



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

A Garden Runs Through It

In This Issue:

December 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

“Ask the MG” Information Table Locations:

Mark your 2015 calendars

Winter Fruit Tree workshop
Saturday January 10, 1-3pm

Rose Pruning workshop
Saturday January 24, 1-3pm
(Date change)

Our Blog



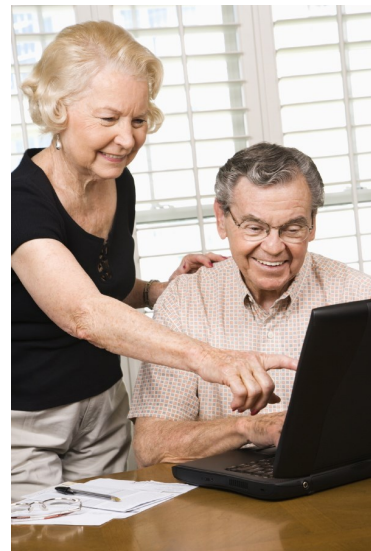
Frequently Asked Question

Dear Neighbor,

We are always looking for ways to serve the residents of Colusa County better.

- Please click on this link for a workshop survey.
<http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=14144>
- We have a website. [Click here.](#)
- We have a Facebook page. [Click here.](#)
- Of course, we have this newsletter.
- **We now have a blog.** The blog will be one topic at a time. Right now we are going to send it out once a week. This gives us a chance to communicate in a timely manner. One of the best features of a blog is that you can leave comments. [Click here to read it and subscribe.](#)

Your UCCE Master Gardener of Colusa County



Winter Fruit Tree workshop

When: Saturday, January 10, 1-3pm

Where: Davis Ranches, 7681 Sycamore Slough Rd, Colusa

- **Winter is a busy time for your fruit trees.**
- **Come and learn about planting, pruning, and spraying for insects and disease.**
- **This workshop will include hands on demonstrations.**
- **Free workshop**



Rose Pruning workshop

When: Saturday, January 24, 1-3pm

Where: Colusa County Fairgrounds, Grandstand area

- **Learn how to prune your hybrid tea and grandiflora roses.**
- **Bring your pruning shears, loppers, saws and gloves.**
- **This is a hands on workshop. Learn by doing!**
- **Free workshop**



Your Edible Garden

Edible Gardens Hidden in Plain Sight

Penny and I recently visited Disneyland (just the two of us-no kids to tend to) and discovered some magic that had been hidden in plain sight. We had the luxury of time to admire the landscaping and while in Tomorrow land realized we were looking at cabbage, red peppers, hedgerows of clipped kumquats, espaliered apples, sheared rosemary, and a plethora of other edibles. Even over in California Adventure along a small hillside were rows of grapes. These edibles are blended seamlessly into the landscaping and take some effort to recognize. After some research I found that the Disneyland complex has a team of over 150 gardeners that tend the grounds (mainly after the park is closed) and practice water wise practices in addition to the edible plantings.

David Dennis



2015 Calendar available now



UC MASTER GARDENERS OF COLUSA COUNTY 2015

Each month features:

- A beautiful color photo
- Tips and ideas
- What to plant each month

On sale now for \$10, they are a great gift for gardeners and clients.

Calendars are available at UCCE Master Gardeners of Colusa County events or at our office.

- Colusa Craft Show

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Have A HOLLY, Jolly Holiday Season

During the holiday season we are often looking to our gardens for plant materials that speak HOLIDAY to us and HOLLY does that for me. Growing holly bushes in your yard can add structure and a splash of color in the winter and a lush, green backdrop for other flowers in the summer.

Planting Holly Bushes

The best time for planting holly bushes is in either the spring or fall. The relatively low temperatures combined with higher rainfall will make settling into the new location much less stressful for the holly bush.

The best location for planting holly bushes is in well-drained but not dry, slightly acidic soil in full sun. That being said, most hollies are very tolerant of less than ideal locations and will grow well in part shade or dry or swampy soil.

