

**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@ucdavis.edu

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

# A Garden Runs Through It

## In This Issue:

April 2013

This newsletter is produced by:

**Gerry Hernandez**  
Master Gardener  
Coordinator

**Luis Espino**  
Advisor

**Chris Greer**  
County Director

- ◆ Frequently Asked Question
- ◆ Book of the month— *Week by Week Vegetable Gardener's Hndbk*
- ◆ Ornamental Plant of the Month— Wisteria
- ◆ Edible Garden of the Month— Nitrogen
- ◆ Recipe of the Month— Cherry Berries on a Cloud & bonus recipe
- ◆ Weed of the Month— Dandelion
- ◆ Pest of the Month— C. C. scale
- ◆ April in the Garden



## 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:

### Family Fair

Saturday April 6 -10am-2pm  
Colusa County Fairgrounds

### Arbuckle Family Action Center

Monday April 8, 9-10am  
812 King St., Arbuckle

### Tribal Health Fair

Thursday April 11, 10am-2pm  
Indian Community Conference room

### Drip Irrigation Workshop

Saturday April 20, 9am-11am  
Colusa County Fairgrounds

### May Surprise

Saturday May 4, all day, 10th & Parkhill, Colusa



## We need your Help!

The Master Gardeners of Colusa County are developing workshops for the 2013 year. We need your help in determining what workshops to conduct.

Please log on to the attached survey and tell us what you would like to see.

Click on this link

<http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=10337>

Thank you for your help



## Book of the Month

# Week-by-Week Vegetable Gardener's Handbook

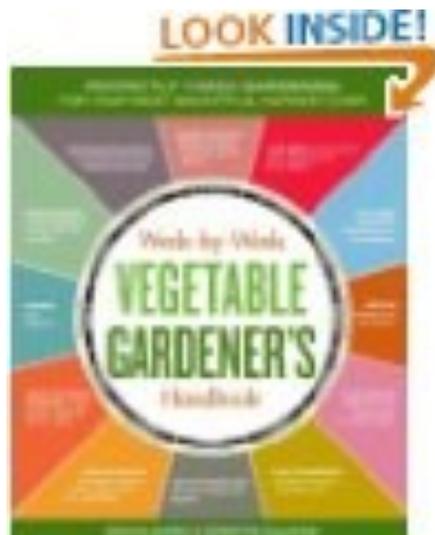
by Ron Kujawski and Jennifer Kujawski.

Published by Storey Publishing ISBN 978-1-60342-694-7.

While not a "California only" book it contains some great info in a very easy to access format.

At \$10.17 for Amazon and \$5.00 for non-Amazon book sellers it looks to be good value buy and just in time for Spring planting.

**David and Penny Dennis**



# Ornamental Plant of the Month

## Wisteria

Papilionaceae

Deciduous Vines

Nothing announces spring in our area like the long purple blooms of Wisteria. I walked out into my back yard to get a closer look at the lush blossoms and at once I smelled the sweet fragrance as well. The soft green leaves will come after the bloom is finished.

Our 5 year old vine is *w.sinensis* Cooke's Special and it has bloomed from the first year it was planted, and now reaches the entire width of our 10' X 12' trellis that frames and shades our kitchen window that faces west.

It is important to train your vines when young to establish a good frame. For a single-trunk specimen rub off buds that develop on the trunk and pinch back side stems and long streamers. If your vine is on a trellis be sure it is a strong one as they will get very heavy with age. Take care to train the vines the way you want them to look, this plant will be around for many years to come.

The main yearly pruning is done in the winter: cut back or thin out side shoots from main stems and shorten to 2 or 3 buds the flower-producing spurs that grow from these shoots.

In the summer we do light pruning and cut back the long streamer to keep it from taking over the house and becoming a tangled mess.

Now would be a good time to visit the nursery and see the wide range of colors available from pure white, pink and many shades of purple. Be sure to choose a cutting-grown or grafted wisteria, seedlings may not bloom for many years. I have been watching one seedling and it has not bloomed for 15 years. Each variety of Wisteria has special features and bloom quality.

Wisteria will tolerate some shade and does not need to be fertilized. It is not fussy about soil but in alkaline soil, watch for chlorosis. Pests are not a problem and bees and butterflies are attracted. This vine is a wonderful way to add height and vertical interest in the garden.

