

**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:

April 2016

This newsletter is produced by:

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County Director

- ◆ Book of the Month— Rosemary & Thyme: The Tree of Death
- ◆ Ornamental Plant of the Month— Pride of Madeira
- ◆ Recipe of the Month— Banana Split Trail Mix
- ◆ Smart Gardening Practices
- ◆ April in the Garden
- ◆ 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](mailto:colusa@ucanr.edu)

[Our Blog](#)

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## Information Booth Locations:

**Nature Photography with your Smart Phone**  
Saturday April 23  
10-noon  
Start at Williams Library  
Wear good shoes because we are going to be walking.

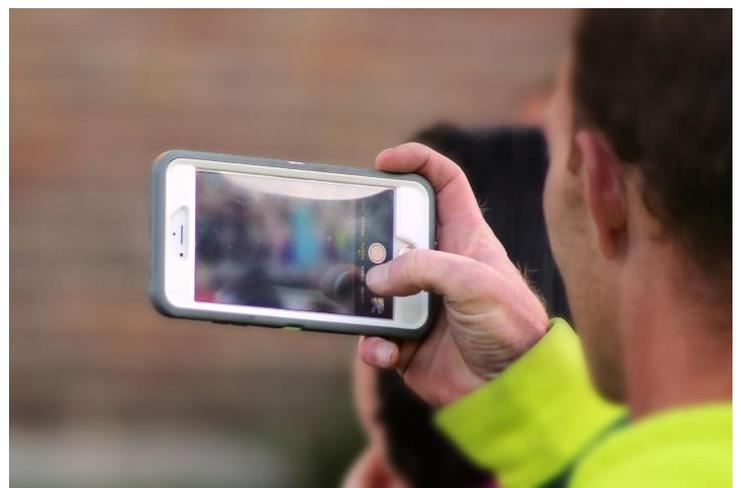
**Arbuckle Carnitas & Salsa cook-off**  
Sunday May 1  
Arbuckle

**Gourd workshop**  
Saturday May 14  
9-noon  
Fairgrounds, Community building



# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH YOUR SMART PHONE

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



#ColusaCountyMG



# GOURD WORKSHOP

**When: Saturday May 14**

**Where: Fairgrounds,  
Community Building**

- Learn how to clean and decorated your gourds.
- We will have paints and stains available.
- If you have dried gourds, you can bring them. If not, we have some.

#ColusaCountyMG



## Book of the Month

### Rosemary & Thyme: The Tree of Death

by Brian Eastman

I love to read and my favorite genre is the English mystery. A real bonus is when they appear on PBS in the form of Midsomer Murders & Rosemary & Thyme. Sadly they are not available on my local PBS so I find myself fortunate when I find some in print.

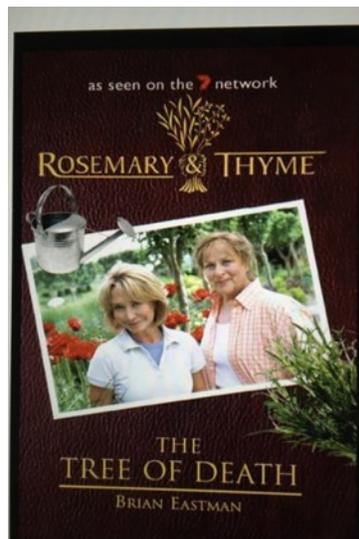
The Rosemary & Thyme series is a real treat because it combines gardening with a good old fashioned murder located in some idyllic English village.

The main characters are Rosemary Boxer, a horticulturist and Laura Thyme, a former police officer who have started a gardening business.

***The Tree of Death*** has all the elements needed to make for a good read. They have been hired to restore the church grounds and cemetery for an upcoming medieval faire and, of course, someone has been murdered on the church grounds.

Not only do they become acquainted with the quirky citizens of the town and become embroiled in the investigation, they also explain why certain trees and plants are typically used on church grounds and what they do to rejuvenate, transplant or replace them.

It is an entertaining book that is slightly informative with murder in the unmessy way that English mysteries do so well.



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich

## Ornamental Plant of the Month

### Pride of Madeira – *Echium candicans*

Outside my patio door I check to see if the blooms have exploded yet – they are most majestic things appearing at the top of grey/green stems that appear to have come from another planet. I have long admired these plants when I see them at the beach in San Francisco but now they are in my back yard!! It doesn't get better than that.

This native to Madeira and the Canary Islands inhabits open coastal bluffs and hillsides. Pride-of-Madeira is a common landscape ornamental requiring a summer source of moisture in inland areas, but can escape cultivation in coastal regions. Our only concerns in the summer is giving it a break from the hottest part of the sun and making sure that it is in an area that drains quickly and not compact.

