



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

A Garden Runs Through It

In This Issue:

January 2015

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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)

MGCC Blog



Frequently Asked Question

Dear Master Gardener,

Help, we bought a bare root tree at the nursery, now what do we do?

Your neighbor

Dear Neighbor,

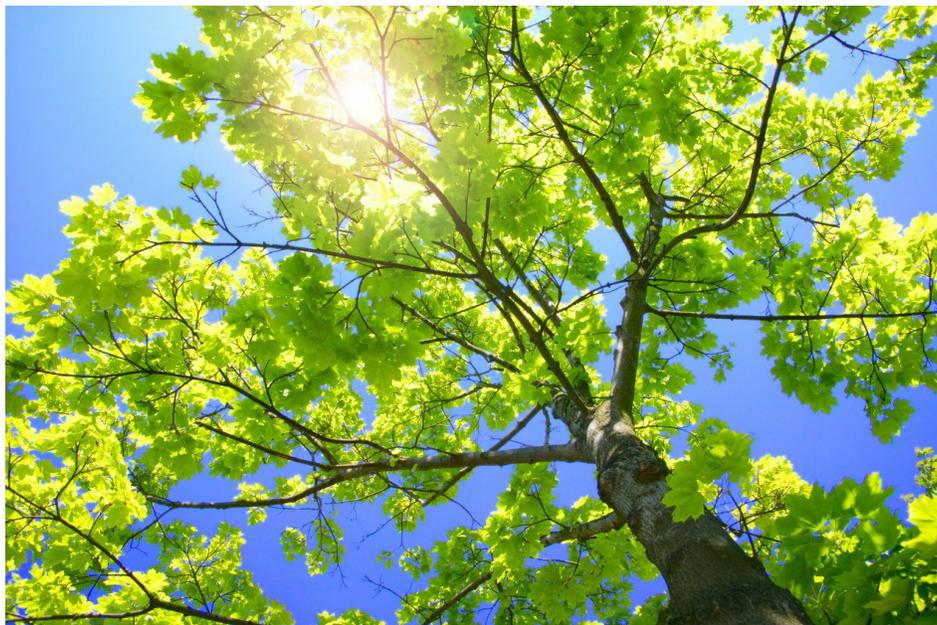
No matter if it's a fruit tree or landscape tree you will treat it the same for planting, staking and initial pruning.

[Click here](#) to see lots of valuable information.

For fruit tree specific pruning, pests and disease [click here](#).

Come to the Winter Fruit Tree workshop on Saturday January 10 from 1-3 for tips on planting, staking and pruning. Located at the Davis Ranches, 7681 Sycamore Slough Road, Colusa.

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

Homegrown Plants from Seed

The seed-starting season is upon us. The tempting catalogs are arriving in the mail with all kinds of tempting photos of new and old plants. Raising plants from seed has huge benefits. Your choices can be overwhelming, but much greater than what you will find at the garden center. One can grow plants from seed for less than purchasing from most garden centers, but it's not without challenges. The key to growing robust plants from seed is maintaining the right balance of light, temperature, soil, nutrition and water.

The causes of seedling problems are basic:

- poor light causes legginess and pale color and inadequate nutrition, poor soil and/or improper watering can all cause poor growth and weakness. This matters because weak seedlings have a higher mortality rate and are slower to establish, while robust seedlings look better, fill out faster, and yield more flowers and fruits sooner.
- Good growing light is most essential because too little causes long, spindly, pale growth and too much causes foliar burn. Gardeners lacking a sunny conservatory or greenhouse should choose the next best thing, a light table. And for high-grade seedlings refrain from window-growing; even south-facing -window-light is rarely uniform or strong enough for robust growth. A growing table fitted with broad spectrum shop lights will do a much better job.
- Put the light stand in a warm and sunny room. You can build a stand from a variety of materials or buy a prefabricated grow table.
- Use standard 48-inch shop lights which can cover two flats of seedlings. Use high-intensity fluorescent bulbs for good growth.
- Keep the seeds and seedling 2-3 inches from the bulbs. Fixtures hung from chains make it easy to adjust the lights as the plants grow.
- Harden off your seedlings before planting outdoors. Slowly move the seedlings from indirect outdoor light to full exposure over seven to ten days. Increase exposure time by two hours every two days.



- Use a good seedling mix as your growing medium. Plant seeds shallowly, large seeds ¼” deep and smaller seeds should be lightly covered.
- Most seeds will thrive at room temperature. Warm-season plants like tomatoes and peppers germinate faster at warmer temperatures. A seedling heat mat will improve success with the warmth lovers.
- Avoid over-watering the seeds and young seedlings. Water gently until mix is moist, but not soggy. Once plants develop multiple leaves, more water can be applied. Monitor the plants as they grow, but be careful not to over-water. Slight wilting is better than rot and ruin.
- Do not apply fertilizer until the seedlings have developed true leaves (the second set of leaves). Use a fertilizer meant for seedlings and apply lightly.
- When the threat of frost has passed, incrementally introduce your flats of plantlets to the great outdoors. leaves.) Use a fertilizer meant for seedlings and apply lightly.

