

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:

November 2015

This newsletter is
produced by:

Gerry Hernandez
Master Gardener
Coordinator

Luis Espino
Advisor

Luis Espino
County Director

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- ◆ Ornamental Plant of the Month— *Chitalpa*
- ◆ Edible Garden of the Month— Rosemary
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- ◆ Garden club activities



OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday,
9am—12pm
1pm—4pm
UCCE office,
100 Sunrise Blvd,
Colusa
458-0570

Have a question?
Email us at
colusa@ucanr.edu

[Our Blog](#)

Information Booth Locations:

Upcoming 2016 events

Fruit Tree workshop
Rose pruning workshop
Fair Garden workshop
Succulent workshop
Gourd workshop



Want to become a UCCE Master Gardener of Colusa County?

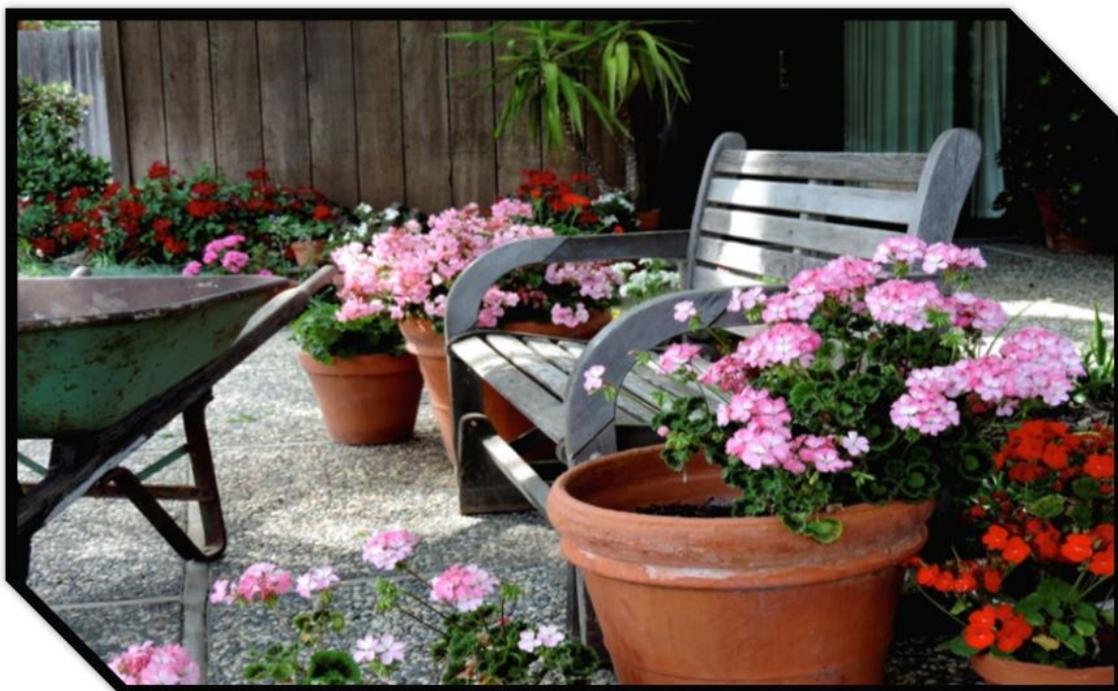
- Yes, we will be training new volunteers in January 2016.
- The classes will take place in Orland at the UCCE Glenn County office.
- They are once a week and will start January 21 and end May 5. Classes are from 3-6pm.
- \$175 fee
- We have applications and packets in our office, 100 Sunrise Blvd., 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 also available at Two Chicks Creations in Arbuckle.

Calendars are \$10

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

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

2016 Events

Fruit Tree wksp

Rose pruning wksp

Fairy Garden wksp

Succulent wksp

Gourd wksp

Watch for details in our newsletter!

