



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

A Garden Runs Through It

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October 2014

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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:

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



Frequently Asked Question

Dear Master Gardener,

I think I am supposed to spray something on my peach trees soon. What was it again?

Your neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

Peach and nectarine trees are susceptible to peach leaf curl. The symptoms show up in the spring but you need to spray in the fall and winter.

Peach leaf curl is a fungal disease that affects only peach and nectarine trees. Distorted, reddened foliage in the spring is a distinctive symptom. Newly emerging leaves and shoots thicken and pucker and later may die and fall off. A leaf curl infection that continues untreated for several years will contribute to a tree's decline. To prevent peach leaf curl, treat peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide every year after the leaves fall. Treatment in spring after symptoms appear won't be effective. When planting, consider growing varieties resistant to the disease.

A rule of thumb is to spray at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Valentine's Day.

[For more information click here.](#)

Your UCCE Master Gardener of Colusa County



Fall Fruit Tree Workshop And Nature Walk

- **What you need to do to put your trees to bed for the winter.**
- **Also, a tour of native plantings.**
- **Saturday November 1, 10-12pm**
- **Davis Ranches**
 - **7681 Sycamore Slough Road, Colusa**

**Sponsored by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Colusa County
and the Davis Ranches.**



What to Read this Month

Hellstrip Gardening

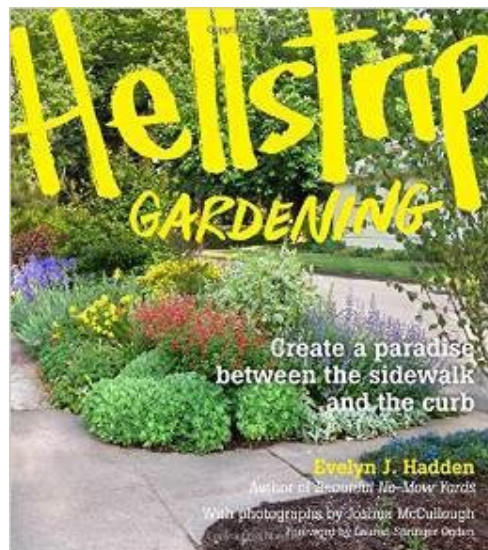
Hellstrip Gardening, *Create a Paradise between the Sidewalk and the Curb* by Evelyn J. Hadden, Timber Press, paperback, 2014, 296 pages.

Evelyn Hadden begins her inspiring and motivating book ***Hellstrip Gardening*** by telling gardeners they have the power to transform weed infested parking strips and small unusable areas along driveways, sidewalks or utility easements into thriving garden paradises. These transformations enhance curbside appeal, expand gardens, conserve natural re-sources, stimulate senses, invite wildlife and welcome visitors. ***Hellstrip Gardening*** is the first book to explain how to reclaim these ignored spaces. “Hellstrip” areas do not normally support healthy lawns, but they do have the potential to add beauty and ecological enhancements that dramatically improve surroundings. These gardens present challenges, but their potential rewards can encourage homeowners to give these unsightly areas a makeover.

Hadden skillfully lays out her book in four well-planned sections. In Part One, “Inspirations, Curbside Gardens from Coast to Coast,” Hadden offers “an armchair tour” of twelve curbside gardens. Along with detailed descriptions and magnificent pictures, she encourages the reader to seek out useful ideas and unexpected solutions from these examples and then apply them to their own unique situations. She advises thoughtful and thorough planning.

In Part Two, “Situations, Challenges to Address, Situations to Overcome,” Hadden talks about challenges from trees, to water issues, poor soil, unsightly equipment, laws and covenants, vehicle and pedestrian traffic and wildlife. She presents suggestions for managing each one of these issues. Hadden ends this section with a discussion of how curbside gardens build a sense of community and pride. These former “hellstrip” areas inspire gardeners by providing visual examples of plant combinations, color schemes, textures and materials. These landscape designs can also be replicated and extended to nearby properties. She recommends specific strategies to encourage others to create their own curbside paradises. These strategies include sharing extra plants, neighborhood garden clubs, informal garden tours, certificates of recognition, persuading local businesses or organizations to provide funds for projects and lobbying against regulations that favor lawns over alternative forms of landscaping.