### Sherry Maltby



## *Edible Garden of the Month*

### **NITROGEN: IT'S ESSENTIAL**

Diane Vafis

It's that first number on the fertilizer package, and your vegetables need it to grow. When leaves have enough nitrogen, photosynthesis goes like gang-busters. So if leaves are yellowing and plant growth is slow in good weather that may well be the sign of nitrogen deficiency.

Plants which are chow-hounds for nitrogen include corn, tomatoes, lettuce, squash, cucumbers, cabbage and also your roses. Organic compost does contain nitrogen, but it may not be enough for these heavy feeders. A cover crop, such as alfalfa, clover or peas, planted in fall or early spring and turned into the ground, could provide most of the nitrogen needed by the planting that follows it.

Organic amendments can also provide nitrogen. Here are some commonly used nitrogen sources:

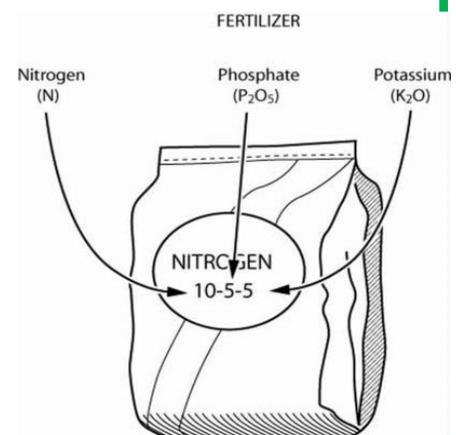
**Composted manure:** Animal manure is a great source of nitrogen and organic material, but because raw manure can burn plants and contain weed seeds and pathogens, compost it in a hot pile or age it six months.

**Poultry manure:** If fresh, it is "hot" with ammonia. Till it in four months ahead of planting or compost it first. A pelletized composted manure is available commercially.

**Blood meal:** Fast acting, potent and easy to find, but it can burn young plants. Dilute it with water to use.

**Fish emulsion:** A very fast-acting liquid –and pretty stinky. Drench the soil with a solution of it every month or so.

**Alfalfa meal:** Also encourages beneficial microbes, but it decomposes rapidly, generating heat, so do not use it in planting holes or where it would contact fragile roots. Scratch it lightly into the surface.



## Weed of the Month

### Dandelion

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), also known as lion's tooth, puffball, blowball, and monk's head, is a major problem in turf, ornamental plantings, meadows, pastures, and alfalfa. The genus *Taraxacum* consists of about 40 species worldwide, but only two are found in California. *Taraxacum californicum* is found in mountain meadows and *T. officinale* is found as a weed throughout California.

Dandelion was introduced from Europe and has been used as a potherb and medicinal plant since Roman times. It has a high vitamin and mineral content. Mature leaves are often dried and used to make a mild tea. Roots are often used to make stronger tea or dried and used for various medicinal purposes including a mild diuretic. Salads, beer, and wine are also made from the leaves and flowers.

#### ***Home Landscapes***

In the home landscape, dandelion plants can easily be grubbed out, especially when they are young. Dandelion knives and similar specialized tools are available for removing individual weeds and their roots while minimizing soil disturbance. Control dandelion plants before they set seed to reduce the potential for further invasion by this weed. Also, landscape fabric can be used to control this weed.

#### ***Turfgrass***

No single control procedure has been successful in controlling dandelion in turfgrass. Early grubbing of new seedlings has been successful when practiced diligently. These plants must be dug up regularly for several years to be successfully eliminated. Spot spraying isolated plants with glyphosate can be helpful, but the turfgrass is killed, leaving open areas. Overseed the open spots to establish a vigorous turf sod. The preemergent herbicides commonly used to control crabgrass in turfgrass have not been successful in limiting germination of dandelion. However, a relatively new broadleaf preemergent herbicide, isoxaben, has been effective but, like all preemergent herbicides, must be applied to the soil before the dandelion seed germinates.