Book of the Month

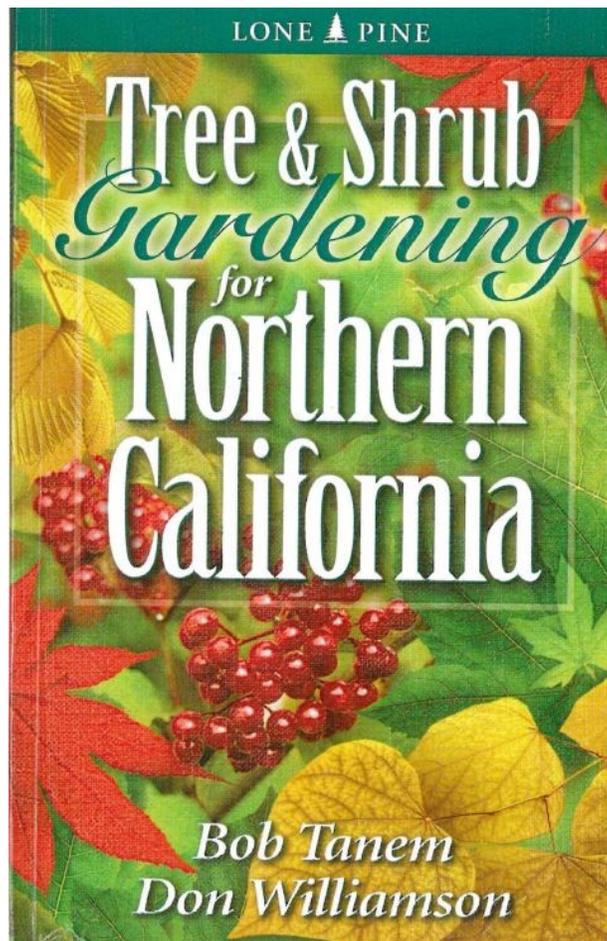
Tree and Shrub Gardening for Northern California

I am in the process of removing lawn along both sides of my driveway. In the thirty inch-wide space on one side, I will plant several small water-wise shrubs, and in the other, even narrower space, I will plant water-wise groundcover. In researching small shrubs, I consulted several books. The one that I felt might be most helpful to local gardeners was ***Tree & Shrub Gardening for Northern California*** by Bob Tanem and Don Williamson. Although they are Bay Area horticulturists, they have many recommendations for our hot, dry Sacramento valley.

The book recommends seventy-eight different species and almost four hundred varieties and cultivars with full-color pictures and information on selecting, planting and caring for trees and shrubs best suited for northern California. They are also authors of ***Perennials in Northern California*** and ***Annuals in Northern California***.

Although this book had only a few plants that met my size criteria, I would recommend it to those looking for planting larger shrubs and trees in their northern California gardens.

Submitted by Peggy Townzen



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Chitalpa

I thought this month would be a good start to introducing the communities to the new Colusa Street Tree List that goes to the council in November for approval. One of the most exciting is a really drought tolerant tree that is a cross between the old catalpa and the desert willow – we have ended up with a lovely 20-25 foot tree with magnificent blossoms, greenish tinged bark, broken shade and once established as drought tolerant as anything you might want to have around. It's really exciting to see a new tree break into the spotlight and take care of the old nuisance parts of the catalpa – no beans!! Its name is *x Chitalpa tashkentensis*.

Among the best features of 'Pink Dawn are abundant clusters of showy pale pink flowers with each cluster containing from 15 to 40 flowers. The 1 inch long flowers have a funnel-shaped throat with conspicuous purple nectar guides that line the inside and emerge to give orchid striping to the flared pink petal lobes. Flowering begins in May-June in California and continues well into late fall.

Unlike either of its parents, Chitalpa is a hybrid and is sterile and produces no messy seed pods. Additionally the flowers dry on the plant rather than fall fresh and so do not become a slick safety hazard on a walkway or patio.

So if you are looking for a new introduction to you yard and not wanting to spend a lot of our precious water – try this new hybrid cross.

