



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

# A Garden Runs Through It

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September 2014

This newsletter is  
produced by:

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## OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday,  
9am—12pm  
1pm –4pm  
UCCE Colusa,  
100 Sunrise Blvd  
Colusa, CA  
458-0570

Have a question?  
Email us at  
glhernandez@ucanr.edu

## Information Booth Locations:

### Plant Clinic

Williams Nursery  
Thursday, Sept 25 12-2pm

### Arbuckle Pumpkin Festival

Sunday, October 5  
10-4pm

### Colusa Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 11  
11-3pm

### Fall Fruit Tree workshop

Saturday, November 1  
10-12pm



# Interested in becoming a UC Master Gardener of Colusa County?

Applications for the 2015 training class, commencing in January 2015, will be accepted soon.

Classes will be in Yuba City starting in January.

If interested please go to our website and fill out an interest card. When applications become available we will email you an application.

[cecolusa.ucanr.edu](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu)



# PLANT CLINIC

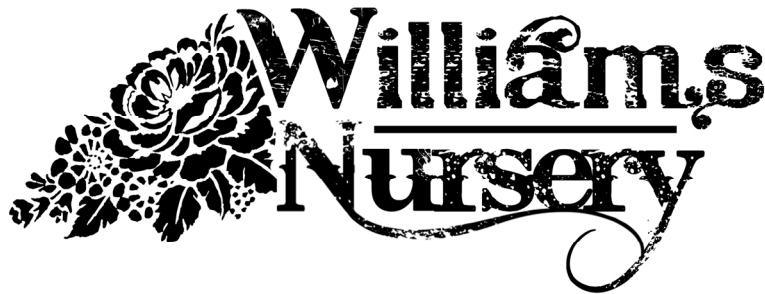
Have a plant question?

Have an insect question?

Have a weed problem?

Join the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County and the  
Williams Nursery  
at the Plant Clinic.

- Thursday, September 25
- 12-2pm
- Williams Nursery
  - 4001 Husted Rd., Williams, Ca
  - Corner of Husted and Hwy 20



## Frequently Asked Question

Dear Master Gardener,

My Crape Myrtle is raining sticky stuff! Help it's all over the sidewalk.

Your neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

Your Crape Myrtle has aphids and the sticky stuff is the aphid's honeydew. One way to control the aphids is to spray the tree with a strong spray of water. I know this sounds strange considering the drought but it is effective. You will have to do it several times. There are also biological and chemical controls. For more information click on the Aphid pest note [here](#).

Your UCCE Master Gardener of Colusa County

These trees are across the street from each other.

With apids



Without aphids





## What to Read this Month

Diane Vafis

### EDIBLE LANDSCAPING

What a surprise for many of us that the beautiful landscapes in the photos on Rosalind Creasey's website, <http://www.rosalindcreasy.com/edible-landscaping-basics/> holds many edible plants and fruits. Here is a way to integrate beauty and practicality throughout your yard.

This website explains just what edible gardening is and isn't, not a yard that becomes a farm, but "the judicious use of fruits, herbs, and vegetables... for a yard that is flavorful, practical, visually pleasing." She gives direction and suggestions on combining edibles and ornamentals, as well as how to use landscape design elements in planning.

If you have limited space or want to keep it small, choose her menu for Edible Garden How-To for the 100-square-foot garden. In a 5' x 20' plot of previous lawn she produced over 110 pounds of produce. The photos attest to its attractiveness, as well.

Popular Edibles on the menu gives you choices of how-tos on growing five different types of plants. Edible Landscaping leads to plant suggestions for different climate zones. Of course, there are menu choices for Books, Blogs and Articles and other resources.

Happy surfing through Rosalind Creasy's Edible Gardens!



# Ornamental Plant of the Month

## Myths about gardens:

### California native plants are hard to grow.

This myth probably was started because people tried to grow California native plants just like they grow common garden plants. California native plants are wild plants and they do not grow well under the same conditions as common garden plants. If you had full water rationing what would your 'normal garden' look like. (Rhymes with rugby and head.) Under drought conditions native plants become much easier. Why pay \$200/month to water your little lawn, when you can have a green front yard for a few dollars a month? With no gardener? And get some exercise.

In most of California fall planting is the least desirable. This is because the microorganisms and the plants are at their weakest (the site is dormant), soil moisture levels are at their lowest, and stupid critters eat anything that has green on it. These site conditions will draw from the plant rather than support it.

**In years like 2014**, if you have the water, plant from about December to February in the hot interior, plant all year in the rest of the state, particularly if you're replacing a lawn or something else that needs a lot of water. If you're replacing the lawn you're going to save a lot of water in just a few months so do not feel guilty about using that water for change.

