

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:

February 2016

This newsletter is produced by:

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Master Gardener
Coordinator

Luis Espino
Advisor

Luis Espino
County Director

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- ◆ Ornamental Plant of the Month— Sally Holmes Rose
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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.
Click here to support us.](#)

Information Booth Locations:

Fairy Garden workshop
Tuesday February 23, 6-8pm
Deadline to pay, February 19!
CIP Conference room

Succulent workshop
Thursday March 31, 6-8pm
\$25, paid ahead of time
Place TBD



Fairy Garden Workshop

- UCCE Master Gardener Program of Colusa County
- When: Tuesday February 23 from 6-8pm
- Where: CIP Conference room,
100 Sunrise Blvd, Colusa
- Fee: \$25 the fee includes container, soil, 3 different plants and rocks. Fairy Garden accessories are not included in the fee.
- Fee can be paid on-line, at our office or mail a check (UC Regents) to 100 Sunrise Blvd, Ste E, Colusa
- Patti from Davison's Drug will have Fairy Garden accessories available for purchase.
- In Colusa County, fairy garden accessories are available at Davison's and Fouch's.
- If you have accessories, you can use them.
- For more information, 530-458-0570.

• **DEADLINE February 19**



cecolusa.ucanr.edu

[Click here to pay on-line](#)



SUCCULENT WORKSHOP

When: Thursday March 31, 6-8pm

Where: Arbuckle, location TBD

Fee: \$25, includes container, plants and soil

If you have a shallow container (under 10 inches wide) you would like to use, please feel free to bring it.

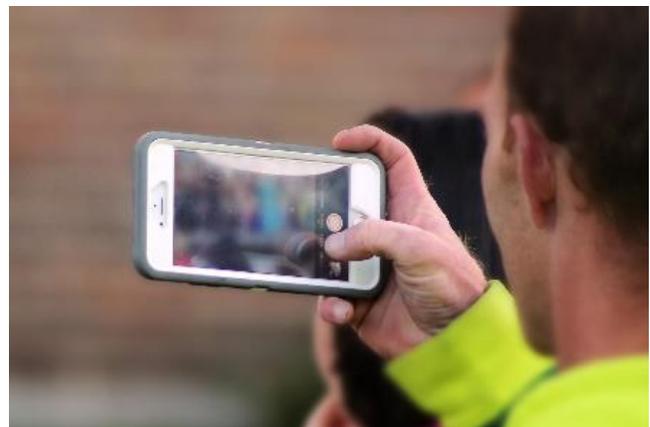
- **Learn how to group your succulents**
- **Learn how to propagate your succulents**

Deadline to sign up Monday March 21.

On-line payment will be coming soon!

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH YOUR SMART PHONE

- Learn how to take beautiful pictures with your smart phone.
- Saturday April 23, 10-noon
- Williams, TBD
- Wear comfortable shoes, we will be walking around town.
- Of course, bring your smart phone
- **FREE, FREE, FREE**



Book of the Month

The \$64 Tomato

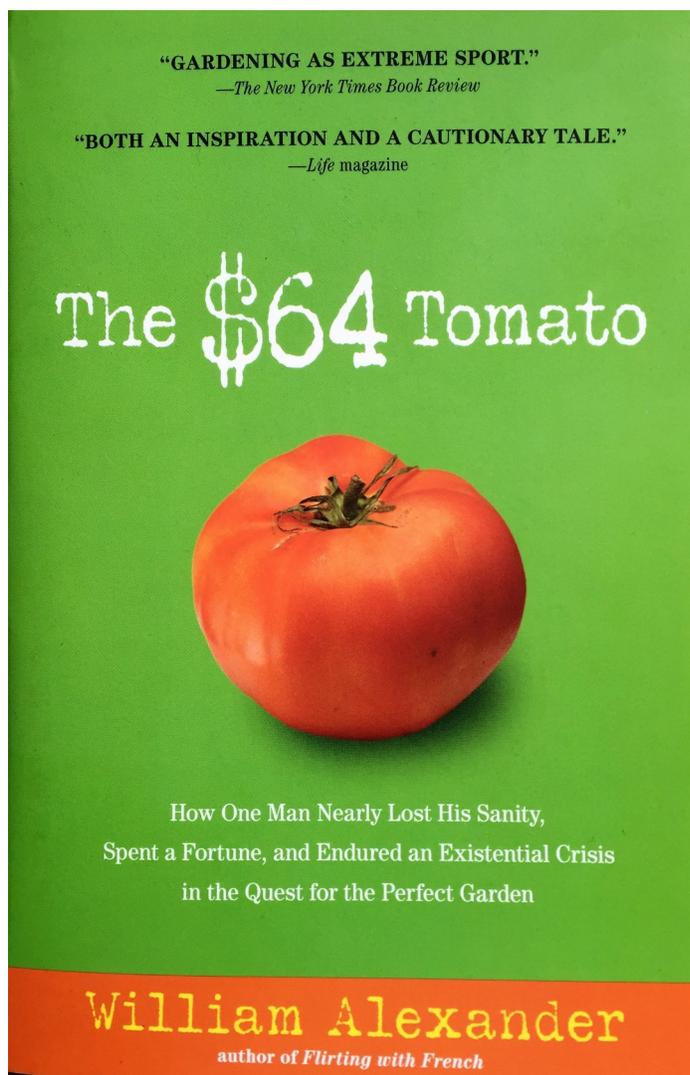
By William Alexander Published by Algonquin Books

