

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Making a Difference for California



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

A Garden Runs Through It

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In This Issue:

February 2015

- ♦ Book of the month— *Plants in the Getty's Central Garden*
- ♦ Ornamental Plant of the Month— *Hardenbergia comptoniana*
- ♦ Edible Garden of the Month— Artichokes
- ♦ Recipe of the Month— Baked Lemon Chicken
- ♦ Smart Gardening Practices—Soil
- ♦ February in the Garden
- ♦ Garden club activities

[Our Blog](#)



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:

Farm Bureau

Master Gardener Dessert Auction
March 5

Plant Clinic

Griff's Feed and Seed, Colusa
April 3, 10-3pm

Colusa County Family Fair

Colusa Fairgrounds
April 11, 10-2



Garden Advice at the Colusa County Children's Services Family Fair

Bring your children and grandchildren to the Family Fair. There will be lots of great activities for the kids.



- April 11, 10-2pm, Colusa County Fairgrounds
- UCCE Master Gardeners of Colusa County will be making "Chia" heads once again.
- While the kids are making their "Chia" head you can "Ask Us" your gardening questions.



UCCE Master Gardeners of Colusa County

Plant Clinic and Garden Resource Information

Where?

Griff's Feed and Seed
7th and Fremont
Colusa



When?

Friday April 3
10 am to 3 pm



What?

- **NEW** – Need to re-pot a plant? Bring your plant and a pot and we will help you re-pot it!
- Bring a sample of your plant problems
- Get answers to gardening questions
- Save water in your garden and landscape



Book of the Month

John and Diane Vafis

The Plant Recipe Book

by

Baylor Chapman

Here is a recipe book of a very different sort. These directions are for container gardens of stunning displays. The 100 recipes each have a fullpage color photo and are organized by types of plants, such as succulents, African violets or orchids, which are suitable for containers.

Of course, the basics are also covered: tools, soil, container types, watering needs and ingredients, but the inspiration and beauty are on each recipe's double page spread. Even if you do not ever plant a container, there is so much pleasure in just turning the pages.



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Welcome to the days of *Hardenbergia comptoniana*

Here we are at the end of January and outside our south facing windows waits my gorgeous *Hardenbergia* - *Hardenbergia comptoniana*, an Australian native was named for Franziska, Countess von Hardenberg, sister of Baron Carl AA von Hugel, a 19th century Australian patron of botany. *H. comptoniana* belongs to the Papilionaceae family. According to Botanary, this family name is from the Latin papilio (butterfly), after the shape of the pea and bean flowers.

When most of the rest of the yard is still sleeping this amazing plant starts a 4-5 week show of sweet pea shaped flowers on vines that will grow to the size you want them to be. If it gets too rambunctious just whack it back. Mine gets full sun in the spring and then doesn't mind a bit of afternoon shade later in the summer. We also planted them on the fence at the PG&E substation on Market Street here in Colusa. They are thriving and will move along the fence to mask the industrial yard behind it.

It is also known as coral pea, native lilac vine, wild sarsaparilla and wild wisteria and has a twining vine that can take off if you aren't paying attention but responds to the pruning shears quite well. It received regular water while young and now has very low moisture requirement after about six years. Once it is established, it can take quite a bit of dry weather if grown in light shade. Feed a well balanced fertilizer every two to three months.

Pruning can be done after blooms fade. For a thicker vine, prune the vine only where it twines around itself. It is important to note that this vine will scramble across the ground and wrap itself around other plants. Keep a watchful eye out for this tendency.

There are cultivars which have more shrub-like growth habits such as the *H. violacea* 'Mini Haha'. Blooms appear from winter through spring in a variety of colors including white, pink and various shades of purple.

Plant one in an area that needs some early color and just enjoy the evergreen beauty of this "hardy" bergia!!



Edible Garden of the Month

Artichokes

To me, artichokes look like they are out of the Dinosaur era. They are a big, course, fern-looking plant. The plant is a beautiful silver grey color and will fit into any landscape. Yes, you can mix artichokes in with your flower beds. Just keep in mind they need sun.

In the Sacramento Valley:

- Needs sun but some afternoon shade is good.
- Can be purchased at a Garden Center in the spring as “bareroot”.
- They are water-wise and only need a need to watered thoroughly once a week.
- Perennial plant in the Sacramento Valley.
- The buds are what we eat.
- If you don’t want to eat them, let them continue into a thistle-like flower.
- This plant is so versatile.
 - It’s beautiful as a landscape plant
 - It has edible buds.
 - The flower is commonly used in floral arrangements.



Recipe of the Month

Baked Lemon Chicken with Mushroom Sauce

Quick and easy dinner for 6. Serve over rice or noodles and add a salad or vegetables side dish.

Ingredients:

6 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

Salt and pepper

1 T. olive oil

1 lemon

¼ cup butter or margarine

3 cups fresh sliced mushrooms

½ cup chicken broth

2 T. all-purpose flour

1 T. chopped fresh parsley



Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Lightly salt and pepper the 6 chicken breasts. Place the chicken in an 8x8 or 9x13 baking dish that has been coated with the 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Squeeze the juice of ½ lemon all over. Slice the rest of the lemon and place one lemon slice on top of each piece. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 to 40 min. to cook through and brown.

In a large skillet, melt the ¼ cup butter or margarine. Add the sliced mushrooms and cook until they are brown and have exuded their juices, about 6 minutes. Sprinkle with the flour and blend. Add the chicken broth, stirring to make a creamy sauce. Add fresh parsley at the last minute. Spoon the sauce over the lemon baked chicken breasts. This is a versatile dish that you can bake or brown in a skillet and then cover to complete cooking time.

Smart Gardening Practices

NURTURE THE SOIL

1. Grasscycling
 - A. Did you know that grass clippings have 4% nitrogen. By putting the clippings back into the lawn you are using less fertilizer.
2. Mulch Regularly
 - A. Mulch is any material spread over the soil. It can be leaf litter, bark or rocks
 - B. You need 2-4 inches at all times to suppress weeds
3. Feed Soils Naturally
 - A. Add a thin layer of compost to your soil
 - B. Feed turf by topdressing with compost instead of commercial fertilizer
 - C. Apply compost 2-4 times a year to your plants instead of commercial fertilizer
4. Minimize the use of Chemical Pesticides
 - A. Many pesticides are toxic to microbes and other soil dwelling creatures, worms are great workers and we need to keep them alive
 - B. If pesticides are needed chose the least toxic first. Always read the label
 - C. Learn IPM www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

Benefit:

Conserve water
Enhance plant growth
Suppress weeds
Improve the appearance of your garden



February in the Garden:

In the Garden

Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell.

Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts.

Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight.

Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials.

Mulch 3 inches deep around plants (without touching stems) to conserve soil moisture.

Plant in vegetable garden by direct seeding: radishes, beets, chard, and peas.

Start tomato, pepper and eggplant seeds indoors.

Flowers to transplant or direct seed: snapdragon, candytuft, larkspur, coral bells, and stock.

Plant bulbs for summer bloom: dahlias, begonias, gladiolus, lilies, etc.

Plant potatoes

Pruning:

Finish pruning roses.

Prune summer blooming shrubs now.

Pest and Disease Control

Watch for aphids on spring blooming bulbs; remove with a strong spray of water.

As the weather warms prepare to battle slugs and snails with traps or pet-friendly baits.



Science word of the Month....

Respiration—The controlled process in cells in which carbohydrate is biologically broken down (oxidized) and energy is released.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Next meeting Monday, February 23, 6:30pm
- 642 Fifth St. (St. Stephen's Episcopal Church)

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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Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-0096.

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.