When growing a holly bush for its bright berries, you need to keep in mind that most holly varieties have **male and female plants** and that only the female holly shrub produces berries. This means that in the location where you would like to plant a holly bush with berries, you will need to plant a female variety and you will also need to make sure that a male variety is planted nearby. Instead, you can also try to find holly varieties that do not need a male plant in order to produce holly berries.

The initial care of holly bushes after they are planted is much like other trees and shrubs. Make sure that your newly planted holly bush is watered daily for the first week, twice a week for a month after that and, if planting in spring, once a week for the remainder of summer.

Growing Holly Bushes

The care of holly bushes after they are established is easy. Fertilize your holly bushes once a year with a balanced fertilizer. They do not need to be watered in normal conditions, but if your area is experiencing a drought, you should give your holly bushes at least 2 inches of water per week.

When growing a holly bush, it also helps to mulch around the base of the holly shrub to help retain water in the summer and to even out the soil temperature in the winter.

Proper care for holly shrubs also calls for regular pruning. **Pruning your holly bushes** will ensure that they keep a nice compact form rather than becoming leggy and scraggly. Pruning during the winter holiday season, allows the use of the holly in arrangements or perhaps even as wreaths. However, pruning is not recommended if it is freezing weather, as a deep frost may weaken the plant.



What to read this Month

Connecting with Gardeners

The UCCE Master Gardeners have a blog. [Click here to subscribe and read it.](#)

One of the most widely used features on the Internet would be “blogs.” The word “blog” was coined in 1999 when it was used as a corruption of the word “weblog.” A weblog is type of online diary where writers express whatever thoughts they have on a topic or their life, for that matter. The word “weblog” was used jokingly in a weblog as “we blog”. Shortly after the term “blog” came to be used as a verb and a noun. And the person writing the blog became a blogger. Today, there are over a million blogs on the Internet! Obviously, there are bloggers for every conceivable topic.

In this era of social networking on the Internet it is not surprising that most blogs invite a comment or a response from the readers. Conversations and exchanges can take place with folks that share an interest. It is often possible to subscribe to a blog and have it sent to you via e-mail or, at least, to receive a notification that something has been added.

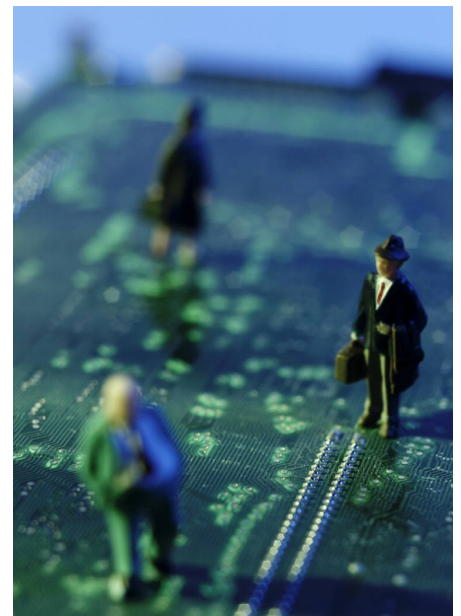
It should be no surprise that there are hundreds of blogs related to gardening. Clearly the blogs will vary greatly, and it is a challenge to find one that you would want to follow. There is actually an annual Garden Bloggers Conference that has published a list of links to gardening blogs that are the most popular. <http://garden-bloggers-conference.com/lists-of-top-garden-blogs/>

Their list also includes other writer’s list of blogs as well.

Another connection to gardening blogs that is in a way more useful than the one above would be: <http://6ftmama.com/the-best-garden-blogs-of-2013/> It is more useful because it gives some information about the blog that helps in deciding whether or not to read the blog at all.

A search on Google for “garden blogs” gets 444,000,000 results! The top results are lists of various groups or publications selections of “best” garden blogs.

So if you have time to spare, explore these lists. You might find a writer who educates you, inspires you, or amuses you.



Need a gift for the Holidays?

