

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:

March 2016

This newsletter is produced by:

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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.](#)
[Click here to support us.](#)

Information Booth Locations:

Succulent workshop
Thursday March 31, 6-8pm
908 Pendleton, Arbuckle
\$25, paid in advance
See flyer for details

4-H Color Run
Saturday March 12, 9-11am
Main St, Colusa

Plant Clinic
Friday March 25, 10am-3pm
Griff's Feed and Seed
Fremont & 7th St, Colusa
Bring a plant to re-pot!

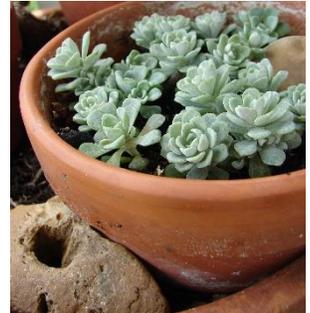
Family Fair
Saturday April 2, 10am-2pm
Colusa County Fairgrounds



SUCCULENT WORKSHOP

When: Thursday March 31, 6-8pm

Where: 908 Pendleton, Arbuckle



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 register, Monday March 21.

Pay online at cecolusa.ucanr.edu or in person (100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste E, Colusa) or mail a check to this address (made out to UC Regents).

#ColusaCountyMG



[Click here to pay](#)



Book of the Month

Square Foot Gardening

Do you have limited space for a vegetable garden or are you tired of tilling, planting, weeding and watering a large garden? I would like to suggest a book that can help you grow the same amount in 20% of the space, eliminate weeding and fertilizing and save water.

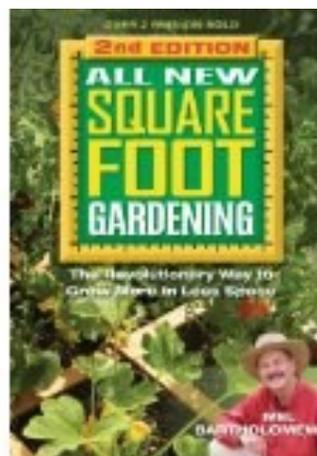
All New Square Foot Gardening: the Revolutionary Way to Grow More in Less Space is the book. The concept of square foot gardening began in 1976 when Mel Bartholomew, as a novice gardener, questioned traditional single row gardening. He came to the conclusion that row gardening is wasteful, inefficient and a whole lot of backbreaking work. There was too much soil to till, too much fertilizer to spread and too many seeds planted which then needed to be thinned.

Bartholomew experimented with shorter and shorter rows until he arrived at a twelve inch by twelve inch planting area. By preparing a four foot by four foot box and grid, there are sixteen planting areas which can each accommodate from one to sixteen plants depending on which ones. In this 2013 edition of the book first published in 1981, he teaches how to build the boxes, how to make your own planting mix out of three readily available components and how to plan, plant and care for your garden.

The new edition includes many colored illustrations and charts and all the information you need to become a successful square foot gardener. The several editions have sold over 2.5 million books and have inspired other gardening authors to write about the subject.

Published by Cool Springs Press, 2nd edition

Submitted by Peggy Townzen



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Historic Orange Trees

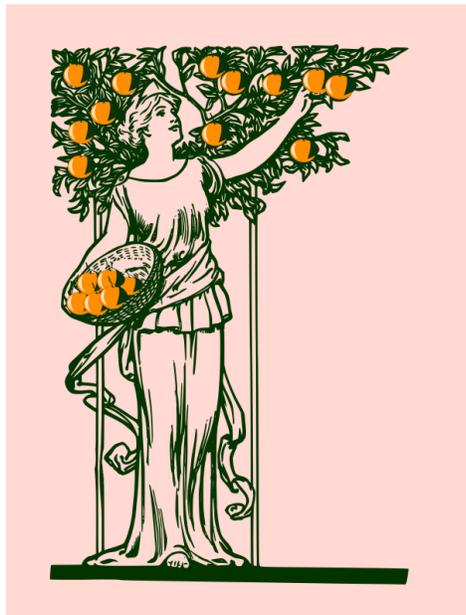
I am challenged caring for, what I have been told, historic navel oranges. During the 1920s there was a planting of a new orange orchard, often referred to as the Mills Orchard, located in the north-west of part Colusa County, which we know as Maxwell. Soon after the planting, a devastating freeze occurred, severely damaging the planting. The locals were invited to dig and take any of the surviving trees; as a result a small orchard of orange trees was developed in Goad's Extension, just east of Bridge St. in Colusa. There are still 23 of these trees flourishing on my property. As a caretaker of the orchard, I have learned that citrus must be nurtured, pruned and carefully watered. During this drought I have learned that citrus really do well with minimum watering. Unfortunately, many citrus are planted in lawn areas where they receive too much water; production of fruit is low. When you do water, do not water close to the trunk of the tree, but out around the dripline of the tree. This is where the roots take up their moisture. Last year, during the drought, I removed the duff under the trees, and applied mulch around the dripline, helping to reduce evaporation of moisture.

