

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:

October 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:

Arbuckle Car Show

Sunday October 30
10-2pm
Downtown Arbuckle

We will be selling pumpkins,
succulents and other fall fruits
and vegetables

Pumpkin Centerpiece

Wednesday November 9th
6-8pm
Market Street Grill, Colusa

Beverages & appetizers will be
available for purchase.
More details to come!



Do you want to become a Master Gardener?

What is the UC Master Gardener Program?

UC Master Gardeners are volunteers trained and certified by the University of California Cooperative Extension in the areas of home gardening and horticulture. They extend horticultural information and offer educational programs and garden-related demonstrations in Colusa County.



Who can become a UC Master Gardener?

UC Master Gardeners are adults of all ages and from all walks of life. They include professionals, educators, retirees, homemakers and students – all with some experience and knowledge of plants and gardening. Master Gardeners must be enthusiastic, willing to learn and help others, and be able to communicate with diverse groups of people.

What type of volunteer work does a UC Master Gardener do?

Volunteers staff an information desk where they answer questions, diagnose plant problems and assist home gardeners with their questions. They also offer workshops, plant clinics, talks/demonstrations, newsletters, a website and a Facebook page.

The program supports sustainable gardening practices that protect the environment, conserve natural resources, and take into consideration each gardener's lifestyle and goals.

What training is provided to the UC Master Gardeners?

UC Master Gardeners complete intensive training over a three-month period. The instruction provides a practical course in plant science and horticulture covering such topics as weeds, diseases, soils, insects, fertilizers, fruit and landscape trees, pests, vegetables, irrigation and more.

The 2017 class will start January 11 and end April 26. The class will be held in Yuba City. Application deadline is November 15.

What is the UC Master Gardener's commitment to the program?

After completing the training and passing a written exam, the new UC Master Gardener are required to complete a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education within the next 12 months. In order to retain the title of UC Master Gardener in ensuing years, 25 hours of volunteer service and 12 hours of continuing education must be completed each year.

How can I obtain information from a UC Master Gardener of Colusa County?

We may be contacted through the UC Cooperative Extension of Colusa County office at 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste E, Colusa or at 530-458-0570 or our website cecolusa.ucanr.edu.

Book of the Month

WICKED BUGS

The Louse That Conquered Napoleon's Army & Other Diabolical Insects

Written by Amy Stewart

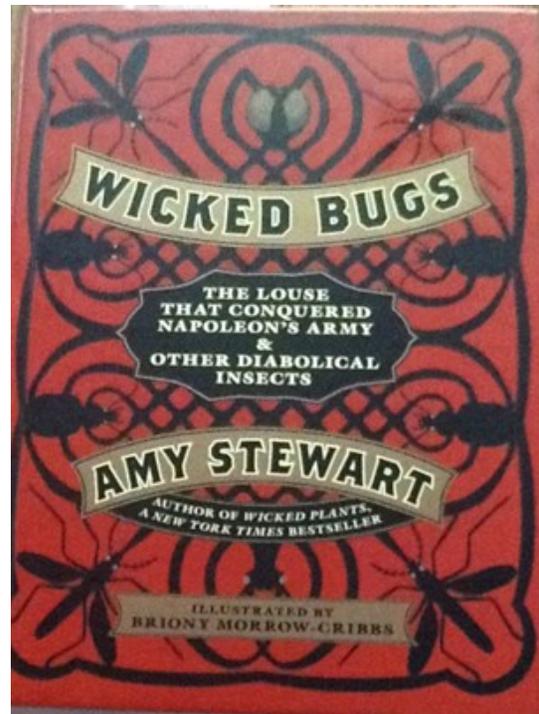
I've been an Amy Stewart fan for quite awhile and this book is as interesting and well researched as any she's written. If you are intimidated by common insects this can send you over the edge with her stories about them going extreme. You'll soon be itching and wondering about common insects in your garden and home.

Reading about the Formosan Subterranean Termite and its contribution to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans provides an insight I had not known.

The chapter on tapeworms will make you rethink any pork in your diet and the cleanliness of your local restaurant workers. Really disgusting!

She paints the Rocky Mountain Locust invasion of 1875 throughout the western states quite vividly. Imagine 3.5 trillion locusts covering 198,000 miles and then their complete disappearance by 1902.

Then there are the bed bugs, bat bugs, giant centipedes, deer ticks, marmorated stink bugs and so much more!



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Figs

Last month my friend Howard held his final fig tasting and excursion at the USDA germ plasm repository in Winters as he plans to retire at the end of this year. Howard knows so much about figs it's always a reminder that what we all remember as the huge messy tree hanging over the chicken yard has gotten a much better reputation now. The varieties and sizes we can now choose from are spectacular and there is room for one in your landscape if you match the tree to your area.

