



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

A Garden Runs Through It

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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
glhernandez@ucanr.edu

Information Booth Locations:

Fruit Tree Workshops & Garden Irrigation

July 19
November 1

Family Fair

April 5, 10-2pm, Colusa County Fairgrounds

Plant Clinic

April 11, 10-4pm Griff's Feed and Seed, Colusa

May Surprise

May 3, 8am-4pm, Colusa



Frequently Asked Question

Dear Master Gardener,

Where do I find reliable gardening information on the internet?

Your neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

That's a good question So many magazines, books and websites are geared for the midwest and eastern part of the US. What does a gardener in California do? Here are a few of our favorites.

[http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master Gardeners/](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners/)

[California Garden Web](#)

[UC IPM](#)

[UC Davis Arboretum](#)

[The California Backyard](#)

[California Center for Urban Horticulture](#)

[Sunset](#)

Your Master Gardener



What to Read this Month

Diane Vafis

Finding the Plants for your Garden

We face many challenges when it comes to deciding what to plant in our garden. What plants tolerate a Mediterranean climate like ours? How much sun/shade does it need to thrive? What are its watering needs? When does it bloom? What do the flowers look like? How big does it get?

We use many different resources to find the answers to these questions. This sometimes leads to confusion because the same plant will have different descriptions in different resources! Is it 4 feet tall or six feet tall?

One of the best resources available has to be the Internet. One can virtually buy just about anything in the world. Some web sites are more reliable than others. One of the best websites for finding plants or getting a description of plants is the wholesale grower, San Marcos Growers.

<http://www.smgrowers.com>

This is not a vendor's website; they are wholesale only. They have a vendor list that does not have any outlet in our area. The nearest one is in Sonoma County. However, it is one of the best for getting a complete sense of the plant you are interested in adding to your collection.

The plant information is accessible alphabetically. There is a sub-set of the plants for Mediterranean gardens; there is a sub-set of succulents and another of California natives.

Once you have browsed and selected the plants you would like to have you have to search for a vendor of that plant. Another approach would be to take the plant list to a nursery or garden center and let them find the plants on your list. Beware of common names for plants; sometimes they aren't so common. You will have more luck finding plants if you use the botanical name for it. These names are unique so no two plants can have the same name. If the botanical name is followed by a name in single quotes, it is a cultivar which is also a unique plant. The name in quotes is not a exactly a common name because it is part of the botanical name. A problem could arrive because the botanical names are changed from time to time, so that could be an issue for you



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Dogwood Trees

If you have recently visited Sacramento or Chico you will truly believe that Dogwood trees are among the most delightful specimens in the landscape. They flower profusely, have an interesting branching pattern, and attract birds. I spoke with the owner of Minden's Nursery in Paradise about growing these beautiful blooming trees in our Sacramento Valley, especially here in Colusa county, and he stated that many are being grown in Willows, and should thrive also in Colusa county.

They needed to be treated like camellia and azalea plantings.

- Plant the trees carefully. A correct planting will ensure success throughout the tree's lifespan, while damaging it while planting will do no good down the road. The area should be partially shaded, especially protected from afternoon sun. Make sure you have dug a hole that is large enough to comfortably fit the root ball of the tree you are planting. The top of the root ball should be even with the ground. Once you have placed the tree in the hole, fill it with soil that you removed when digging.
- Apply a layer of mulch around the tree at ground level. This is preferable to putting mulch near the roots.
- Make sure the soil has proper drainage. Standing water will kill your dogwood.

Water dogwoods once or twice a week, depending on the amount of rain the area sees. Make sure that they are sufficiently moist, but not drowning. This is especially important during the first 2 years.

Keep mulch spread under a wide area beneath the tree to help insulate and protect delicate roots.

Use a general, all-purpose fertilizer to keep the soil around the dogwood fertile enough to keep promoting growth. Spread the fertilizer on the ground in a 2-foot radius out from the trunk of the tree. A newly planted dogwood only needs approximately 1/4 cup of 12-4-8 fertilizer in March, and again in July. Be careful not to over-fertilize, or you will do damage instead of good.