I have also learned that ants are the best friend of the scale insects, warding off beneficial parasites. I do not use insecticides, but have overcome ant invasion with the use of ant sticks, or, my favorite, boric acid powder. Dust the powder very lightly around the base of the tree and where ever you see evidence of ant movement. The ant will not walk through a heavy layer of the powder, so it must be very light. The boric acid powder can also be combined with water with a light addition of sugar to attract the ant, and sprayed around the tree, on the tree trunk and branches. Trust me, being diligent will produce success.

Presently, I am pruning the upright water spouts, often called suckers, which can reduce the vitality to the established growth. Also, I am pruning to keep the interior of the tree open to light. There is lots of new growth, and evidence of bloom developing, so pruning right now is important.

Since I value the historical trees, the type of navel variety unknown, I really nurture my trees and I encourage all citrus tree owners will do so too

Submitted by Bernice Dommer



Tool of the Month

Nobi-Nobi Telescoping Long Arm Pruner

The Nobi-Nobi telescoping long arm pruners are packed with features not found with most long arm pruners on the market today. This pruner offers a free stop handle for use at any length through its easy lever action. The sub-grip offers stability to the user and can be adjusted along the shaft for user comfort and reach. Its light weight aluminum alloy handle is strong and durable. The pruner comes equipped with cut-and-hold grips for harvesting fruit or to hold branches to bring down to ground level, which can be removed if desired. Telescopes from 70"-117". **Please note: due to the long length and special packaging requirements, this item has an addition \$6 handling fee.

Our Price: \$144.95

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

Whipped Cream Cake

This recipe comes from the back of the Producer's Dairy heavy cream container. The cake is lovely, fine textured, and firm, perfect for either layers or a tube pan, and keeps well. The variations and topping/frosting options are my contribution... I get carried away!

Ingredients:

2 cups heavy whipping cream
2 cups white sugar
4 large eggs
3 cups all purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Instructions:

Beat very cold cream in an electric mixer until firm peaks (but don't turn it to butter!)
Drop eggs into whipped cream one at a time, beating each until light and fluffy.
Add sugar and vanilla and beat some more.
While the cream and eggs are beating, mix the dry ingredients together and sift - no lumps.
Gradually add flour mixture to cream/egg mixture.

Choose a tube-type pan (Bundt or angle food) for a single cake,
OR, for a layer cake, choose either three 8" layers OR two 9" layers.
Prepare pans by greasing with shortening and dusting with flour to prevent sticking.
For layers, add a sheet of parchment so you have the best non-stick surface to frost.

Bake tube pans about an hour at 350 degrees.
Test with a toothpick, it should come out clean, if not, add 5-10 minutes and check again.
Bake layers for 30-35 minutes, check the same way, add 5 minutes, if needed.
Cool a few minutes, run a knife around the edge to release,
Turn out onto racks to cool completely.

Cake Variations:

Lemon (or orange) cake

Add 3T lemon (or orange) zest to the batter with dry ingredients

Poppy seed cake

Add 1 teaspoon of almond extract to the cream/egg batter

Add 2 or 3 tablespoons of poppy seeds to the batter with the dry ingredients

Almond cake

Add 2 teaspoons of almond extract to the cream batter

Sprinkle the bottom of the tube pan (or layer pan) with 1/2-3/4 cup sliced almonds

They will toast as cake bakes

Coconut cake

Add 1 1/2 cups toasted coconut to the dry ingredients

If using a tube pan, you can also sprinkle the bottom of the pan with 1/2 cup coconut

This coconut is NOT toasted first, it will toast as the cake cooks

Topping Variations:

Basic glaze for tube-type cake - you want it to drizzle smoothly off a spoon onto the cake.