New plantings need to be watered once a week for the first season in a dry year like 2014. So as long as you can do that, you can replace that dead looking non-native landscape.

Ceanothus, California native



Bernice Dommer

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

### **Getting Ready for Winter**

Autumn is coming and now is the time to ready your vegetable garden for spring planting. Here are some maintenance tasks that need to be completed before the arrival of cold weather and freezing temperatures.

#### **Garden Clean-up**

Pull up all annuals that have died back, cut back your perennials and remove all fallen leaves from the area to use as mulch. Too many leaves can retain water that could lead to root rot in your perennials and also attract pests.

#### **Save Seeds**

Retain the seeds of all the vegetables and flowers you want to keep in your garden for the next growing season.

#### **Compost**

Rake up all dead plant material, cuttings, twigs, weeds, and leaves and compost them. Any diseased or infested plant matter should be separated from the rest and disposed of as trash.

#### **Last Chance to Water and Fertilize**

Make sure to water and fertilize any perennials in your garden before the first freeze. The cutoff date is usually before Thanksgiving.

#### **Soil Enrichment**

If your soil is hard and compacted or you just need to supplement your existing soil, cover your garden with a layer of compost and turn the earth over. This will add nutrients back into the ground and improve the soil structure. If you need to correct the pH this is the time to do it.

David Dennis

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

### **Winter Vegetable Gardening**

Believe it or not but it is time to start you winter garden! I think winter gardening is fun and easier than summer vegetable gardening.

Yes, you want to plant now while the soil is warm. You will have to do some weeding, insect patrolling and watering until the weather cools and the rains (hopefully) start. After that they generally take care of themselves.

Here is a good starter list. [For more information go to our website.](#)

#### **Transplants**

Brussels sprouts

Cabbage

Cauliflower

Broccoli



#### **Direct seeded**

Parsnips

Carrots

Rutabaga

Lettuce

Turnips

Spinach

Fava beans

Peas

Radishes

Kale

Greens

Onions and garlic





# Smart Gardening Practices

## LANDSCAPE FOR YOUR LOCAL CLIMATE

- Evaluate your micro-climate and sun exposure
  - 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
  - What is the shape and size of the planting area?
  - Do you have areas with difficult access?
  - Do you neighbors trees shade or not shade your garden?

Benefits: Right plant, right place. Saves time and money

- Soil
  - What does your soil feel like?
  - How fast does the water percolate thru the soil.
  - Use a shovel or trowel to look at your soil
- Wildlife
  - California natives will attract wildlife to your garden
  - What wildlife is already attracted to your garden?

Benefit: Native plants can be easier to maintain

- Fire Safety
  - Trees and shrubs should not reach your house. Branches make it easy for fire to jump to your house
  - Decks can also be fire hazards. Construct the deck from fire resistant materials
  - Avoid fine mulch next to your buildings. Use a coarse bark or rock. Rubber mulch is flammable and should not be used next to your home.

# Recipe of the Month

## Gazpacho

Mash 1-2 cloves of garlic with 2 teaspoons of salt. Set aside

Saute 1/2 cup of finely chopped mushroom in a little olive oil until limp.

Finely chop:

1 cup onions

2 cups of tomatoes ( I use more)

1 1/4 cup bell pepper

1 cup celery

1 cup cucumber

Put into bowl.

Add:

2 tablespoons green onions and parsley

1/4 to 1/2 tsp Tabasco

1 tsp worchestire

1/3 to 1/2 cup red wine vinegar

3 cups of tomato juice

garlic and salt mixture and mushrooms

Cover and chill at least 3 hours or overnight. The longer the better

This recipe is very flexible. Increase or decrease veggies to your liking. It can be blended for a smoother consistency but I like the cut up version. Serve with a dollop of sour cream and croutons, if desired. Makes a great first course for a summer meal.



Barbara Scheimer  
Cynthia Peterson

**2015 Calendar  
is now available!**



**UC MASTER GARDENERS OF COLUSA COUNTY  
2015**

**Available at all  
UC Master Gardener of Colusa County  
events and in the office.**

**(100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa)**

**\$10.00**

## September in the Garden:

### What 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 seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.

### September Chores:

September is a 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 annual 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 dis, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.



### Science word of the Month....

**Abscission**—The dropping of a leaf, fruit or flower.

## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Monday September 22 at 6:30pm
- St. Stephens church, 642 5th St, Colusa

## 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 UCCE Colusa County Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a partnership among the University of California Cooperative Extension, 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.

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/187680.pdf> )

Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Linda Marie Manton, Affirmative Action Contact, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1318.

*To simplify 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.

