

**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

*Making a Difference for California*



Cooperative Extension, Colusa County  
P.O. Box 180, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite E  
Colusa, Ca 95932  
530-485-0570 530-458-4625 fax  
cecolusa.ucanr.edu  
mgcolusa@ucanr.edu

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

# A Garden Runs Through It

This newsletter is  
produced by:

**Gerry Hernandez**  
Master Gardener  
Coordinator

**Luis Espino**  
Advisor

**Luis Espino**  
County Director

## In This Issue:

March 2015

- ♦ Book of the month— *Garden Styles*
- ♦ Ornamental Plant of the Month— *Clivia*
- ♦ Edible Garden of the Month— Snap Beans
- ♦ Recipe of the Month— Tangy Apricot Walnut Chicken
- ♦ Smart Gardening Practices
- ♦ March 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](mailto: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



## Book of the Month

### Garden Styles

By Kathleen S. Dickason

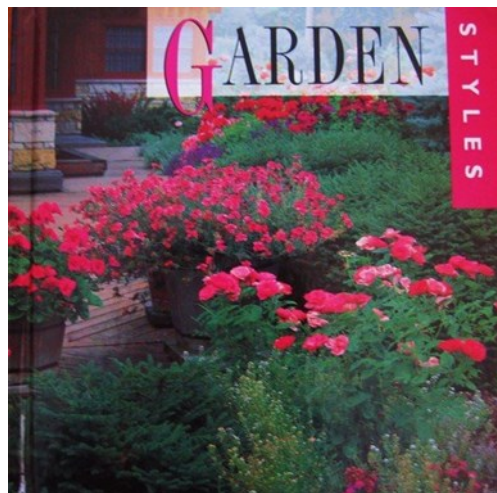
If you have a space that is or can be a blank canvas and you are looking for ideas as to what style of garden you might like, then this book will be of use to you.

The author begins with a chapter on general gardening practices and planting methods and follows with ten chapters covering Cottage Gardens, Country Gardens, Natural Gardens, Foliage Gardens, Fragrant Gardens, Habitat Gardens, Rock Gardens, Shade Gardens and Water Gardens. At the end of each chapter is a list of suggested plants with descriptions and photos which can be helpful.

At the back of the book are a Directory of Garden Suppliers (of little or no use to Northern California Gardeners for it covers the entire United States and has no local businesses) and an Index of Plants (of some use).

Garden Styles (ISBN: 0-7853-1685-X) was published in 1996 by Publications International.

**David and Penny Dennis**



# Ornamental Plant of the Month

## **Clivia miniata**

I am anxiously awaiting once again the blooms of my long time potted Clivia, also known as Kieffer Lily.

Research tells me that the Clivia is a member of the amaryllis family, with its showy and striking blooms, most often bright orange, or the Belgium hybrids have very wide strap like leaves with yellow to deep red-orange blooms.

- The flowering period ranges from early winter to mid-spring.
- They do best in shade, used in borders with azaleas, ferns, and other shade plants. However, my Clivia loves being pot bound, and continues to bloom, bloom, and bloom each year.
- Frost hardy to 30-25 F degrees, and does best with regular fertilizing and watering.



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

### **BEANS**

The most widely planted bean type are the snap beans (string bean and green beans). Plants grow as self-supporting hushes (bush beans) or as climbing vines (pole beans).

- Most beans thrive in heat and sun.
- Sow seeds as soon as the soil is warm.
- Easy to grow from seeds.
- Moisten the soil thoroughly before planting, then do not water again until seedlings have emerged. Once growth starts, keep the soil moist.
- Control aphids, cucumber beetles, spider mites and whiteflies. Row covers help with insect control on bush beans. Hosing down the plant helps with aphids and yellow sticky traps help with whiteflies.
- Pick snap beans by nipping them off with your thumbnail as seeds begin to swell inside the pods.
- Read your seed packet for lots of information!





## Recipe of the Month

### Tangy Apricot Walnut Chicken

Spicy brown mustard and apricot preserves make this dish tasty and easy to prepare. Slightly undercook zucchini, as it will continue to cook a bit after you remove it from the heat.

#### INGREDIENTS

2 Tbl Butter

4 Chicken breasts (small), boneless and skinless

1 Onion (small) quartered and sliced

1/3 cup Apricot preserves

1/4 cup Lemon juice

1 1/2 Tbl Spicy brown mustard

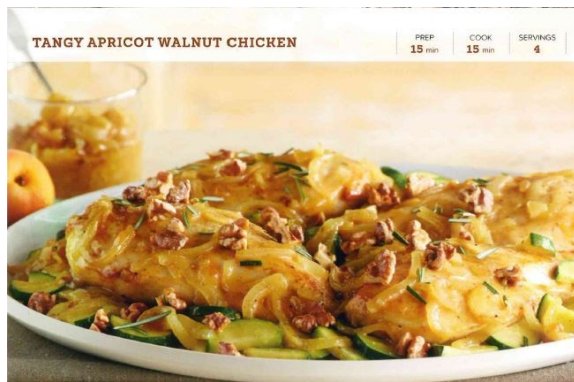
1/2 tsp Garlic salt

2 Zucchini (small), sliced

1/2 cup California walnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped

Fresh Rosemary, chopped

Freshly ground pepper to taste



#### DIRECTIONS

Melt butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat.

Add chicken and onion. Cook until chicken is lightly browned and onions are softened.

Add preserves, lemon juice, mustard, garlic salt and zucchini.

Cook over medium heat for 5 more minutes or until chicken is cooked through and vegetables are still crisp but tender.