1 cup powdered sugar blended with EITHER

1-3 tablespoons of freshly squeezed lemon or orange juice

or 1 teaspoon vanilla plus 1-2 tablespoons of milk or cream

or 1 tablespoon of brandy or rum plus 1 tablespoon of milk or cream

Blend to remove any lumps and drizzle over cooled cake

Alternate glaze for tube-type cakes

Make a simple syrup of 1 cup white sugar and 3/4 cup lemon or orange juice.

Cook gently to melt the sugar in the juice

Drizzle slowly while warm over the WARM cake

Piercing cake with a skewer helps syrup absorb

For Fancy Cakes:

When baked in layers, this recipe makes beautiful, classic layer cakes

Choose either the basic or a flavored version

Once cooled, split each layer in half for the fanciest results, and get creative!

Spread each layer with a thin coating of buttercream frosting

Piping a 1/4-1/2 inch border of buttercream around the edge of the layer will help hold filling

On top of the buttercream, within the border, spread ~1/4 cup of raspberry jam, lemon curd, chocolate ganache, or other filling

Place another layer on top, and repeat until you get all the layers processed

Watch carefully so layers stay level and even

Chilling the layers first and using skewers can help stabilize as you build the cake

Save the best layer to be placed last, "bottom up", to give the best top surface to frost

Remove skewers now, if you used them

Frost the top and sides with additional buttercream and decorate as desired

For a coconut or almond cake, gently press toasted coconut or toasted sliced almonds onto sides of the finished cake

Basic Buttercream Frosting

3 cups confectioners' sugar

1 cup butter

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 to 2 tablespoons whipping cream

In a standing mixer with a whisk, mix together sugar and butter

Beat on low speed until well blended and then beat on medium another 3 minutes

Add vanilla and cream and continue to beat on medium 1 minute more

Add more cream, if needed, for spreading consistency

Basic Chocolate Ganache

1 to 1 1/2 cups (8 ounces) good quality semi-sweet chocolate (chips or chunks)

1/2 cup heavy cream

(1 teaspoon instant coffee granules, optional)

Melt together, slowly, stirring often, in glass bowl over simmering water

Allow to cool to room temperature (or close, it needs to be soft enough to spread)

Spread gently over cooled cake layers

Can also be used as a drizzle or glaze (while still warm) on a tube-type cake

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Smart Gardening Practices

Drip Irrigation

Drip irrigation can significantly reduce water waste and be used successfully in any part of your landscape not planted with a lawn or groundcover. Drip emitters apply moisture directly into the root zone of plants, minimizing evaporation of water from the soil surface between plants. Soaker hoses, drip tape, porous pipe, mini-sprinklers, and laser tubing are all examples of drip systems.

“Smart” irrigation controller

These devices automatically program a prescribed number of minutes onto your irrigation controller, based on real-time or historical data. Seasonal adjustments are made automatically. Any irrigation controller is better than none.

Water early in the morning

Water before or shortly after sunrise to avoid water loss from soil evaporation, which otherwise would occur during the heat of the day. If your controller is automatic, remember to check to periodically. Sometimes the battery dies or sprinkler head are broken.

Repair your system

Both sprinkler and drip irrigation systems should be checked regularly for broken or inoperative components and leaks that may otherwise go undetected. Examples are clogged nozzles, worn nozzles, tilted sprinkler heads and broken heads.

Water your trees

Remember to water your trees. Your trees need a slow soak every few weeks. This can be done with a soaker hose or drip line.



March in the Garden:

- Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance.
- Fertilize roses, annuals flowers, and berries with slow-release fertilizer when spring growth begins.
- Fertilize citrus and deciduous fruit trees.
- Watch for aphids on new growth on the roses; spray with a strong spray of water to remove them, or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray.
- Prepare garden beds by incorporating compost before planting spring vegetables. You can plant lettuce, carrots, and cilantro directly in the vegetable bed. Mid-March is a good time to plant potatoes.
- You can plant canna, and gladiolus for summer blooms. Early in the month you can still plant bare-root trees and shrubs if the garden center still has any.
- Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil. It is still early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers (although you could try late in the month if it is still warm.) Nights should be above 55°.
- Prune and fertilize spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they finish blooming.
- Fertilize the lawn with a slow release fertilizer.
- Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small.
- Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find



Science word of the Month....

Catkin—A slender, spikelike, often drooping flower cluster. Fruitless Mulberry and Walnut trees are familiar trees that produce catkins.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- March 28, 2016
- 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.