Continue on the next page.



Part Three focuses on “Creation, Solutions for Designing, Building, and Managing a Curbside Garden.” Hadden encourages property owners to think of their curbside gardens as welcome signs and as an asset to the entire community. She covers choosing a design style, plant issues, partnering with nature and earth shaping techniques. She also recommends what to include and what to avoid in curbside gardens. Include self-sowing plants, durable and compact plants, ground covers, and shared plants. Provide paths that link street to walkways. Exclude potential weapons such as fist sized rocks, heavily bear-ing fruit or nut trees, plants with sharp branches or stickers, aggressive vines or foliage that hide signs or utility equipment.

Part Four concludes with “Curbside Worthy Plants.” Hadden lists almost 60 pages of plants with showy flowers, awesome foliage, culinary and medicinal uses and four season plants that look great year round. All of these plants were selected for their ability to flourish in less than optimal situations. Each plant description includes the botanical and common name, growth habits, plant attributes and zones.

Hellstrip Gardening is easy to read, motivating and full of beautiful pictures. Hadden’s style is informal and engaging. The book’s short sections make it easy to pick up and read as time permits. Her examples are inspiring, cover a wide range of gardening situations and can be applied to all “hellstrip” garden areas. This is a book that will help you create a paradise in unexpected places. Design your own “hellstrip” garden.

Enjoy!

This article is from the UCCE Master Gardeners of San Joaquin County.



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Pistache chinensis

Chinese Pistache

Deciduous Shade Tree

I have grown several Chinese Pistache trees over the last 20 year and love the way they perform as a long lived shade tree in our zone 9 climate, but had varying results for fall color. So this time I purchased the 'Keith Davey' variety which is a budded selection chosen for it superior fall color and seedless nature. It is also a bit smaller than the more common seedling.

Features:

Attractive umbrella like crown, lustrous leaves through the growing season.

Moderate grower to 25-40 feet tall and 25-35 feet wide.

Drought Tolerant when established.

No large surface roots, can be grown in lawn area and near sidewalk.

Tolerates a wide range of conditions. Will take moderately alkaline soil.

Benefits from regular water and pruning for the first 3 years.

Resistant to oak root fungus.

For more information on trees go to our website

cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners





*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!

Master Gardeners provide home gardeners with scientifically accurate knowledge and information based on University of California approved research. Through our hotline, our workshops, and our **community involvement**, we reach and teach hundreds of people each year.

Applications are being accepted

A **love** of gardening and commitment to give back to your community through volunteer work, plus a fee to cover **training material**, are the only requirements for joining the Master Gardeners of Colusa County.

Classes begin January and will be in Yuba City.

**Classes begin in January 14,
2015
In Yuba City.**

**Applications are due
November 7, 2014
In Yuba City.**

**Meet the Master Gardeners,
November 14, 3-4:30
In Yuba City.**



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Cooperative Extension

For more information visit our website
cecolusa.ucdavis.edu
100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa
530-458-0570



Edible Garden of the Month

Water

Water, water, water; we are never going to have too much water, we may not ever have enough. We are in a drought cycle that has been developing for thirteen years with climatologists telling us that it could continue for some time. The amount of water is going to be reduced and the cost is going to increase.

We can do things in our yards to deal with this development if we are willing to make some changes in how we view our yards. Reducing water use in our landscapes is one way to deal with water shortages.

We don't have to live with dead lawns; there are many alternatives for our yards. UC Davis Arboretum is promoting "The New Front Yard" as an alternative to a useless, high maintenance landscape. Most of the time a lawn is not functional; we don't use for anything except mowing!

The website "arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx" offers lists of low water use plants of all types that can be used in place of lawn. The challenge is to decide what you want to do instead of lawn.