Sprinkle with walnuts and rosemary. Season with pepper and serve.

Serves 4

Recipe from the California Walnut Board, [www.walnuts.org](http://www.walnuts.org)

Submitted by Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

# Smart Gardening Practices

## CONSERVE WATER

### 1. Create drought resistant soils

By incorporating 2-4 inches of compost into the soil you will increase the water holding capacity of the soil

Topdressing compost around plants will reduce water needs but not up to the plant base.

*Space @ the base.*

Mulch all exposed soil to reduce evaporation with bark, leaf litter or rocks

Benefit: Reduced water usage

### 2. Grow California or Mediterranean natives

Check out the UC Arboretum All-Stars

Plants thrive with little irrigation

Planting in the fall allows the roots to grow without competition

Irrigate until established

Minimize high water use ornamentals

Benefit: Reduce watering, trimming, fertilizing and spraying

### 3. Minimize the Lawn

The use of native groundcovers, grasses, shrubs and trees make an eye catching garden

Reduce the size of the lawn and plant Tall fescue.

It is a cool season grass that does well in summer. Most cool season grasses need a lot of water to look good.

Avoid slopes

Benefit: Conserve water, energy and labor

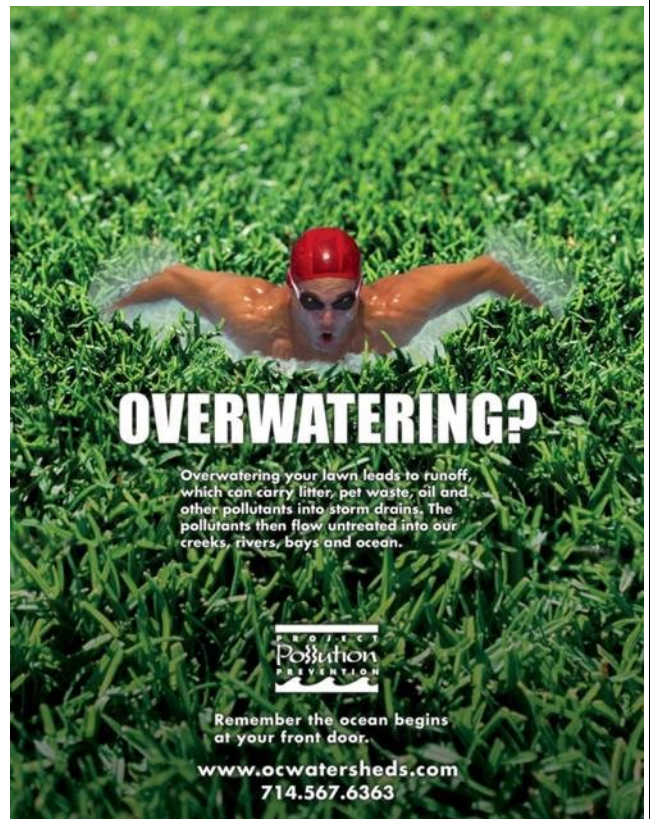
### 4. Hydrozoning

By grouping plants together by water and light needs plants tend to be healthy

When you group your plants together by water and light needs then you can properly water each micro-climate

Use California natives

Benefit: Healthy plants, conserve water and less pruning



## 5. Irrigation System

Use an automatic controller on your irrigation system

Use drip for your flower beds

Replace old sprinkler heads with high efficient ones. If your system is over 10 years old check out the new sprinkler heads at your local garden center

Use multiple run times if you have a lot of run-off before the timer shuts off. For example; you should irrigate every other day for 20 minutes but after 15 minutes the water is running off the lawn. Instead run the system for 10 minutes, wait 1 hour and run for another 10 minutes. This works especially well on slopes.

Benefit: Limit evaporation and run-off, disease, weeds

## 6. Irrigate according to the season

Know your watering needs (use the can method for turf)

Adjust watering to the season, use chart in Lawn Watering brochure

Water early

Water slowly

Water deeply

Benefit: Appropriate watering slows plant growth, promotes plant health, reduces pruning and mowing, it is estimated that overwatering causes 85% of all landscape problems

## 7. Make every Drop Count

Mulch

Repair leaks and broken sprinklers

Reduce overspray areas

Adjust the system frequently to the season

Benefit: Conserve water, save money, urban landscape water use can be reduced by 50%



## March in the Garden:

- Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance.
- Fertilize roses, annuals flowers, and berries with slow-release fertilizer when spring growth begins.
- Fertilize citrus and deciduous fruit trees.
- Watch for aphids on new growth on the roses; spray with a strong spray of water to remove them, or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray.
- Prepare garden beds by incorporating compost before planting spring vegetables. You can plant lettuce, carrots, and cilantro directly in the vegetable bed. Mid-March is a good time to plant potatoes.
- You can plant canna, gladiolus, and crocosmia for summer blooms. Early in the month you can still plant bare-root trees and shrubs if the garden center still has any.
- Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil. It is still early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers (although you could try late in the month if it is still warm.) Nights should be above 55°.
- Prune and fertilize spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they finish blooming.
- Fertilize the lawn with a slow release fertilizer.
- Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small.
- Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them.



## Science word of the Month....

**Slip**—A cutting from a plant, usually softwood or herbaceous, used for propagation or grafting.



## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

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

## 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 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.

*The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994: service in the uniformed services includes membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services) in any of its programs or activities. University policy also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person in any of its programs or activities for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment or for using or participating in the investigation or resolution process of any such complaint. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.*

*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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

