

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
colusa@ucanr.edu

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

A Garden Runs Through It

In This Issue:

December 2015

This newsletter is
produced by:

Gerry Hernandez
Master Gardener
Coordinator

Luis Espino
Advisor

Luis Espino
County Director

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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](#)

[Small gifts can make a big difference.
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Information Booth Locations:

Upcoming 2016 events

Rose pruning workshop
January 30
Fairy Garden workshop, TBD
Succulent workshop
March 31
Gourd workshop, TBD



 **Colusa County
Farm Bureau**



**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

Mark your calendars

Rose pruning wksp

Saturday January 30

Fairy Garden wksp, TBD

Succulent wksp

Thursday March 31

Gourd wksp, TBD

Watch for details in our newsletter!

Book of the Month

Great Garden Companions

A Companion Planting System for a Beautiful, Chemical Free Vegetable Garden

By Sally Jean Cunningham Master Gardener, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Rodale Press Inc.

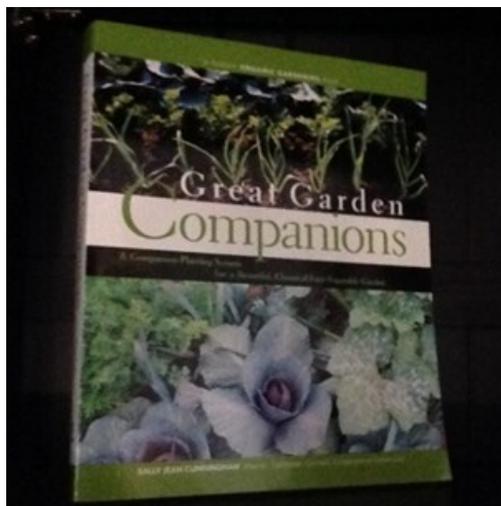
Some vegetable gardens are laid out in nice neat rows and others seem rather haphazard. I am the latter type of gardener. I like the look of nasturtiums against my tomatoes and echinacea next to the chile peppers. It turns out that is a good way to plant. The nasturtiums are shaded by the tomatoes and the nasturtiums, in turn, provide a shade mulch for the tomatoes while drawing in beneficial insects.

The message this book is conveying is that you can grow your favorite vegetables in an organic way using pollinators and beneficial insects by creating garden neighborhoods. Adding shelter and a water source increases your success. There are a lot of great color pictures showing what your garden can look like with herbs, veggies and flowers intermixed.

One chapter breaks each vegetable into “family units” and “friends” as a quick guide for a planting plan. Each vegetable includes a **growing basics** and a **problems and solutions** section. Other chapters contain charts and sketches for themed gardens. It even provides step-by-step instructions on how to repair a garden hose, build a trellis and make your own tomato cages.

I like her simple rule for choosing plant companions: Pick 1 parsley family member (parsley, dill, coriander) and 1 aster family member (marigolds, asters, sunflowers) to match up with each of your vegetable groups. It's is garden neighborhood!

Submitted by Carolyn Froelich



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Tulips

Nearly all tulips need an extended period of winter cold for best performance. In mild climates, provide the necessary chill by refrigerating bulbs for 6 weeks before planting; then treat the plants as annuals.

Climate: Most tulips do best in areas with a distinct winter chill, but even there they may be short lived.

Exposure: Tulips need sunshine at least while in bloom; they will lean toward the source of light if planting area is partly shaded. It's fine to plant under deciduous trees if the trees won't leaf out until after bloom is finished (this is a good practice in hot-summer areas).

Proper Planting: Set bulbs three times as deep as they are wide. Plant with the pointy tip up. Space 4-8 inches apart. In our warm winter region plant in December or January.



Edible Garden of the Month

Carrots

Carrots are a cool season root vegetable.

They were probably first developed in Afghanistan; the familiar orange versions were selected from yellow ones in the Netherlands around 1600.

Carrots come in many colors such as orange, purple, yellow and white. There are also long and short varieties.

The best variety to plant depends on your soil: carrots reach smooth perfection only in light-textured soil that is free of stones and clods. Plant long market kinds only if you can give them a foot of this ideal, well prepared soil. If you can only provide a few inches, plant shorter varieties. Smaller ones are perfect for containers.

How to grow carrots

Best site: A sunny location unshaded by taller plants.

Soil: Soil should be fine enough for root development and loose enough so crusting won't stop the sprouting of seeds.

