

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

In This Issue:

October 2015

This newsletter is
produced by:

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Luis Espino
County Director

- ◆ Book of the month— Wicked Plants
- ◆ Ornamental Plant of the Month— *Clerodendrum ugandense*
- ◆ Edible Garden of the Month— Succulents and Sage
- ◆ Recipe of the Month— Pumpkin Custard Cake
- ◆ Smart Gardening Practices
- ◆ October 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
colusa@ucanr.edu

Information Booth Locations:

Pumpkin Village
Saturday October 24
10-4pm
Colusa County Fairgrounds

Arbuckle Car Show
October 25
10-2pm
Downtown Arbuckle



Want to become a UCCE Master Gardener of Colusa County?

- Yes, we will be training new volunteers in January 2016.
- The classes will take place in Orland at the UCCE Glenn County office.
- They are once a week and will start January 21 and end May 5.
- \$175 fee
- We have applications and packets in our office, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa
- Application deadline and “Meet the Master Gardeners” orientation is Thursday November 12 at 1pm in the conference room next to our office.

If you are interested please visit our website, click on “Want to be a Master Gardener”.
[cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master Gardeners](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners)

What do UCCE Master Gardeners do?

UC Master Gardeners are trained to help residents of Colusa County become better gardeners. Using a variety of activities such as workshops, lectures, social media, monthly newsletter and garden hotlines these volunteers answer questions about home horticulture, sustainable landscaping, and integrated pest management using University of California research-based information. The Colusa County program began in 2009. Currently, 20 people volunteer their time to help the people of Colusa County learn about gardening. In 2014-15 we volunteered 777 hours and made 1633 face to face contacts.





**UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County
2016**

2016 Calendar

The 2016 UCCE Master Gardener calendar is now available. You can pick it up at our office (100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa) or at one of our events or purchase it on-line.

Calendars are \$10

On-line calendars are \$13 and mailed to you.

To purchase on-line [click here](#).

Book of the Month

Wicked Plants - The Weed That Killed Lincoln's Mother and Other Botanical Atrocities

By Amy Stewart

Published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill

I love October and all things that smack of Halloween so this is a great book to get gardeners in the mood for the season. It covers a wide range of trees, bulbs, vines and flowering plants in a compact easy to read format.

Wicked Plants covers everything from ill-mannered plants (Witch Hazel ,Dwarf Mistletoe) to mass destruction weeds (Dodder, Purple Nutsedge) to dangerous flowers (Sweet Pea, Lily of the Valley) and murderous plants (Oleander, Water Hemlock).

There are some interesting histories and stories behind many of the plants covered in the book. You can read about the role that the parasitic fungi Ergot played in Salem in 1691 and how White Snakeroot killed Abraham Lincoln's mother in 1818. That is just 2 of the histories; there are so many more!

Most people know about common poisonous plants and berries and even cultivate them in their gardens without realizing the history behind them. This book sheds light on the darker side of gardening.



By Carolyn Froelich

Ornamental Plant of the Month

While working at the Butte County Fair in Gridley last month, a cut flower entry came in as “Butterfly Bush”. The judges and those from the Butte County Garden clubs all knew this wasn’t what we know as “Butterfly Bush”, *Buddleia*, but no one knew what it was. The President of the Butte District Garden Clubs, after searching through many references, found a photo in an old Sunset Garden Book. And behold, here it is. This picture is as we saw the cutting, so beautiful and delicate. I, for sure, am going to find a plant and, hopefully, will be able to propagate some for a plant sale in the future.

Clerodendrum ugandense, *Rothea myricoides*

Family: Verbenaceae

Common names: Butterfly Clerodendrum, Blue Butterfly Bush, Blue Glory Bower, Blue Wings

Origin: Tropical Africa, Kenya and Uganda

Specimen plant. Sky blue flowers looking like butterflies - unusual color for tropics. *Clerodendrum ugandense* has been cultivated in botanical gardens for almost 100 years, but has only recently been considered as flowering pot plant. It is a fast growing plant which in nature grows to 6-9 ft, but is easily kept much smaller. The irregular flowers are bright blue, in two different shades of blue and are produced more or less continuously throughout the summer and fall. Flowers have long purple anthers which bend elegantly upwards.

Grow this clerodendrum in partial shade. Water freely in growth but reduce watering in winter. Hardiness: USDA Zones 10 - 11. Performs best in a frost free climate, but it is root hardy in zones 8 and 9, freezing to the ground in winter, but returning from its roots in spring.

Prune back as needed to keep it in bushy shape. Cut back the old wood to a pair of buds to improve flowering. In areas that get frost, you can get the most consistent flowering by growing it in a large pot that can be brought indoors when temperatures approach freezing.