John and Diane Vafis



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Abutilon

FLOWERING MAPLE

Malvaceae

EVERGREEN AND DECIDIOUS SHRUBS

I was visiting one of my favorite nursery a few days ago and I had to stop and admire all the Abutilons that were blooming in many colors, from dark red to light yellow. I have grown one hybrid in my zone 9 yard for over 5 years now and it's always a bright spot in the winter garden. I have it where it gets some protection from the hottest afternoon sun.

They can get large 8 to 10' and can get a little rangy if you don't keep them pruned back each year. But growth habits vary widely by variety, so do your home work and you will be happy with this shrub for many years to come.

Features:

Attractive evergreen foliage.

Blooms come in many colors and look like bells or lanterns.

They like moderate to regular water.

Attract Hummingbirds and Butterflies.

Prune back hard in the spring for bushier plants.

Plant in Partial shade in hot areas.



Sherry Maltby

What to read this Month

Landscape Plants for California Gardens

Bob Perry

The goal of this book is two-fold. One goal is to provide a comprehensive illustrated reference of plants commonly grown throughout California. The other is to provide information that helps conserve water use in landscapes and gardens.

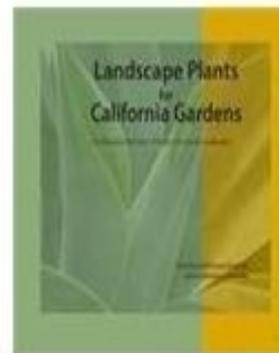
The first goal is met with an Illustrated Plant Compendium with written descriptions of more than 2,100 plants that are illustrated with over 3,100 color photographs. The second is addressed by providing information on California Plant Climate Zones and the estimated water needs of plants.

This is a beautiful book that serves well as a reference and as source of new ideas if you just browse through it (be forewarned, if you crack this book open looking for specific information don't be surprised if you find yourself much farther along the garden path looking at an entirely different subject).

There are many similarities between Landscape Plants for California Gardens and Sunset Western Garden Book but I believe their relationship is more of companions rather than competitors.

ISBN 0-960-5988-5-5 Land Design Publishing
List Price \$87.50

David and Penny Dennis



Smart Gardening Practices

CONSERVE ENERGY

Plant Trees

Plant trees to the west of your home.

Select evergreen trees for a windbreak. Especially if you live in the countryside.

Plant large trees at least 20 feet from the foundation.

For more information: www.pge.com

Benefit: When properly placed mature trees can reduce your inside temperature by 20 degrees.

Shade paved areas

Driveways and paved areas are huge sources of heat.

Choose trees with root systems that do not sucker or damage the surface.

Benefit: Patios and cars are more comfortable, cooling cost may be lowered.