Planting: Sow lightly in rows spaced at least 1 foot apart. To grow successive plantings, sow seeds when previous planting is up and growing.

Spacing: When tops are 1-2 inches tall, thin plants to 1 1/2 to 2 inches apart; then again if tops begin to crowd. If you crowd the carrots it will result in smaller carrots.

Water: Maintain even soil moisture. Alternating dry and wet conditions causes split roots.

Fertilizer: After the first thinning, work in a narrow band of fertilizer 2 inches out from the row. Too much nitrogen or manure will result in excessive top growth and cause forking of the roots.

Harvest: Begin root harvest when carrots reach finger size, usually 30-40 days after sowing. Most types reach maturity in 60 to 60 days.



Recipe of the Month

Pumpkin Curry Soup

This recipe is adapted from Libby's (R)Pumpkin

A great tasting pumpkin soup with a hint of curry!

Ingredients

2 TLB butter	1/4 tsp ground white pepper
1 cup chopped onion	3 cups chicken broth
2 cloves of garlic	1 (15 oz) can of Libby's Pure Pumpkin
1 1/2 tsp curry powder	1 (12 oz) can Evaporated milk
1/2 tsp salt (or to taste)	1 tsp garam masala spice mix (optional)

Directions

1. Melt butter in large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion and garlic; cook, stirring frequently for 2 to 3 minutes or until tender. Stir in curry powder, salt and pepper; cook for 1 minute
2. Add broth and pumpkin; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low; cook, stirring occasionally, for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in evaporated milk. Transfer mixture to food processor or blender (I use an immersion blender) otherwise you need to let it cool down a bit before blending . Blend until smooth. reheat and serve warm.

If you like a little more spice I recommend adding 1tsp garam masala spice mix. It's a blend of ground spices common in North Indian or South Asian cuisines. You can order it on Amazon if you can't find it at your local store, in the ethic food isle .

4 to 6 servings

Submitted by Sherry Maltby



Smart Gardening Practices

Tree Selection

It's that time of the year, tree planting time. Fall/winter is the best time to plant because the roots have more time to develop before warm summer temperatures arrive.

It is very important to select tree species that are suitable for the site and intended purpose of the planting. Well-chosen trees can produce many benefits, such as increased property values and energy savings, while poorly-chosen trees can be costly.

- First determine the real function of the tree. Is it for shade, wind protection, privacy, aesthetics, or architectural elements?
- Decide between a deciduous or evergreen tree. Deciduous trees drop their leaves in winter, while evergreen species retain leaves throughout the year.
- Evaluate the best location for planting. The site should have enough space for the mature height and width.
- Choose a tree based on its size at maturity. Large, fast-growing trees may not fit many residential yards, so consider small to medium size trees. Don't plant large trees under power lines or next to walkways, patios and foundations since their roots are wide spreading.
- Trees can be selected for interesting leaf/flower color and shape, bark patterns and branching characteristics.
- Select trees that are tolerant of local insect and disease problems and avoid those that are commonly susceptible.
- A large deciduous shade tree on a west or south side of the house can provide shade and reduce utility costs by up to 15%. Large trees should be placed at least 15 feet away from permanent structures.
- Trees provide a habitat for wildlife by giving shelter and providing food. Selection of a fruit or nut tree can provide spring flowers, autumn leaf color and a harvest for wildlife and humans.

When choosing a tree, research local recommendations. Mature trees located in parks and private plantings provide a realistic vision of a tree species and its characteristics.

Visit the UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County website for a list of recommended trees for our area.

cecolusa.ucanr.edu



December in the Garden:

* **Shop:** Plants and seeds make awesome holiday, hostess and mystery gifts

* **Plant**

- Bare-root roses
- Bulbs
- Camellias
- Cyclamen
- Hellebore
- Living Christmas trees
- Bare-root fruit and landscape trees

* **Maintenance**

- Adjust your irrigation
- Protect citrus and other sensitive plants
- Apply dormant spray
- Add mulch to beds
- Divide perennials
- Throw out fallen rose leaves

Catalogs are arriving to get you excited about what to plant next year. You might want to consider removing some lawn area and creating a new planting bed to make room for all the new plants in the catalogs.



Science word of the Month....

Forcing—Hastening an out of season plant to maturity or to a flowering or fruiting stage. Usually occurs in a greenhouse, where temperature, light and humidity can be controlled.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- No meeting in December

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.

