

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:

May 2016

This newsletter is produced by:

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Master Gardener
Coordinator

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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](#)

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Information Booth Locations:

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

Colusa County Fair
June 9-12
Colusa County Fairgrounds
Etchepare Hall

Come and visit us!



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

Celebrating Great Garden Literature

The American Horticulture Society honors outstanding garden-related books published in North America through its annual Book Award Program. A distinguished committee of garden communicators selects the award recipients from among the year's new books submitted by publishers. Books are judged on qualities such as writing style, authority, originality, accuracy and design quality.

Recipients of the 2016 Book Awards:

The Art of Gardening: Design Inspiration and Innovative Planting Techniques from Chanticleer by the Chanticleer Gardeners and R. William Thomas (Timber Press)

Chanticleer Gardens is an estate and botanical garden in Wayne, PA and has been called one of the most delightful gardens in the world. One of the judges calls the book "a loving memoir packed with extraordinary ideas and a pure celebration of gardening".

How Plants Work: the Science behind the Amazing Things Plants Do by Linda Chalker-Scott (Timber Press)

This book arms gardeners with information about how to fertilize and prune more effectively, how to weed less and how to determine which garden products are worth the time and money.

The Seed Garden: the Art and Practice of Seed Saving by Micaela Colley and Jared Zyestro (Seed Savers Exchange)

Described by one of the judges as "the only book people will need to grow plants and save their seeds".

Seeing Seeds: a Journey into the World of Seed heads, Pods and Fruits by Robert Llewellyn and Teri Dunn Chace (Timber Press).

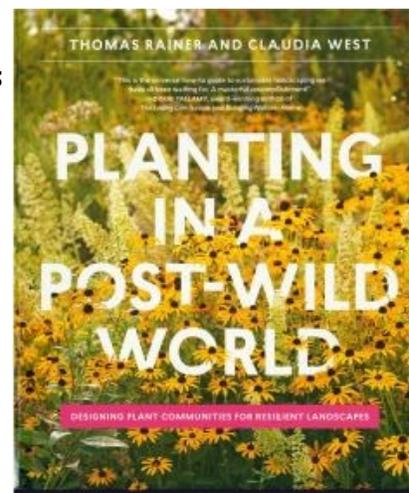
From these pages you will gain an understanding of how seeds are formed and dispersed, why they look the way they do, and how they fit into the environment.

Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West (Timber Press).

This guide presents a powerful alternative to traditional horticulture-designed plantings that function like naturally occurring plant communities. The authors reveal how plants fit together in nature and how to use this knowledge to create landscapes that are resilient, beautiful and diverse.

I was pleased to find this last book available on the new book shelf at our own Colusa County Library. Check it out or request the others!

Submitted by Peggy Townzen



Ornamental Plant of the Month

ALSTOEMERIA

It is such a joy to have multiple blooms of Alstroemeria overlooking my back yard garden beds, blooms of yellow, pink, and deep wine colors. It was just a year or two ago that I was able to see a few small blooms. Often called Peruvian Lily, Alstroemeria is native to South America and likes well drained soil, but blooms well with moisture, not wet, but moist soil. It does well in full sun, partial sun, and even shade. Plant and enjoy, not only in the garden, but light up your home with beautiful bouquets, mixed with other flowers or just alone.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Recipe of the Month

Quick Chicken (or Turkey) Casserole

1 large onion, chopped
1 or 2 ribs of celery, sliced
1 or 2 cloves of garlic, minced
2 to 3 tablespoons of butter
1 to 2 cups sliced mushrooms, optional
1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped
1 can cream of mushroom or cream of celery, or cream of chicken soup (OR you could use leftover turkey gravy, if you have some)
1 to 2 T dried tarragon - taste with one, decide if you want more
1 cup dry white wine
1/2 cup sour cream (optional)
salt and pepper to taste
3 cups cut up leftover chicken (or turkey) in about 1" chunks
1-2 cups frozen peas (do not defrost)

Mashed potatoes, cooked white rice or egg noodles.
Or, if you are using turkey, pair with any leftover stuffing!

Saute the onion, celery, garlic and mushrooms (if you are using them) in the butter until soft.
Stir in parsley, soup (or gravy), and wine, and combine to a smooth sauce.
If too thick, add a little water, milk, chicken broth, or more wine.
Add the sour cream if you are using it.
Taste for salt and pepper - adjust to your family's taste.
Gently fold in the leftover chicken (or turkey), and the peas.
Pour into a shallow casserole and bake until heated through and bubbling.

Serve over your choice of potatoes, rice, noodles or stuffing.
Top with a little fresh parsley if you have some.