It has an odd scent when the leaves are brushed which may serve to repel chewing insects because it is pest free.

Submitted by:

Bernice Dommer



Edible Garden of the Month

Succulents and Sage

Edible landscape plants, a great way to mix with non edibles and look as if they have been in your garden all along. Many herbs can be mixed with dryland plants in our water conserving landscapes, providing fillers and color as well as spices for your kitchen creations.

If you are using succulents and semi-arid plants in your landscape, consider using purple basil (Siam Queen or Red Rubin) as filler, the color will contrast beautifully with many multi-colored succulents. Basil is also an thrip repellent for other garden plants you may have, but don't plant near sage, they are not friendly with each other.

There are hundreds of varieties of Salvia, the most common culinary variety of sage is a beautifully textured, mid-border plant with light green-gray color, complementing many other shades of green in your garden. I have used it in the ground and in pots with other herbs and flowers, trimming it when I needed a little in the kitchen.

Thyme is an amazingly versatile plant in the garden, as a ground cover and as a filler planting. Lemon thyme is delicious as well as colorful and deters cabbage worms, so plant as needed but keep in mind the benefits of pest deterrent. In pots with other plants, thyme is a small plant that can fill in and gracefully flow over the side of the pot.

These three herbs are just a few of the many herbs that can be used in the landscape of your garden or your containers in combination for color, texture, water wise use, and the bonus...use in your recipes.

Submitted by Diana Hatfield



Recipe of the Month

Pumpkin Custard Cake

From the Parkside United Methodist Church, Williams, CA - By Helen Maltby.

A fall favorite this cake has been made many times over the years in the Maltby household.

- 1 lg. can pumpkin
- 6 eggs
- 12 oz can of evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup of sugar (I use a little less)
- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix
- 1 tsp. cinnamon & nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
- 1 1/2 cubes of butter melted

Mix pumpkin, eggs, milk, sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Pour into a 9X13 greased pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix on top and then top with chopped nuts and then drizzle melted butter over the top of all.

Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Cool or serve warm with cool whip, whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. Keeps well covered in the refrigerator for several days.

Submitted by: Sherry Maltby



Smart Gardening Practices

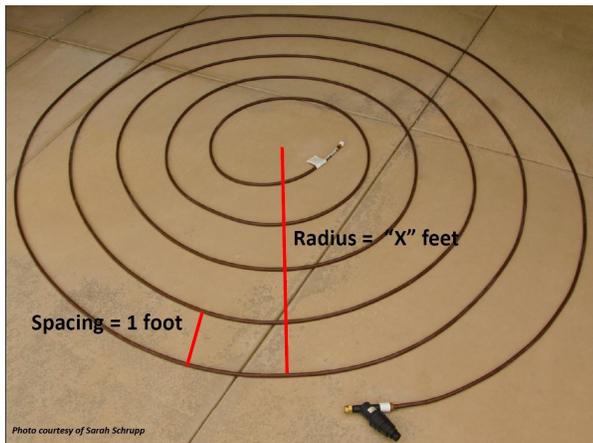
Water your Trees!

Trees are our most important garden asset. They provide shade, clean the air, provide habitat for wildlife, they are beautiful and increase your property value! Many of our trees are in lawns and many people have reduced or eliminated watering their lawns. This means many trees will slowly decline and die. Mature trees need deep watering during the dry months in order to stay healthy. A large shade tree takes many years to establish.

Trees need to be the first plant we consider saving during the drought.

As you can see in the photo below you will circle the tree with a drip line or soaker hose beneath the canopy but not at the trunk. Keep each circle one foot apart. You can purchase supplies at your local garden center or hardware store.

To get the deep watering needed for mature trees, you will need to run the line for several hours (2-3) but only irrigate every 2-4 weeks. The water needs to penetrate the soil about 2-3 feet deep.



October in the Garden:

What to plant:

- ⇒ Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, you can direct seed cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, nigella, portulaca and sweet peas.
- ⇒ If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring.
- ⇒ Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.
- ⇒ Early in the month you should buy your new bulbs and refrigerate them for six weeks before planting them in the garden.
- October is also good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. You can still rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding.
- Put your spent annuals and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile.
- Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.
- This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.
- Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present.
- If you had glads, dahlias or tuberous begonias they should be dug up and cleaned after the foliage dies. Store the corms and tubers in a cool, dry place.
- Be sure to deadhead your roses following the October bloom.
- Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin.



Science word of the Month....

Bulb—An underground storage structure composed of a short stem and overlapping, fleshy leaf bases surrounding a bud, as in onions and tulips.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- October 26, 6:30pm
- Gary Jensen from Pressed for Time
- St Stephen's church, 5th and Webster in Colusa

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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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.