Shade the air conditioner

Benefit: Reduced utility cost

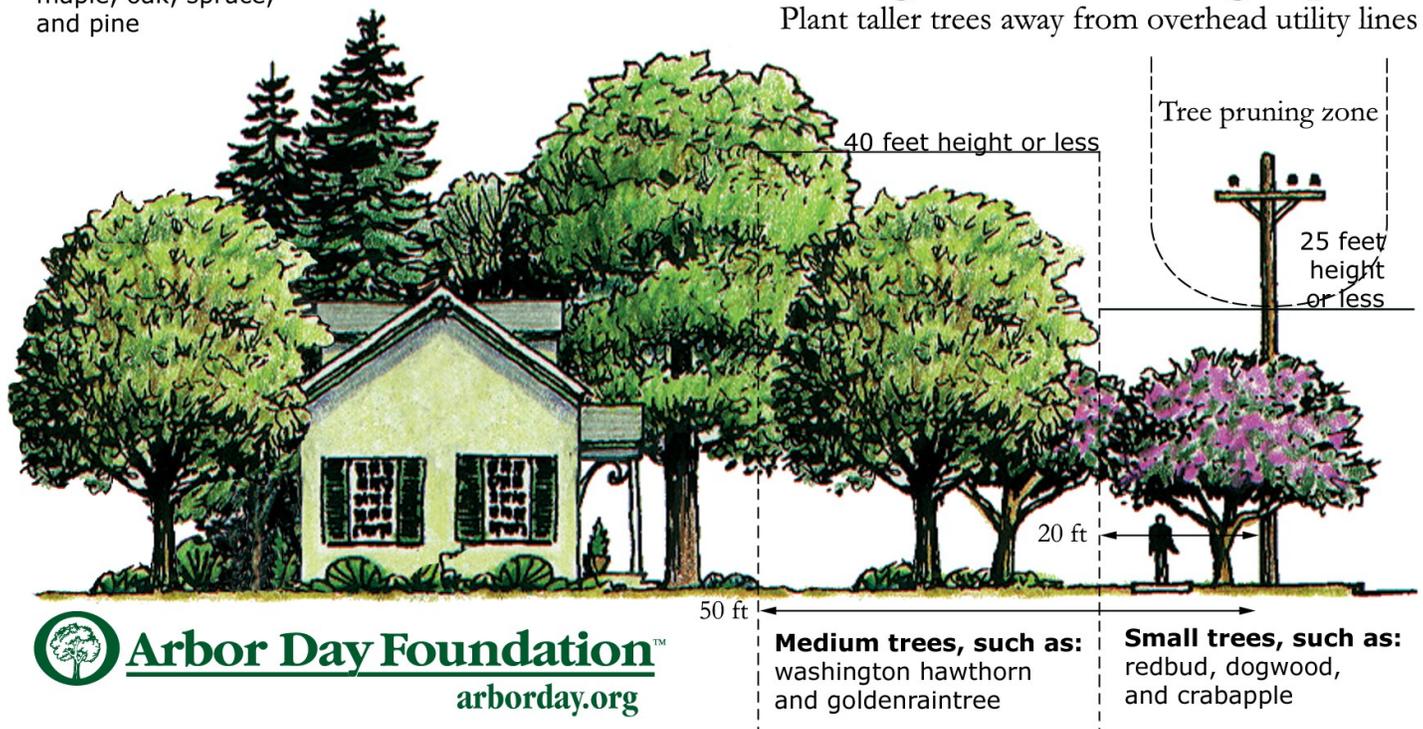
Fall/Winter is the best time to plant many trees.

This gives the tree time to develop it's roots before it leafs out.

Tall trees, such as:
maple, oak, spruce,
and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



Recipe of the Month

Apple Walnut Muffins

1/2 cup butter flavored Crisco
1/3 cup sugar
2 eggs
2 cups grated apple
1 3/4 cup flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Beat Crisco and sugar together until light and fluffy.

Beat in eggs, one at a time. Stir in apples.

Sift dry ingredients together and stir into mixture above. Stir only until dry ingredients are wet.

Stir in nuts. Put muffin papers into muffin pan and spoon batter into papers. Fill each paper 1/2 full.

Bake at 400 for 20 minutes. Serve while warm.

Makes about 12 muffins.

Lemon Apple Bread

1/4 cup butter or margarine
2/3 cup sugar
2 eggs, slightly beaten
2 cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp baking powder
3/4 tsp salt
2 cup coarsely shredded, peeled apples
4 tsp grated lemon peel
2/3 cup chopped nuts

Cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

Beat in eggs until blended.

Mix dry ingredients together and add to creamed mixture alternately with apple, blending well after each addition.

Stir lemon and nuts into above mixture. Turn into greased and floured loaf pan..

Bake at 350 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pan to rack to cool completely.

Cynthia Peterson and Barbara Scheimer

January in the Garden:

In the Garden:

Plant rhubarb, strawberries, and cane berries. Plant seeds for broccoli, cabbage, parsley, turnips, peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach.

This is the time to plant bare root roses, trees, artichoke crowns, grapevines, and other vines.

You can still plant pansies, violas, snapdragons, and fairy primroses.

Plant gladiolus every 2 weeks for a succession of blooms.

Later in the month you can divide Shasta daisies, daylilies, chrysanthemums, and other perennials.

NOTE: Beware of digging in soggy soils. All plantings should be well-drained; the new plants might rot if soil is soggy.

Pruning:

Roses, fruit trees and other perennials can be pruned this month.

Do not prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom.

Prune berry canes that bore fruit last year to the ground.

Prune grapevines back, leaving 2 to 3 buds per side shoot.

Pest and Disease control:

Spray horticultural oil on pruned fruit trees to control scale, mites and aphids. Thorough coverage will kill over-wintering eggs.

Later in the month, spray neem oil on roses to control mildew, rust, and black spot. Do not apply oils unless there will be 24 hours of dry weather following application.

Be sure to clean up debris (leaves and twigs) around roses and fruit trees to help prevent disease.

Order seeds for this year's vegetable and flower garden.



Science word of the Month....

Heartwood—Nonliving, often darker-colored wood toward the center of a tree trunk that is surrounded by sapwood.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Monday January 26, 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 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.