For more information [click here](#)



## Recipe of the Month

Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson

### Cherry Berries on a Cloud

6 egg whites  
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 3/4 cups sugar  
2 packages (3 ounces each) cream cheese, softened  
1 cup sugar  
2 cups of whipping cream, whipped  
2 cups of miniature marshmallows  
Cherry-Berry topping (below)

Heat oven to 275 degrees. Grease an oblong pan, 13x9. Beat egg whites, cream of tartar, and salt until frothy. Gradually beat in 1 3/4 cups sugar. Beat until very stiff and glossy, about 15 minutes. Spread in prepared pan. Bake 60 minutes. Turn off oven and leave meringue in until cool, about 12 hours or overnight. Mix cream cheese with 1 cup sugar and vanilla. Gently fold in whipped cream and marshmallows. Spread over cooled meringue. Refrigerate 12 hours or overnight. Cut into serving pieces and top with Cherry-Berry topping.

#### Cherry-Berry Topping

Stir 1 can (1pound 5 ounces) cherry pie filling and 1 teaspoon lemon juice into 2 cups sliced fresh strawberries or 1 package (1 pound) frozen strawberries, thawed.

I would substitute cherry pie filling and use blueberry pie filling and Mix with strawberries for a 4th of July dessert.



# Mushroom and Barley Soup

serves 6

This is a basic recipe that can be adapted in many ways. Beans, peas or cut up asparagus as can be added. Include family favorites and make this easy recipe your own!

3 tablespoons olive oil

1 cup carrots, peeled and diced

1 cup red onion, diced

2 stalks celery, diced

1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves

1 pound shitake mushrooms or any mushrooms, sliced

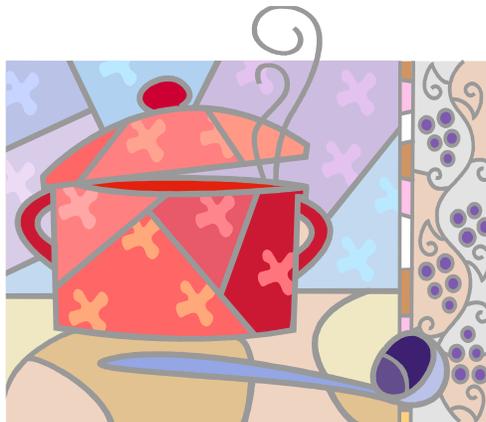
8 cups chicken stock

1 cup barley

Salt and pepper to taste

Heat the oil in a stock pot over medium heat. Add carrots, onion, and celery. Cook until tender. Stir in stock, mushrooms and barley. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste.

THE ART OF REAL FOOD, J. Neft and L. Kenny



## Pest of the Month

# Cottony Cushion Scale

Cottony cushion scale, *Icerya purchasi*, can infest a number of woody ornamentals and certain crops. Common hosts in California are citrus, cocculus, nandina, and pittosporum. Its cottony egg sac and profuse honeydew production make cottony cushion scale easy to spot in the landscape.

### DAMAGE

Like other scales, cottony cushion scale decreases the vitality of its host by sucking phloem sap from the leaves, twigs, branches, and trunk. Feeding can result in defoliation and dieback of twigs and small branches when infestations are extremely heavy. Heavy populations can severely reduce the yield of citrus trees. Like soft scales, cottony cushion scale excretes honeydew, which is usually accompanied by blackish sooty mold growth and ants.

### MANAGEMENT

Unless disrupted by insecticides, dust, or ants, natural enemies provide excellent control of cottony cushion scale. An exception is on *Cocculus laurifolius* (laurel-leaf snailseed or laurel leaf cocculus); it is often highly infested with cottony cushion scale, especially when grown away from the coast, because scale-feeding vedalia beetles avoid this plant.

For more information [click here](#)



## April in the Garden:

### What to plant?

- In a shady spot early in the month you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses.
- You can plant dahlia tubers and transplant most perennials.
- As temperatures warm (nights consistently over 55 degrees) you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.
- You can still plant seeds of cilantro, carrots, leaf lettuce, radishes, beets and chard. (Cilantro will go to seed quickly as the weather warms up.)
- In the flower garden you can plant seeds for cosmos, aster, larkspur, nasturtium, salvia, verbena, and zinnia.

### Things to do:

Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring.

Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants.

Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. The leaves restore the bulb; so wait to remove them until they turn yellow. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal.

Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.

Watch for early signs of aphids and diseases in the roses, particularly after it rains (if it rains.) Remove aphids with a hard spray of water. Spray a fungicide to control black spot, rust, and other common rose problems.



