

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

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OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday,
9am—12pm
1pm –4pm
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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:

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

Come and visit us!

**Make Bee and Lady Bug fans at
the Fair!**

Arbuckle Farmers Market
Every Wednesday
Downtown Arbuckle

**Colusa Certified Farmers
Market**
Every Thursday
10th & Market St, Colusa



Book of the Month

How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack

by Chuck Sambuchino

I have a couple of garden gnomes in my back yard... I think they are cute. However, the 1st one showed up in my tomato bushes uninvited. Apparently he is a Traveling Gnome and he chose my yard as his vacation destination fueled by a friend's sense of humor. Several years later I found a friend for him. I call them Gnomeo and Frank.

I had no idea how potentially dangerous they could be until I read Chuck Sambuchino's book. According to the author they are lawn warriors planning home invasions; even conspiring with neighborhood gnomes for world domination.

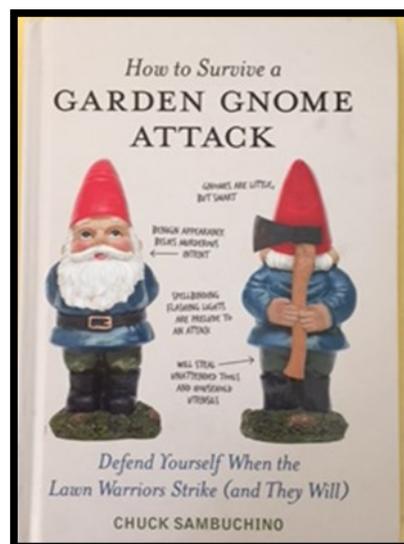
Once you buy into the author's mindset, the book is absolutely funny. The pictures are really cute too. He walks you through the gnomomenclature of their take-over tactics by giving guidelines for assessing your risk factors such as: Do you live alone, Live in a rural area & Have a familiar routine. If, like me, you are high risk he then shares some signs that they are getting ready for a strike: Sudden movements in your garden seen from the corner of your eye, missing garden tools, small footprints in the mud, etc.

He provides detailed instructions for the protection of your garden to ensure they do not enter your home. Their ultimate goal is to gain access to your home so he also points out how to evaluate vulnerable points of entry, the best ways to gnome proof your interior and the signs they have broken through your safeguards.

Finally.....If you have failed and they have entered your home, he walks you through defense strategies.

I laughed out loud several times because the whole concept is absurd. Gnomes are nothing more than cute, harmless little garden statues. **Right!?!?**

Submitted by Carolyn Froelich



Ornamental Plant of the Month

So here is the latest BUZZ – Hybrid Buddleia ‘Buzz’ Magenta Purple

I was in Glenn the other day at Garden Gleanings and the place was absolutely overrun with the most prolific supply of swallowtail butterflies I’ve seen in recent times. The big plants were the most obvious but I was immediately drawn to a shorter variety called ‘Buzz’. If any of you have tried your hand at the noble buddleia you know how big and unwieldy they can become. This little guy was also full of butterflies but has the attribute of only getting to about 2-3 feet tall at the most. Of course I was hooked. I’ve put in a couple of catmints that haven’t done what I expected so out they will come and in their place will go these lovely magenta buddleia plants.

One of the best things about the butterfly bush is its ability to bloom until fall but also handle our scorching summer. They don’t need any great amount of water but do fare best in well drained soil. The bloom period is better when given a bit of fertilizer and the claim is that it doesn’t need to be deadheaded in order to continue blooming. In my book the plant always looks tidier if you take off the spent blossoms. Don’t let this first burst of heat dampen your gardening fun – every possible hummingbird and butterfly will be happy you remember them and give you hours of watching pleasure.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Recipe of the Month

This seasonal recipe is perfect as the berries and peaches get ripe in our area this month.

This recipe was taken from the Perfect Peach cookbook, Written by the Masumoto Family of Fresno County.