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Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Edible Plant of the Month

Lovely Edible Nasturtiums

If you are looking for an edible plant for your garden that will spread and have an ocean of brightly-colored blossoms, nasturtiums are your plant. They also add a lovely fragrance to your edible garden.

Nasturtiums basically come in two forms: compact and trailing. The compact variety is about a foot tall. They are useful for creating a colorful and dense edge to your planting.

The trailing variety cascades down walls and hanging baskets. They are nice for window boxes and container herb gardens, but be sure to keep them trimmed back or they will crowd out the other plants.

Once established, Nasturtiums are easy to grow. Snails don't like them, and they will self seed and return the next year as a signal that summer is here. They will quickly cover an area within a short time and begin to produce an abundance of pretty blooms.

The blossoms are very durable and make for vibrant and long-lasting garnishes, one of their best uses. Use the blossoms to decorate salads, creamy soups, cheese spreads, cakes and platters.

Impress your master gardener friends by pairing nasturtium blossoms with violets on open-faced cucumber sandwiches.

Make your own flavored vinegars by using the blossoms. Place blossoms in a decorative bottle (five blossoms per cup of vinegar) and cover with hot, but not boiling, white wine vinegar. Strain out the spent blossoms after the liquid has cooled and settled. Replace them with fresh blooms to make a beautiful and zesty nasturtium infused vinegar.

The sweet, peppery taste of the nasturtium adds an interesting flavor. In fact, the nasturtium is named for its tangy taste. It comes from the Latin "*Nasus Tortus*" meaning convulsed nose, referring to the faces people made when tasting the spicy plant.

Most varieties can survive when grown in partial sun, but they will flower less. Ideally, nasturtiums like to be in full sun, with moist, well drained soil. Since it is considered an annual, plant the seeds in spring when the danger of frost has passed. Once they are established, nasturtiums will continue to spread and bloom until the first frost, with little more than the occasional sprinkling.

Nasturtiums are from South America. The conquistadors brought them back to Spain in the 1500's. The Indians of Peru used the leaves as a tea to treat coughs, colds and the flu. Being high in vitamin C, nasturtiums were found to be a natural antibiotic, and were used topically as a poultice for injuries.



Submitted by Nancy Cutter



Water Conservation in Your Garden & Landscape Checklist

- Water during the cool parts of the day.**
Watering between 4am and 10am reduces evaporation and interference from wind; helps prevent the growth of fungus.

 - Don't water the gutter & sidewalk**
Position your sprinklers in such a way that water lands on your lawn or garden, not on concrete, where it does no good. Avoid watering on windy days when much of your water may be carried off before it ever hits the ground.

 - Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings.**
Leaks outside the house may not seem as unbearable, however they can be just as wasteful as leaks in the house; even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 50 or more gallons of water a day.

 - Water your lawn only when it needs it.**
Watering frequently can be very wasteful as it doesn't allow for cool spells or rainfall that can reduce the need for watering. A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on some grass. It doesn't need water if the grass springs back up when you move. Grass roots should be deeper than 1" and will grow deeper if they need moisture; 2-4" depth ideal.

 - Place a layer of mulch around trees and plants.**
A layer of mulch will slow the evaporation of moisture.

 - Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.**
There are many beautiful trees and plants that thrive with far less watering than other species.
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- Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and steps.**
Using a hose to push around a few leaves and scraps of paper can waste hundreds and hundreds of gallons of water; 150 gallons each time.

- Don't run the hose while washing your car.**
Soap down your car with a pail of soapy water; then use a hose with a nozzle to rinse. Save 150 gallon each washing.

- Teach your children that your hose and sprinklers are not toys.**
There are few things more cheerful than the sound of happy children playing under a hose or sprinkler on a hot day. Unfortunately, there are also few things more wasteful of precious water.

- Check sprinkler and drip systems for missing heads, holes, detached lines, and for the proper placement of drip emitters.**
Our 2 and 4 legged family can easily wreck havoc with sprinkler system.

For more information, please contact the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County at:

UCCE office
100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E
Colusa, Ca
530-458-0570

<http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu>



May in the Garden:

What to plant?

- Direct seed in the garden cucumbers, melons, summer squash, beans, corn, and annual herbs.
- Plant sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and aster in the flower garden.

Chores:

- Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month.
- Apply (or re-apply as needed) organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. Be sure to leave space around the base of 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.
- Later in the month prune spring flowering shrubs to shape, removing old and dead wood. The plants flower on the growth that happens during the summer; do not prune in the fall or winter or you will have no flowers on the shrub.
- Continue the battle against slugs and snails.
- Deadhead (cut off spent flowers) to get continuing bloom on annuals and perennials.
- Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits.



Science word of the Month....

Runner— a thin , specialized stem that grows along the soil surface and produces adventitious roots and shoots.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- May 23, 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.