- Garden books are a great gift!
- The University of California has great gardening books.
- Want a discount? You bet! Get 10% off with this code – **PRCLU6** when you check out.
- anrcatalog.ucanr.edu
- What books are available?
 - Healthy Roses, #21589
 - Home Orchard, #3485
 - Landscape Pest ID cards, #3513
 - Songbird, Bat and Owl Boxes, #21636
 - Drip Irrigation for the Home Landscape, #21579
 - Oaks in the Urban Landscape, #3518
 - and more...



Smart Gardening Practices



Preparing for a frost

Before a frost

Identify cold spots in the landscape by monitoring with thermometers

Identify plants at risk: citrus, succulents, tender perennials, tropical and subtropical plants.

Have supplies ready: sheets, blankets or frost cloths, lights, wraps for trunks, thermometers, stakes or framework to hold covers off foliage. Frost cloths come in different weights that can provide 4 to 8 degrees of protection. Because the frost cloth allows some light and air to penetrate, it can stay on plants for a few days at a time. Frost cloth can lie directly on plant foliage.

Prepare tender plants: avoid fertilizing and pruning after August to minimize tender new growth.

Rake away mulch to allow soil to warm up during the day and radiate heat into the plant at night.

MONITOR weather forecasts and note how low temperatures will be and for how long.

Local frost: clear, dry nights, usually warms during the day.

Hard freeze: temperature inversion or Arctic front, can last for days or weeks, are very damaging.

When a frost is forecast

Move plants to a warmer spot next to the house or under a patio cover, especially on the south side.

Check that plants are well watered because dry plants are more susceptible to damage, and moist soil retains heat better than dry soil.

Cover plants before sunset to capture ground heat radiating upward at night. Remove sheets, blankets and other covers daily if it is sunny and above freezing to allow soil to absorb heat.

Add heat by using outdoor lights: hang 100 watt drop lights or holiday string lights to interior of plant. Use the old C7 or C9 large bulbs, not new LED lights which do not give off heat. Old style holiday lights that give off heat can provide up to 3 degrees of protection. Use lights, extension cords, and multi-outlets or power strips that are rated for outdoor use and grounded (3-prong). Avoid connecting together more than three light strings in a line.

Wrap trunks of tender trees if a hard freeze is expected, using towels, blankets, rags, or pipe insulation. Also wrap exposed pipes the same way.

Harvest ripe citrus fruit. Generally both green and ripe fruit are damaged below 30 degrees, but there is some variation by species.

Thank you, UC Master Gardeners of Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties for the information.

Recipe of the Month

Cranberry Walnut Pie

Prep time: 15 mins Total time: 1 hr Serves 8

Ingredients

1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust

2 cups fresh cranberries

1 cup whole walnut halves

¼ cup brown sugar

1 egg

1/3 cup butter, melted and cooled

½ cup flour

Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F.

Wash and drain cranberries.

Mix cranberries, walnuts and brown sugar.

Combine egg, butter and flour.

Beat well.

Spread on top of cranberry/walnut mixture.

Bake 45-50 minutes.

Recipe from www.food.com



Cynthia Peterson and Barbara Scheimer

December in the Garden:

* **Shop:** Plants and seeds make awesome holiday, hostess and mystery gifts

* **Plant**

Bare-root roses

Bulbs

Camellias

Cyclamen

Hellebore

Living Christmas trees

Bare-root fruit and landscape trees

* **Maintenance**

Adjust your irrigation

Protect citrus and other sensitive plants

Apply dormant spray

Add mulch to beds

Divide perennials

Throw out fallen rose leaves

Catalogs are arriving to get you excited about what to plant next year. You might want to consider removing some lawn area and creating a new planting bed to make room for all the new plants in the catalogs.



Science word of the Month....

Ethylene—A plant hormone that regulates ripening and flowering; ripening fruit and damaged plant tissues give off large quantities; used artificially for many purposes, including ripening and coloring of certain fruit.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

Next meeting in January.

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.