Haven't we all planted a vegetable that we love only to find out that what should have been a seed packet investment ballooned into a life of its own?

William Alexander actually calculated the cost of growing his beloved Brandywine tomatoes. Of course it was way more than the \$3.00 investment into a seed packet.

Since he just purchased a home with 2 acres he decides that he can grow many vegetables. This is when the expenses start to add up: The land will need to be dug up (\$\$) and terraced because of the slope (\$\$). Good soil is a must so that is trucked in (\$\$). He will need to get water to the ½ acre he wants to dedicate to his vegetable garden (\$\$). You can't be a gardener without tools so he invests in the manual and mechanical tools required for the tasks at hand (\$\$). His wife thinks it needs some attractive elements so they bring in the hardscaping(\$\$).

Now just sit back and watch it grow!



Time for the deer to come in and munch away so he will need high fencing (\$\$) but that doesn't deter the ground chucks so he electrifies the fence (\$\$).

His adventures continue in this great book about an ordinary man and his quest for his favorite Brandywine tomatoes. It is an easy read and there will be something in there that everyone can relate to. It is an easy read and pretty funny.

Submitted by Carolyn Froelich

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Sally Holmes Rose still has us smiling

This morning as we were in the office cleaning up emails I looked out the window and a new rose blossom was pressed against the window sending an out of season glow!! It was our Sally Holmes climbing rose over the arbor next to the room and it keeps us smiling at all times of year. It is robust, no fear of disease and vigorous. Sally is nearly thornless so coming through the gate isn't a big threat to one's well being. One of her best characteristics is the great clusters of fragrant roses resembling hydrangea heads that linger longer than any other thing in our garden. Each flower has only 5-8 soft wrinkled petals but the way they mass makes up for smaller petal count.

Sally has large, yawning white flowers that are flushed with apricot in the spring and then take on a rosy-pink tint late in the season. She is a prolific climber reaching 12 feet if trained and is capable of weaving through rails and fences and extending through shrubs toward the sun. If she gets a bit of shade during the day at different periods she'll still thrive. You needn't dead head and the falling petals leave a carpet of white on the garden floor. If you don't have room for a climber in your yard there is also a shrub variety available. Sally isn't a new rose historically but one that will bring you smiles and oohs far beyond her thin credentials!!



Submitted by Cynthia White

Edible Garden of the Month

Grow your own Potatoes!

As a home gardener you may want to grow potatoes in a bucket or grow bag instead of the ground. The reason is 1) you don't have to dig them up, 2) if you don't get every single piece of potato, you will have them forever. If you are wanting to grow pounds and pounds of potatoes, then grow them in the ground.

I am going to talk about growing potatoes in buckets and grow bags.

First, purchase seed potatoes from a certified distributor. Seed potatoes are not seeds, they are potatoes. They are like a mother plant. Potatoes from the grocery store may have been treated with sprayed with a sprout inhibitor. Seed potatoes are best planted between mid-January to mid-March.

Next, cut the seed potatoes into pieces with at least 2 eyes each. Store pieces at room temperature for 1 to 2 days before planting to allow the cuts to form a callus.

If you are using a bucket or another container make sure there is adequate drainage. Grow bags have drainage.

In your bucket or grow bag, put about 6 inches of soil. Put in the potato pieces about 6 inches apart then cover with about 3 inches of soil.