Dogwood tree care isn't problem-free. One of the biggest problems of dogwood tree care -- dogwood anthracnose. The native flowering dogwood is still a valuable landscape tree and is worthy of planting in the right spot. Dogwood anthracnose is caused by a fungus, *Discula destructiva*, that thrives in rainy, cool spring weather. A quick warmup in spring will stop the fungus in its tracks. If you plant your dogwood in a location that gets morning sun and good air circulation, it is much less likely to succumb to this disease. Dogwoods are shallow rooted and benefit greatly from some extra water in times of drought; trees stressed by drought are much more likely to be damaged by dogwood anthracnose than trees grown with ample soil moisture.

Bernice Dommer



Edible Garden of the Month

Trellis System

Easy to put up during the growing season and easy to store in the off season, this freestanding trellis will keep climbing tomatoes and/or cucumbers up out of the dirt and easy to pick. Under the trellis you can plant salad greens that don't require or tolerate full sun. Just rotate the trellis before planting to optimize the sun exposure. I saw this in the Gardeners Supply Catalog but you can easily build one out of 1" wooden slats on a 4" grid and a couple stakes.



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

For more information: www.pge.com

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

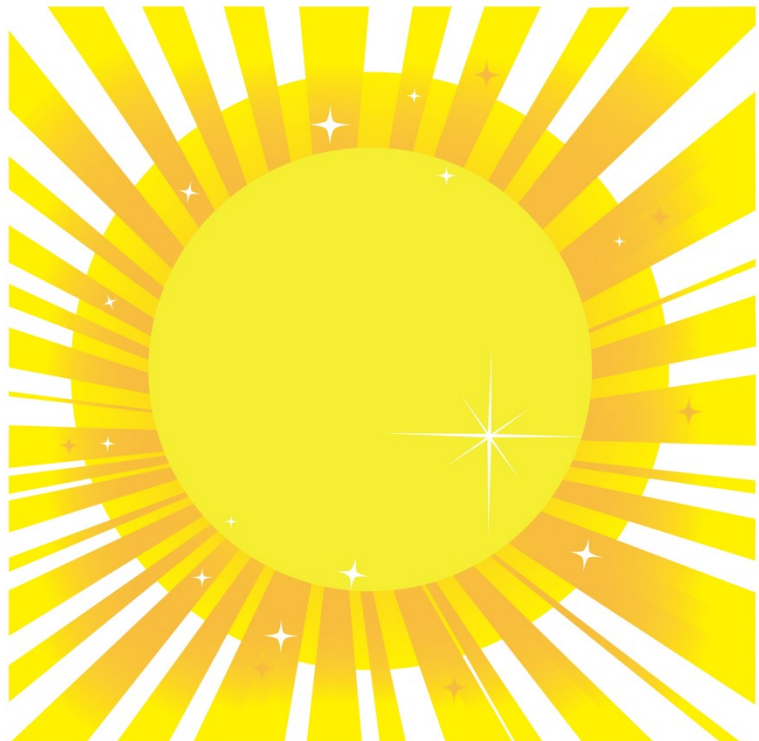
Benefit:

- Patios and cars are more comfortable, cooling cost may be lowered

3. Shade the air conditioner

Benefit:

