove stems and finely chop.

1 lb. ground bulk sausage, either hot or mild, such as Jimmy Dean

2 Tbs. finely minced onion

Over medium-high heat, cook and stir sausage and onion until cooked through. Add cut up mushroom stems. Cook an additional 4 to 6 minutes. Drain any grease from pan.

4 oz. grated Parmesan cheese or grated Cheddar

1 tsp. minced garlic (optional)

¼ cup Italian bread crumbs

1 tsp. chopped fresh parsley

Stir in most of the cheese (except about 1 oz.), bread crumbs, garlic, and parsley into sausage mixture. Cook an additional 3 to 5 minutes.

Stuff each mushroom cap with sausage mixture and place on a cookie sheet. Bake stuffed mushrooms in preheated oven for 12 to 15 minutes. Sprinkle remaining 1 oz. cheese over mushrooms and bake until mushrooms are cooked through and cheese is melted and bubbling about 3 more minutes.

This is an easy recipe and can be adjusted to your liking. Lean ground beef can be used instead of sausage; use your favorite cheese etc.

Barbara Scheimer

Cynthia Peterson

See the next page for a
bonus mushroom recipe!



BONUS RECIPE!!

Mushroom Cheesesteak Stir Fry Recipe

Courtesy of Kristen Doyle from [Dine and Dish](#)

Ingredients:

2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 Vidalia Onion, thinly sliced
1 Green Bell Pepper, thinly sliced
1 garlic clove, minced
2 cups fresh mushrooms, sliced
1 pound sirloin steak, thinly sliced
1/4 teaspoon season salt
4 ounces cream cheese
8 ounces Provolone cheese
1/4 cup milk
3 cups brown rice, cooked

Directions:

1. Heat oil in a large skillet or wok over medium heat. Add onion, bell pepper, garlic, and mushrooms. Stir fry for 3 minutes, or until vegetables become tender.
2. Add sirloin steak to the skillet, sprinkle with season salt and cook for 3-5 minutes, or until cooked to desired doneness.
3. In a separate saucepan, add cream cheese, provolone cheese and milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring continuously until heated through, melted and smooth.

Place individual servings of brown rice on each plate. Top with steak and vegetable mixture. Spoon warm cheese sauce over steak and vegetable mixture. Serve hot.

Recipe from Premier Mushroom website.



Problem of the Month

Oxalis (creeping woodsorrel)

Creeping woodsorrel, *Oxalis corniculata*, is a weed species that occurs in many parts of the world. In California it usually grows below the 2,500-foot elevation level and frequently appears in lawns, flower beds, gardens, nurseries, and greenhouses.

A related species, Bermuda buttercup, *O. pes-caprae*, is a South African native that grows in California's coastal gardens and fields as well as inland landscaped areas. Bermuda buttercup, also called Buttercup oxalis, has been cultivated as an ornamental, and although you'll occasionally find it in lawns, more often it is a problem in flowerbeds, groundcovers, and shrub areas in home landscapes or in commercial, field-grown flowers. In recent years it has been encroaching in natural areas and hillside plantings along California's coast.

The genus name *Oxalis* is derived from the Greek word meaning "sour," referring to the sour-tasting oxalic acid present throughout the plants. If livestock ingest large quantities, they can suffer from oxalate poisoning.

MANAGEMENT

In many garden situations creeping woodsorrel and Bermuda buttercup can be managed with physical control methods such as handweeding. In other cases, herbicides can be integrated into the management program; see Tables 1 and 2. The effectiveness of control method depends on which weed is present and where the weeds are growing.

[For more information click here](#)



March in the Garden:

- Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance.
- Fertilize roses, annuals flowers, and berries with slow-release fertilizer when spring growth begins.
- Fertilize citrus and deciduous fruit trees.
- Watch for aphids on new growth on the roses; spray with a strong spray of water to remove them, or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray.
- Prepare garden beds by incorporating compost before planting spring vegetables. You can plant lettuce, carrots, and cilantro directly in the vegetable bed. Mid-March is a good time to plant potatoes.
- You can plant canna, gladiolus, and crocosmia for summer blooms. Early in the month you can still plant bare-root trees and shrubs if the garden center still has any.
- Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil. It is still early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers (although you could try late in the month if it is still warm.) Nights should be above 55°.
- Prune and fertilize spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they finish blooming.
- Fertilize the lawn with a slow release fertilizer.
- Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small.
- Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them.



Science word of the Month....

Drupe—A simple fleshy fruit in which the inner part of the ovary wall develops into a hard stony or woody endocarp, as in the peach.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Next meeting Monday, March 31, 6:30pm
- 642 Fifth St. (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church)
- Drip Irrigation, Cynthia White

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.