As the leafy part of the potato grows add straw or shredded paper or even some soil around the stems.

I put my buckets on my regular drip system. Once the rain stops the buckets are watered twice a week.

Potatoes are ready to harvest when the vines die back.

Yes, it's that easy!

In Colusa County seed potatoes are available at Griff's Feed and Seed in Colusa. Griff's has red, white, gold and purple potatoes available right now. That is the only place I can find. If you know of somewhere else in Colusa County let me know.

I know this is going to sound odd, but growing potatoes makes me feel like a real farmer!

Submitted by Gerry Hernandez



Recipe of the Month

Beef Picadillo Stuffed Acorn Squash

Serves 4

1 lb ground beef

1 medium onion, chopped

1 TLB Mexican Seasoning Mix

1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon

1 can (8oz.) tomato sauce

1/3 cup raisins

1 acorn squash, quartered & baked in the oven until soft. (I cut them in half, scoop out the seeds and turn upside down in a baking pan with a little water. Bake at 350 20 to 30 minutes or until soft.

1 TLB slivered almonds

Instructions

1. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add ground beef and onion; cook 8 to 10 minutes, breaking beef into small crumbles. Drain off any fat in pan.
2. Sprinkle seasoning mix and cinnamon over beef; mix well. Stir in tomato sauce and raisins; bring to a boil. Reduce heat then cover and simmer 15 minutes. Serve over cooked squash. Garnish with almonds.

Note:

If like cheese, you can top the finished squash and ground beef with cheese and return to the oven to melt.



Submitted by, Sherry Maltby

Smart Gardening Practices

Weeds in your Landscape

It's that time of the year. It's been rainy and warm so the weeds are sprouting! I don't know about you but I very much dislike weeding the garden. Here are some tips to help you keep up with the icky weeding chore.

Weeds will invade any bare or thin area in a landscape. Prevent invasions in new beds with good soil preparation. Keep weeds out with an integrated program that includes good growing plants, mulches, hand removal and herbicides. Be vigilant about removing aggressive perennial weeds.

Prevent weeds before you plant:

- Identify the weeds present.
- Prepare the site and control existing weeds.
 - Dig out weeds or remove by hand. Follow up by irrigating and then removing the newly emerged weed seedlings.
- Solarize the soil if possible.
- If necessary, use herbicides for difficult to control weeds.
- Consider drip irrigation.
- Apply mulch!

Mulch is the key to a weed-free landscape:

- Mulches prevent weed seed germination by obstructing sunlight.
- Organic mulches are wood chips, bark chips and compost
- Natural inorganic mulches are sand, gravel and pebbles.
- Landscape fabrics are porous and long lasting.
- Black plastic is not preferred.

When weeds invade your landscape:

- Remove by hand when weeds are small and before they set seeds!
- Hoeing easily removes young annual weeds.
- Once the area is cleaned out, apply mulch.

When are herbicides necessary?

- Use herbicides, for special-problem situations before establishing new plantings or for difficult-to-control perennial weeds.
- There are general herbicides that kill all plants and specific herbicides that kill only grasses and ones that kill only broadleaf plants.
- Make sure you are using the correct herbicide at the correct application rate.
- Herbicides can injure or kill desirable plants and should be used with great care.

For more information, go to [Pests in Gardens, Landscapes, and Turf: Weeds—UC IPM](#)

February in the Garden:

In the Garden

- Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell.
- Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts.
- Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight.
- Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials.
- Mulch 3 inches deep around plants (without touching stems) to conserve soil moisture.
- Plant in vegetable garden by direct seeding: radishes, beets, chard, and peas.
- Start tomato, pepper and eggplant seeds indoors.
- Flowers to transplant or direct seed: snapdragon, candytuft, larkspur, coral bells, and stock.
- Plant bulbs for summer bloom: dahlias, begonias, gladiolus, lilies, etc.
- Plant potatoes

Pruning:

- Finish pruning roses.
- Prune summer blooming shrubs now.

Pest and Disease Control

- Watch for aphids on spring blooming bulbs; remove with a strong spray of water.
- As the weather warms prepare to battle slugs and snails with traps or pet-friendly baits.



Science word of the Month....

Crown—The point at which a plant's roots join its stem (top structure), at or near the soil line. It can also refer to a tree's entire branch structure, including the foliage.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- February 22, 6:30
- 642 5th St, Colusa
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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.