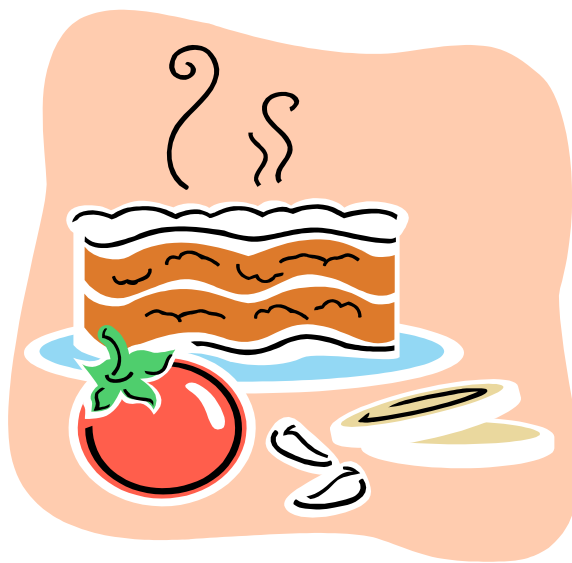
- Reduced utility cost



Recipe of the Month

Cheesy Vegetable Lasagna serves 12

- 12 lasagna noodles
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 heads fresh broccoli, chopped
- 2 carrots, thinly sliced
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 bell peppers, chopped
- 2 small zucchini, sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 3 cups milk
- ¾ cup Parmesan cheese, divided
- ½ teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed
- 1 (8 ounce) container small curd cottage cheese
- 24 ounces ricotta cheese
- 2 ½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided



1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a 9x13 inch casserole
2. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add lasagna noodles and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain.
3. Heat oil in a large cast iron skillet over medium heat. Add broccoli, carrots, onions, bell peppers, zucchini and garlic. Sauté for 7 minutes; set aside.
4. Place flour in a medium saucepan and gradually whisk in milk until well blended. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook 5 minutes or until thick, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; stir in spinach. Reserve ½ cup spinach mixture. In a small bowl, combine cottage and ricotta cheeses; stir well.
5. Spread about ½ cup of spinach mixture in the bottom of the prepared pan. Layer noodles, ricotta mixture, vegetables, spinach mixture, and 2 cups mozzarella cheese, ending with noodles. Top with reserved spinach mixture, ½ cup mozzarella cheese and ¼ cup parmesan cheese.
6. Bake in preheated oven for 35 minutes, or until lightly browned on top. Cool for approximately 10 minutes before serving.

Allrecipes.com Prep time:35 minutes, ready in 1 hour 20 minutes.

Barbara Scheimer
Cynthia Peterson

Problem of the Month

Aphids

Almost every plant has one or more aphid species that occasionally feed on it, but low to moderate numbers of aphids usually aren't damaging to gardens or landscape trees. Although aphids can curl leaves and produce sticky honeydew, they rarely kill plants and you usually can wash them off with water. When aphid numbers get high, natural enemies frequently feed on them, eliminating the need for pesticides. When pesticides are necessary, use less toxic products such as insecticidal soaps and oils.

Aphids are common in your garden because:

- Aphids like lush new growth. Don't over fertilize. Use organic or slow-release products.
- Aphids build up on flowering plums, roses, tulip trees, crape myrtles, apples, and many vegetables. Expect aphids when you grow these plants.

Ants protect aphids from their natural enemies. Keep ants off plants to help beneficials do their job.

To reduce aphids:

- Prune out infested leaves and stems.
- Knock aphid populations off plants by shaking the plant or spraying it with a strong stream of water.
- Protect seedlings with covers or aluminum foil mulches.

Wait for hot weather; most aphids are heat-intolerant and will be gone by mid-June.

Protect aphids' natural enemies:

- Lady beetles, both adults and larvae;
- Lacewings;
- Syrphid fly larvae;
- Soldier beetles; and
- Parasitic mini-wasps that turn aphids into crusty mummies.

Beneficial insects such as lady beetles and lacewings will come into your garden naturally when aphids are abundant. Protect these good bugs by avoiding the use of insecticides that can be toxic to a broad variety of insects.

For more information [click here](#)



April in the Garden:

- What to plant?
- In a shady spot early in the month you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses.
- You can plant dahlia tubers and transplant most perennials.
- As temperatures warm (nights consistently over 55 degrees) you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.
- You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard. (Cilantro will go to seed quickly as the weather warms up.)

Chores:

- Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring.
- Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants.
- Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. The leaves restore the bulb; so wait to remove them until they turn yellow. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal.
- Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.



Science word of the Month....

Pluviophile—a lover of rain; someone who finds joy and peace of mind during rainy days

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Next meeting Monday, April 28, 6:30pm
- 642 Fifth St. (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church)
- Philip Rice, Floral Design

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.