It is a wonderful attractant for bees and birds as well as butterflies. It is hardy to about 25 degrees but mine has a southern exposure next to the house and seems to perk along just fine. It can get up to 6 feet across so make sure you allow it plenty of room. Along the coast it divides rapidly. Some seedlings are coming up in the area beneath the plant and I'm anxious to see if I can bring this wonderful plant to other areas and a few good friends. I'll let you know how that works out!

When you look this plant up on the U.S. plant map you find it only in the state of California. So try one out and have fun with it. I have a friend in Nevada City that has had one for years.



Submitted by Cynthia White

## Recipe of the Month

### Banana Split Trail Mix

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 Tbl butter
- 1 Tbl honey
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups rolled oats
- 2 cuts California walnuts, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup bananas, freeze-dried or chips
- 1 cup dried cherries
- 1 cup chocolate chips

#### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Bring brown sugar, water, butter, honey and extract to a boil in a large saucepan. Let boil for a few minutes, then stir in oats and walnuts.
3. Spread on a prepared baking sheet and cook for 10 minutes.
4. Stir and bake for 10 more minutes or until lightly browned.
5. Let cool completely, then stir in fruits and chocolate chips. Store in an airtight container.



# Smart Gardening Practices

## How much could/should I water my lawn?

First you need to find out how much water your sprinklers deliver.

### Catch can method

Determine what type of lawn you have.

Warm-season grass: Bermudagrass, Zoysia, St. Augustine grass

Cool-season grass: Tall Fescue, Perennial Ryegrass, Bluegrass

Determine the amount of water your sprinklers apply and how evenly they apply it.

Set six straight-sided flat-bottomed cans (tuna or cat food cans) evenly spaced on your lawn.

Run the sprinklers for 20 minutes.

Measure the depth of water in each can with a ruler.

Add up all six measurements and divide by six. You now have an average depth.

Multiply the average depth by 3 to determine how much water your sprinklers applied in inches per hour.

Determine how long to water your lawn each week.

Use the chart to determine the total minutes to water your lawn each week based on the time of the year.

In a typical year we would advise you to water 3 times per week.

Here is how I would water in a typical year in May.

I have warm-season grass and a 1 inch sprinkler output. I would water 63 minutes a week. Divide that by 3 times a week and it comes to 21 minutes each irrigation.

Table 1  
LAWN WATERING GUIDE

Region 4: Sacramento Valley

#### Warm-Season Grass

Minutes to water each week  
If hourly sprinkler output is:

	.05 in	1.0 in	1.5 in	2.0 in
Jan	19	09	06	05
Feb	44	22	15	11
Mar	69	35	23	17
Apr	101	50	34	25
May	126	63	42	32
Jun	158	79	53	39
Jul	164	82	55	41
Aug	145	72	48	36
Sep	113	57	38	28
Oct	82	41	27	20
Nov	38	19	13	09
Dec	19	09	06	05

#### Cool-Season Grass

	.05 in	1.0 in	1.5 in	2.0 in
Jan	25	13	08	06
Feb	59	29	20	15
Mar	92	46	31	23
Apr	134	67	45	34
May	168	84	56	42
Jun	210	105	70	53
Jul	218	109	73	55
Aug	193	97	64	48
Sep	151	76	50	38
Oct	109	55	36	27
Nov	50	25	17	13
Dec	25	13	08	06

### Worksheet

Depth of water in each can. \_\_\_\_

Add all 6 cans together. \_\_\_\_

Divide above total by 6 (this gives you an average). \_\_\_\_

Multiply the above average by 3 (this gives you an hourly average). \_\_\_\_

Use the chart to determine how many minutes to irrigate per week.

## April in the Garden:

### What to plant?

- In a shady spot early in the month you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses.
- You can plant dahlia tubers and transplant most perennials.
- As temperatures warm (nights consistently over 55 degrees) you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.
- You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard. (Cilantro will go to seed quickly as the weather warms up.)

### Chores:

- Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring.
- Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants.
- Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. The leaves restore the bulb; so wait to remove them until they turn yellow. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal.
-  Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.



## Science word of the Month....

**Water Sprout**—In trees, any strong vertical shoot growing from the main framework of trunk and branches.

## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- April 25, 2016
- 642 5th St, Colusa
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## Additional Links

Integrated Pest Management [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)

UC Davis Arboretum [www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens [turtlebay.org](http://turtlebay.org)

Invasive Plants [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)

Plant Right [www.plantright.org](http://www.plantright.org)

PG&E [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com)

Save Our Water [www.water.ca.gov](http://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.**

