

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:

August 2016

This newsletter is produced by:

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Coordinator

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- ◆ Book of the Month— *Garden Rooms*
- ◆ Ornamental Plant of the Month— Lavender
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- ◆ August 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

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Information Booth Locations:

FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP

Tuesday August 30
6-8pm
CIP Conference room
100 Sunrise Blvd, Colusa

\$25 see flyer for details



FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP

- **Tuesday August 30, 6-8pm**
- **Conference room, 100 Sunrise Blvd, Colusa**
- **\$25 fee includes plants, soil and container. It DOES NOT include accessories.**
- **Patti from Davison's Drug will be at the workshop with accessories to purchase or you can bring your own.**
- **In Colusa County accessories are available at Davison's and Fouch's.**



Go to:

[Click here](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu)

**cecolusa.ucanr.edu
to sign-up and pay.**

You can also pay in our office, 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste E

**UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa
County**

530-458-0570



Book of the Month

Garden Rooms

Published by Better Homes and Gardens

The hallmark of a good gardening book is one that you go back to time and again for ideas. "Garden Rooms" is that book for me.

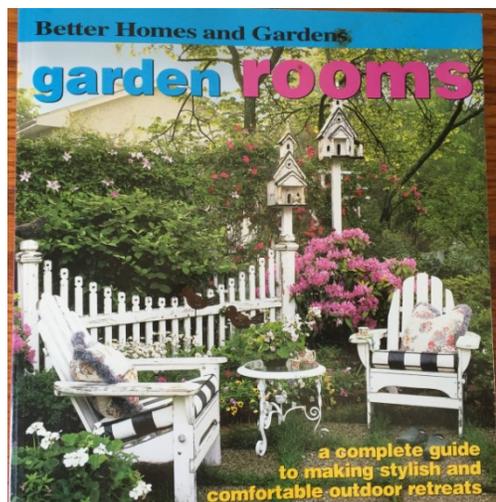
Even though my "new" home is over a hundred years old, the landscaping is really a blank slate.... which I really love! So I have pulled this book out again to get inspiration and make sure the plan is cohesive.

The book has great ideas for the planning and execution stages using a room by room concept. It walks you through hardscaping choices, site specific features, structures, trees and plant choices.

It encourages you to think of these garden rooms complete with walls, ceilings, floors and doors. Then it provides details of how to stain concrete, lay pavers, set a fence post, build a lattice screen and a gazebo.

Many of the plans include a list of material required to complete it, the cost and the skill level required. I may not be brave enough to tackle most of these projects myself but there is plenty of skilled help around this town.

By Carolyn Froelich



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Lavender - the darling of the world

We are in Lopez Island, Washington on the shores of Puget Sound and the lavender here is spectacular. It is specifically the *hidcote* variety and is absolutely gorgeous. It is full of bumble bees and as brilliant as it can be next to the saltwater bay. The owner tells me it has been in full bloom for weeks. It just goes to show you what a workhorse the lavender is in general.

Lavandula (common name **lavender**) is a genus of 39 known species of flowering plants in the mint family, *Lamiaceae*. It is native to the Old World and is found from Cape Verde and the Canary Islands, Europe across to northern and eastern Africa, the Mediterranean, southwest Asia to southeast India. Many members of the genus are cultivated extensively in temperate climates as ornamental plants for garden and landscape use, for use as culinary herbs, and also commercially for the extraction of essential oils. It is spectacular enough around the world that we have a common color named for it.

The most efficient areas that you can use for lavender are those where it is highly visible but also serves as a backdrop for other plants. I wish you were all here to see this sparkling portion of our northern Pacific coastal area. The only way to arrive is by ferry and it takes the time to bring about a slowing of the mind and awakening of the senses. Put it on your travel list for next summer if you haven't taken this area in already. I leave you with the plant itself - wonderful.

By Cynthia White



Recipe of the Month

WATERMELON, TOMATO, FETA CHEESE SALAD

INGREDIENTS

1/2 WATERMELON - CUT INTO CUBES

1 PACKAGE FETA CHEESE - CUT INTO BITE SIZE CUBES OR USE CRUMBLED CHEESE

1 PINT CHERRY TOMATOES - CUT INTO HALF OR USE REGULAR TOMATOES QUARTERED (OR BOTH)

1 RED ONION - CUT IN HALF AND SLICE THIN

3 TLB CHOPPED FRESH OREGANO

3 TLB CHOPPED BASIL

1/2 CUP MINT LEAVES - CHOPPED

MIX ALL INGREDIENTS IN LARGE BOWL

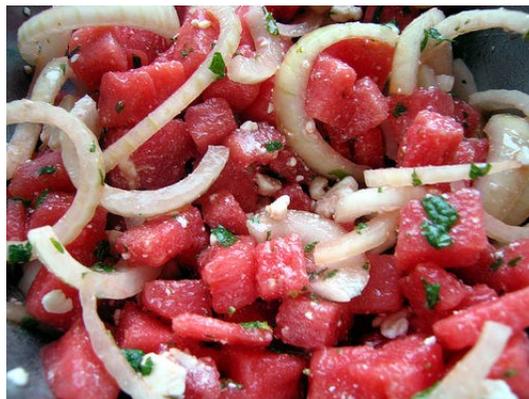
DRESSING

3 TLB RED WINE VINEGAR

3 TLB OLIVE OIL

MIX TOGETHER AND POUR OVER SALAD AND TOSS LIGHTLY

This salad is even more beautiful if you mix in yellow tomatoes and some yellow watermelon.