There are grasses and sedges that can be used to create a sweep of green that need would need very infrequent or no mowing. One could plant a meadow of mixed grasses, sedges and flowering plants. Another alternative would be a rock garden with plants arranged around large and small rocks. Edible landscapes are yet another alternative with edible plants mixed with flowers and bulbs.

There are several websites that provide ideas and practices for conserving water

www.saveourh2o.org Save our Water is sponsored by the Dept. Of Water Resources

www.ecolandscaping.org Advocates ecologically responsible landscapes

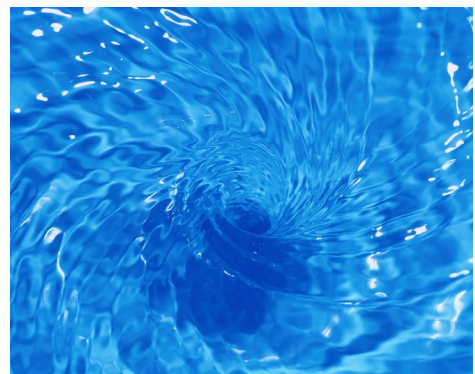
www.calflora.org Information about California native plants with links to nursery availability and other resources

www.cnps.org California Native Plant Society database of California natives with information about their characteristics and horticultural uses.

Of course another resource would be the UC Master Gardeners:

http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners/

John Vafis



Smart Gardening Practices

LANDSCAPE FOR LESS WASTE

1. Select appropriate plants.
Choose plants to match your micro-climate.
Right place, right plant.
Replace sheared hedges with natural shaped plants.
DO NOT PLANT INVASIVE PLANTS www.cal-ipc.org

Benefit: Plants thrive, reduce waste, reduce fire hazards and save time.

2. Keep plant debris on site.
Grasscycling is putting the grass clippings back into the lawn. When you use a mulching mower, you are Grasscycling.
You can produce mulch (mulch is a protective covering left on the ground) from plant debris. An example is leaf litter.
You can also compost (compost is a mixture that consist largely of decayed organic matter) plant debris from your yard and kitchen.

Benefit: Reduces waste, saves time, puts nutrients back into the soil, and produces healthy plants.

3. Prune selectively and properly.
Pruning should complement the natural form.
Strengthen the structural integrity of the plant.
Prune at the proper time of the year.
Do not top a tree. Thin the branches out.

Benefit: Healthy plants and less waste to the landfill.

4. Water and fertilize wisely.
Watering and fertilizing wisely prevents excessive growth. Most lawns in California need very little fertilizer!

Benefit: Less waste and more time to enjoy your garden.

5. Use salvaged landscape items.
Don't throw away material.
Broken concrete, called urbanite, can be used.

Benefit: Less waste to the landfill.



Recipe of the Month

World's Best Cookies

1 cup (2 sticks) butter
1 cup granulated sugar
1 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
1 egg
1 cup oil
1 cup oats
1 cup crushed corn flakes
1/2 cup shredded coconut
1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
3 1/2 sifted flour
1 tsp salt
1 tsp vanilla

1. Cream together butter and sugars until light and fluffy.
2. Add egg, mixing well.
3. Add oil, mix well.
4. Add oats, cornflakes, coconut and nuts, stir well.
5. Stir in vanilla, mix well.
6. Form into balls the size of walnuts.
7. Place balls on ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten with a fork dipped in water.
8. Bake cookies for 12 minutes at 325 degrees.
9. Allow cookies to cool on the cookie sheets for a few minutes before removing.
10. If desired, sprinkle the warm cookies with granulated sugar.

Yields 8 dozen cookies

Recipe courtesy of
Williams Nursery



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

October in the Garden:

What 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.

What 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.
- 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.
- 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....

Hotbed—Small enclosed garden bed, having a transparent covering, in which the soil is heated.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Monday October 27 at 6:30pm
- St. Stephens church, 642 5th St, Colusa

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 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.

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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.