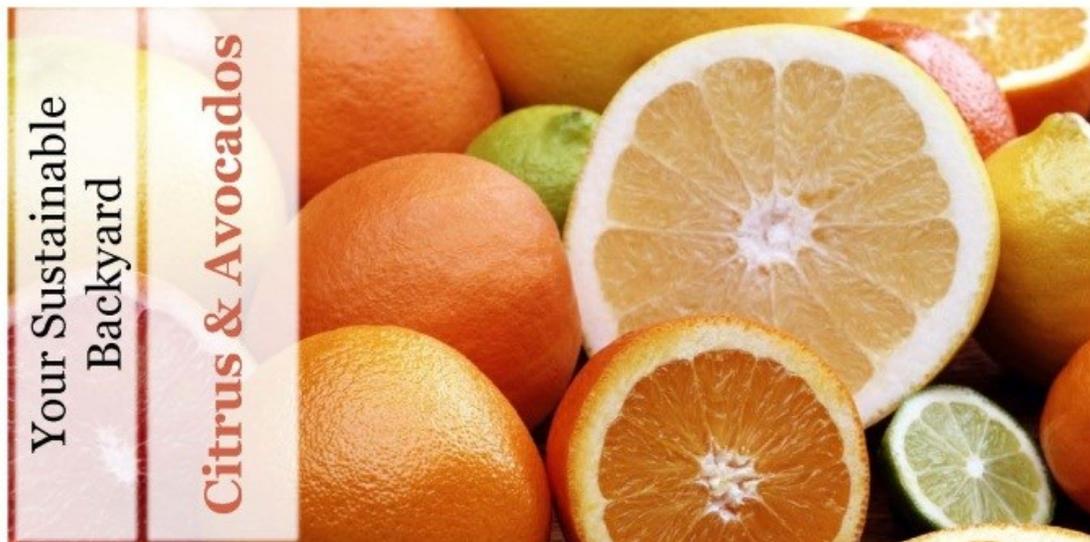
### Science word of the Month....

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

## Citrus workshop at UC Davis, April 13, \$20

[Click here to register](#)

There are 4 locations, if you are going to DAVIS, please click on DAVIS



### Agenda

8:30-9 AM	Check-in <i>Please pick up your nametag, folder and enjoy a cup of coffee.</i>
9-9:15 AM	Welcome Dave Fujino, CCUH, UC Davis Pam Geisel, Statewide Master Gardener Program
9:15-10 AM	Citrus Varieties for the Home Garden Ed Laivo, Four Winds Growers <i>(Presenting at UC Davis)</i> Tom Spellman, Dave Wilson Nursery <i>(Presenting at Huntington &amp; UCR)</i>
10-10:50 AM	Citrus Pruning & Maintenance 101 Pam Geisel, Statewide Master Gardener Program
10:50-11:05 AM	Break
11:05-11:55 AM	Asian Citrus Psyllid, An Introduction Matt Daugherty, Department of Entomology, UC Riverside
11:55-12:40 PM	Lunch
12:40-1:30 PM	Asian Citrus Psyllid, Monitoring and Treatment Matt Daugherty, Department of Entomology, UC Riverside
1:30-2:15 PM	Avocado Varieties for the Home Garden Ed Laivo, Four Winds Growers <i>(Presenting at UC Davis)</i> Tom Spellman, Dave Wilson Nursery <i>(Presenting at Huntington &amp; UCR)</i>
2:15-2:30 PM	Break
2:30-3:15 PM	Avocado Pruning & Maintenance 101 Ben Faber, PhD, Farm Advisor – Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties
3:15-4 PM	New Avocado Pest Alerts! Ben Faber, PhD, Farm Advisor – Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

Rose Day at UC Davis, May 4-5, Free

For more information [click here](#)

*Your Sustainable Backyard*

**ccuh**  
CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR  
URBAN HORTICULTURE  
UC DAVIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Master Gardener  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

# Roses

*An 'Eyeconic' Weekend*

Free Open House event!

*'Eyeconic' rose sale with a free mini floribunda rose as supplies last!*

*Tours of stunning 8-acre rose collection from 12:30-3:30 PM.*

*Informal programs for all experience levels, no registration required.*

**May 4-5, 2013**  
**10 AM - 4 PM**  
Foundation Plant Services  
UC Davis

Event Information Online at <http://ccuh.ucdavis.edu>



## 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.**