By Sherry Maltby

EDIBLE FLOWERS

I love using flowers, such as nasturtiums and calendulas, in salads and for decorating cakes. I made a birthday cake for my grandson one year, a carrot cake no less, with grated carrots grown by one of my neighbors. Then I decorated it with pansies of different colors that I grew in my garden. It was really lovely and a great hit with all. The kids asked me if they could really eat the flowers.

But you have to understand the do's and don'ts about eating any flowers. They are pretty logical, but I will highlight some of them here.

DO'S:

Grow the flowers you plant to eat like any other food crop. If you have to use pesticides use ones labeled safe for food crops.

Wash all flowers thoroughly.

Introduce flowers to your diet gradually.

Separate the pistils and stamens from flowers before eating.

DON'TS:

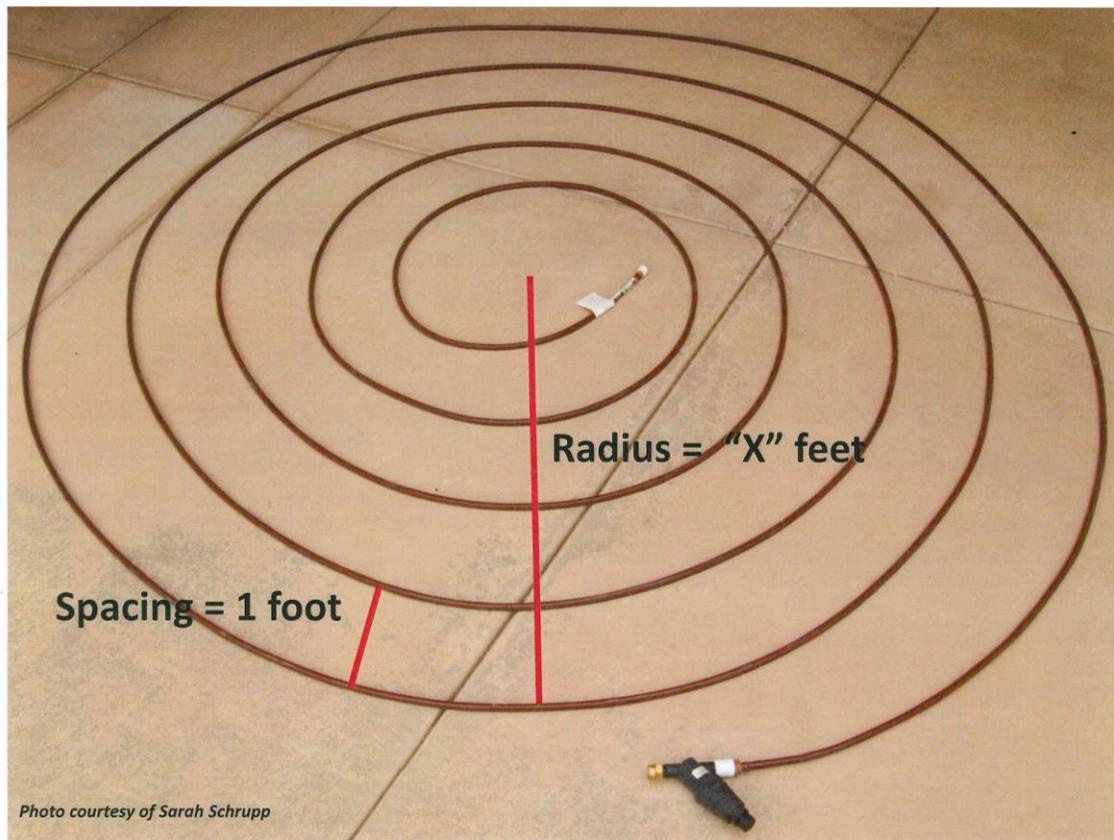
Eat flowers from florists or nurseries.

Eat flowers from the side of the road.



I love growing flowers I can eat, decorate with or both. I just sow the seeds directly in the soil. If they don't come up, I don't grow them. I like easy!

By Lynne Spivak



Water Trees First

Trees are our most important garden asset. They provide shade, clean the air, provide habitat for wildlife, they are beautiful and increase your property value. Many of our trees are in lawns and many people have reduced or eliminated watering their lawns. This means many trees will slowly decline and die. Mature trees need deep watering during the dry months in order to stay healthy. A large shade tree takes many years to establish.

Trees need to be the first plant we consider saving during the drought.

A new way of irrigating trees have been developed by the University of California. As you see in the photo you will circle the tree with a drip line or soaker hose beneath the canopy but not at the trunk. Keep each circle 1 foot apart. You can purchase supplies at your local garden center or hardware store.

To get the deep watering needed for trees, you will need to run drip line for several hours but only irrigate every 2-4 weeks. The water needs to penetrate the soil about 2-3 feet deep.

For more information on tree watering go to: cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners/

Or talk to a UCCE Master Gardener of Colusa County.



August in the Garden:

August garden tasks:

- ◆ You can plant directly in the garden seeds of carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach and turnips. Indoors you can start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, kale, bunching onions, and radicchio.
- ◆ Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers.
- ◆ Continue to weed. Be especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds.
- ◆ Check the mulch you have spread around and be sure it is thick enough to suppress weeds. (3 to 4 inches)
- ◆ Cut off spent flowers of perennials and annuals for continued bloom.



Science word of the Month....

Vector—An organism, usually an animal, that can transmit a pathogen.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- August 22
- 6:30
- St. Stephens church, Colusa

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.

The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994: service in the uniformed services includes membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services) in any of its programs or activities. University policy also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person in any of its programs or activities for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment or for using or participating in the investigation or resolution process of any such complaint. University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-0096.

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.