BLACKBERRY-PEACH BREAD PUDDING

2/3 loaf stale French bread, cut or torn into 3/4 inch cubes (about 7 cups)

1 1/3 cups peeled and diced fresh peaches

2/3 cup fresh or frozen blackberries or boysenberries

Toss the bread, peaches and berries to mix and put in a lightly greased 9X9 baking Pan.

2 TBL butter

2 cups milk

2 eggs

2/3 cup half & half

2/3 cup sugar

1/2 cup light brown sugar

1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract

1 TBL Grand Marnier (optional)

Ground cinnamon for sprinkling

In a saucepan, combine the butter and milk, heat over medium-low heat just until butter melts. Do not allow the milk to boil.

In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, half & half, both sugar, vanilla and Grand Marnier. Slowly whisk the warmed milk mixture into the egg mixture to make a batter. Pour the batter evenly over the bread mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to overnight.

To Bake: Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Uncover and lightly sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake for 55 minutes or until pudding is puffy and golden. When the bread pudding comes out of the oven, it should still wobble when the dish is shaken but will set as it cools. Let the pudding rest for at least 30 minutes before serving. Serve warm or room temperature.

Submitted by Sherry Maltby

STRESSED-OUT TREES

In the Sacramento region, these trees are showing the most drought stress and may need extra attention:



1. Coastal redwoods:

These fast-growing trees are native to California's wettest areas with 100 inches or more of rain. With browned needles, they're frying and dying in drought-plagued Sacramento and can be fire hazards.



Coastal redwood
Sequoia sempervirens



2. European white birch:

A common lawn tree in Sacramento, they have short life spans, usually 35 to 40 years, and need consistent moisture to survive. For older birches, the drought has hastened their demise and made them a target of pests, especially birch borers.



European white birch
Betula pendula



3. Pines, several varieties:

As evergreens, they try to grow and maintain leaves year round, but lack of water makes for weak branches and needle drop. Beetles target sick pines.



Jeffrey pine
Pinus jeffreyi



Jeffrey pine
Pinus jeffreyi

Source: Sacramento Bee research

Water the drip zone: This is how nature designed trees to be irrigated. Rain hits tree leaves, cascades off the canopy like an umbrella and drips down to the ground. That outer edge is the **drip line** where the strongest feeder roots gather moisture.

More rain drips between branches and leaves under the canopy like a leaky umbrella; that's the **drip zone** where more feeder roots do their work. Few feeder roots are close to the trunk; don't water there.

DRIP LINE

Place soaker hoses, drip lines and auger holes along the drip line

Strongest feeder roots

DRIP ZONE

Mulch: Fallen leaves form natural moisture control and also break down, adding nutrients to the soil. Mimic that with mulch. Spread organic mulch (wood chips, bark, straw, shredded leaves, pine needles, compost, etc.) in a circle around the tree, 2 to 4 inches thick and at least 3 feet out. Spread mulch like a donut, not a volcano. Leave a 6- to 8-inch circle clear around the trunk to avoid rot. Avoid rocks as mulch; they absorb heat, stress roots and increase a tree's water needs.



Western sycamore
Platanus racemosa

Eliminate competition: Remove the lawn growing directly under the tree and replace with bark or other organic mulch.

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June in the Garden:

- In the flower garden you can still plant seeds of marigolds, zinnias, cosmos and sunflowers. You can set out transplants of perennials like yarrow, verbena, black-eyed Susan, and dahlias.
- In the vegetable garden you can plant seeds of pumpkins, squash, and corn.
- Be sure to water early in the day to conserve water and minimize plant disease. Regularly check your sprinklers and drip emitters for needed repairs and adjustments. Monitor soil moisture in hot weather to be sure you are irrigating enough. (Use a metal rod to push into the ground. If it goes in easily, the soil is moist.)
- Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Later in the month use a fertilizer for acid-loving plants like azaleas and camellias. Always follow the directions for proper dilution of concentrates.
- Dig and divide spring-flowering bulbs when the tops have died down.
- Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture.

For information on insect control visit www.ipm.ucdavis.edu



Science word of the Month....

Science word of the Month has gone to the fair! What is your favorite thing to do in the summer?

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Next meeting in August!

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.

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For special assistance regarding our programs, please contact us.