Submitted by Cynthia White



Edible Garden of the Month

Rosemary – A Beautifully Aromatic Herb

Widely popular in the Mediterranean area, rosemary is used as a stunning ornamental plant and a tasty seasoning. Although the ideal qualities of the Mediterranean region may intimidate some from planting rosemary, there is no reason to be frightened; in order to flourish, this special herb does not require perfect sunshine, sea mist, and a seemingly never-ending summer.

The three primary fundamentals for a prosperous rosemary garden include 6-8 daily hours of sun, sandy well drained soil, and sufficient air circulation. In a frost-free area, rosemary will thrive year round. While not necessary, springtime fertilization will foster a great season for the plant.

But what do you assess when searching for a variety of rosemary?

1. Consider whether you want a trailing or upright growth habit.

A trailing variety requires a spacious area, while an upright growth habit is compact, and can accommodate for a small patch of land.

2. Determine your color choice.

There are three color choices when it comes down to rosemary. For instance, “Blue Lady” has blue-violet flowers and a wonderful twisted growth habit. “Nancy Howard” is another large plant, and has beautiful off-white flowers. “Pinkie”, a dwarf rosemary with small leaves, has--you guessed it--pink flowers.

3. Choose which plant has your preferred flavor.

A simple taste test is the best way to decide which variety is ideal for you. If you are looking for an herb for the purpose of cooking, you may wish to consider “Miss Jessup”, “Tuscan Blue”, or “Spice Island”; these plants all have very large leaves that hold their flavor when cooked or dried. With the monumental assortment of rosemary, you are sure to find your perfect match.

From garnishing and flavoring olive oil, to stuffing the Thanksgiving turkey, or even using it as a moth repellent in closets, rosemary is considered to be a triple-threat herb: it’s ornamental, fragrant, and delicious.



Submitted by Nancy Cutter

Tool of the Month

Nejiri Gama hoe

The nejiri gama hoe is great for close work around your plants. The offset to the blade allows you to reach under low branches with a minimum of effort and damage to the plant. They are light weight and easy to use. The fact you must get close to your work is both a plus and a minus ----- the plus is you can see what you are doing, the minus is unless you are working in a raised planter you will need to get down on your knees. For \$15 to \$20 you can get a top quality nejiri gama hoe online. Penny and I have two different brands and like both of them.

Submitted by David Dennis



Disclaimer: The UCCE Master Gardener Program of Colusa County does not recommend specific name brands. But we are showing the public what is available.

Recipe of the Month

White Bean Chicken Chili

6 chicken thighs OR 2-3 chicken breasts
2 cups chopped onions, divided
4 cloves garlic, chopped, divided
1 carrot, peeled and sliced 1/2" thick
1 large Poblano pepper, OR 4 Jalapeno peppers, OR 2 Anaheim peppers
OR 2, 4 oz cans Ortega diced green chilies
remove seeds and chop or slice
1 red bell pepper, remove seeds and chop in 1/2" pieces
2 tablespoons olive oil or butter
1 28 oz can Las Palmas green enchilada sauce
1 bunch cilantro, chopped coarsely
1/2 - 1 teaspoon cumin
1 teaspoon salt
1 bag small white beans
1 quart chicken stock

Depending on the peppers available and your desired heat level, pick the best pepper or combo of peppers for you and who you are serving. Ortegans are the mildest, then Anaheim, then Poblano, then Jalapeno. Leaving the seeds IN rapidly increases heat level!

Soak beans overnight in water to cover OR use the quick cook method on the package
Drain the soaked beans, discard liquid.

Return beans to stock pot, cover with chicken stock

Add 1 cup onion, 2 cloves chopped garlic, and carrot.

Cook gently 1 1/2 hours until almost tender - no mush! If you need more liquid, add some of the green enchilada sauce. Drain beans, but SAVE cooking stock!

Set beans aside, remove the carrot if desired.