Figs are an ancient delicacy and the original California fruit brought to us courtesy of the Spanish missionary groups who brought their wonderful starts of Mediterranean fruits and nuts to our lovely area. They are cold hardy to 10 degrees, drought resistant and the large lobed leaves are so pretty they can be used as bases for a lovely autumn salad of persimmons and kiwis. The tried and true figs like mission and black turkey have a wonderful warm flavor with pink to red flesh. The *Kadota* color runs from green to creamy amber when ripe, but the delicately flavored flesh turns purple.



So now let's move onto some newer varieties: consider the *Panachee* or tiger fig. My neighbor keeps hers in a large pot in a semi-shaded area and the fruit is gorgeous – yellow skin with dark green stripes and the taste of sweet strawberry/raspberry red flesh. My personal favorite is *Violetta de Bordeaux* – a smaller tree that produces fruit that will remind you of raspberry jam.

Always get your fig starts from a reputable source. It will save mis-identification and lots of lost growing time. When the tree is as tall as you wish it to be simply top it and then use the trimmings to start your own clones of the tree you like. You can also thin the plant if it gets too bushy for the area you want it to be happy in!! Do take into consideration however that figs produce on old wood. So if you trim too much and don't leave any of last year's wood, it will spend most of its time trying to produce another set of wood and that will take away from its ability to put out fruit – which is why you would be growing it in the first place. Many varieties will put on two or three crops and unlike many other fruits they won't all ripen at the same time, leaving you with a 2-3 week production frame.

Figs don't need a lot of care and are fairly resistant to almost all pests and insects. That is a rare accommodation in our area and makes one appreciate the bounty without fighting aphids and white flies. So you should taste fruit from trees that are at least 3 years old and decide which one is the right flavor and size for your location. There are over 300 varieties available so get tasting my friends!! And if you always thought you didn't like figs it might be that you simply haven't tasted the right one.

Recipe of the Month

Asian pears are grown in our area and are now ripe and available until November. The recipe is a quick and easy dessert from Barb's Produce at the O'Connell Ranch, in Colusa CA.

ASIAN PEAR CRISP

Ingredients

6 to 8 cups thinly sliced Asian pears

1 cup Oatmeal

1 cup Brown Sugar

1/2 cup Flour

1/2 cup butter - melted

1/2 tsp each Cinnamon, Nutmeg & Allspice

Directions

Mix all dry ingredients with the melted butter and set aside. Arrange pears in even layers, spread mixture over the pears. Bake at 350 for 45 minutes or until light brown and bubbly. Serve warm or room temperature with ice cream and ENJOY!



Submitted by Sherry Maltby

Edible Plant of the Month

EDIBLE PLANTS

While my husband and I were in Minnesota last month for a family reunion we went to a Laotian market place. They had a farmers market within the market place with all kinds of edible plants.

They had squash blossoms, lemon grass, a multitude of different peppers and many other delectable treats.



One thing I didn't recognize was a longan berry fruit. They grow in a cluster like grapes but on a tree. Of course I had to taste one and it was sweet, fragrant and yummy with a seed the size of the end of my pinkie in the middle. They have a shell on the outside that was easy to peel off to get to the fruit inside. The name means dragon eye due to the translucent fruit with a black and white seed showing through. The Chinese use the fruit as a blood tonic, build energy and calm the mind. Besides eating the fresh fruit, the dried fruit is used in a dessert soup by the Chinese.



Of course I had to buy some to bring home. I even looked up how to grow the tree from seed. I took 3 seeds and one sprouted. Now we shall see.

The botanical name is *Dimocarpus longan*, and is grown commercially in Asia. But, it grows in zones 7 – 9. However it does not fruit in cooler climates.

Submitted by Lynne Spivak



October in the Garden:

What to plant:

- ⇒ Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, you can direct seed cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, nigella, portulaca and sweet peas.
- ⇒ If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring.
- ⇒ Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.
- ⇒ Early in the month you should buy your new bulbs and refrigerate them for six weeks before planting them in the garden.
- October is also good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. You can still rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding.
- Put your spent annuals and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile.
- Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.
- This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.
- Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present.
- If you had glads, dahlias or tuberous begonias they should be dug up and cleaned after the foliage dies. Store the corms and tubers in a cool, dry place.
- Be sure to deadhead your roses following the October bloom.
- Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin.



Science word of the Month....

Slip—A cutting from a plant, usually softwood or herbaceous, used for propagation or grafting.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- October 24
- 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.

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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.