Poach the chicken thighs in the bean cooking liquid, about 30-45 minutes If you are using breasts, only cook about 20 minutes.

Remove chicken from stock, cool, remove skin and bones, Cut chicken into 1 1/2" to 2" pieces, set aside.

Saute the rest of the onions, garlic and peppers in oil or butter.

Add the beans, rest of the enchilada sauce, cumin and the cooking stock.

Simmer 30 min to blend.

Return chicken to the beans and add the cilantro. Stir very gently or the chicken will shred. Cook another 15-20 minutes

Serve hot with more cilantro as garnish

Good with cornbread!

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach



Smart Gardening Practices

Inspect your Landscape Trees for Hazards

The drought has been hard on our trees. Even if you watered your trees throughout the summer, our trees have suffered. As we have heard, it should be a wet year. This can cause our trees some problems.

November is a great time of the year to inspect our landscape trees for hazards. Most of the leaves have fallen, leaving a clear view of the tree structure. Although some tree failures are not predictable and cannot be prevented, many failures can be prevented. By inspecting trees for common structural defects, many potential failures can be corrected before they cause damage or injury.

Stand back and look at the whole tree. Thoroughly inspect the tree for defects in the following order.

Lean

Multiple trunks

Weakly attached branches

Cavities and decay

Cracks in the trunk and branches

Hanging or broken branches

Dead branches

For details and pictures, [click here](#). Pages 6 and 7 have detailed pictures.

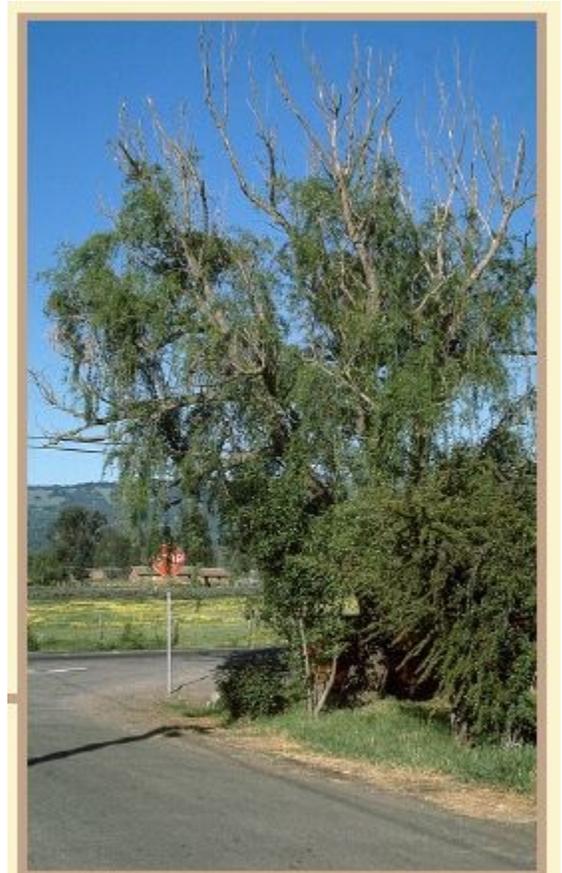


Photo: Bruce Hagen

November in the Garden:

November garden tasks:

- You can still sow seeds of wildflowers this month. Plant California poppy, calendula, clarkia, and sweet peas.
- In the veggie garden plant seeds for lettuce, mustard, spinach, radishes and peas.
- If you didn't get your new tree planted last month, it is not too late to take advantage of the fall root growth that will give your new tree a strong start in the spring.
- Look at your camellias and remove excess buds to get larger flowers.
- In the middle of the month fertilize the veggies and flowers that were planted in October.

Also, this is the time to plant the chilled bulbs, and the spring flowering tubers and corms. Clean up all the fallen/falling leaves and other plant debris and dispose of diseased materials.



Thankful

Science word of the Month....

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

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- November 16, 6:30pm
- Gretchen Howe of Richie's Florist
- 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.

