

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:

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This newsletter is produced by:

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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. Click here to support us.](#)

Information Booth Locations:

Watch for information!

We will be at
Rocco's in February!

Colusa Farm Show
February 7, 8, 9
Colusa County Fairgrounds
Main Exhibit Hall



Rose Pruning

Pruning Hybrid Tea Roses

Hybrid tea and grandiflora roses usually get extensive pruning in late winter. That makes it a good time to do it now!

Pruning tends to produce larger blooms on longer, stronger stems while removing weak, dead and diseased canes. Annual pruning is recommended but not required.

Some simple equipment is needed. Long sleeved shirts and leather gloves are essential to protect you from being scratched and poked by the thorns. You will also need sharp pruning shears and possibly loppers and/or a pruning saw.

If you have a very large rose bush, start by cutting it down to about 3 feet tall. This is called "heading it back" and will help you "see" the plant so you can decide what to prune.

First, prune out all dead, diseased and weak canes.

Next, select 3 to 7 healthy and vigorous canes that form a vase shape (if you are looking down on the plant it should look like bicycle spokes).

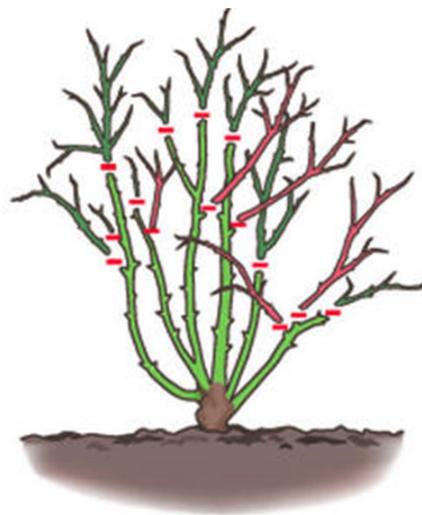
Now, prune out the rest of the canes. Cut them down to the bud union (the swelling at the base of the plant).

Shorten the remaining canes to about two feet above the ground. Be sure all cuts are above and close to an outward facing bud. About 1/4" is a good distance, and the ideal cuts are at a 45 degree angle.

DO NOT put anything on the cut. It is best to let it air dry and heal over on its own.

Now you are ready to prune your next rose bush.

The picture is courtesy of Sunset Magazine.



Book of the Month

Garden Catalogs

In winter, many garden chores are on hold. So what does the avid gardener do to satisfy their yearning to garden? Some will grab a mug of coffee or tea and a stack of gardening catalogs and make plans for their spring planting. I received a few of these catalogs, but I often wonder which company offers the best quality and service. By doing a little online searching, I found lists of recommendations by other gardeners.

The website www.thegardenglove.com lists its top twelve garden seed catalogs of 2016. You can read evaluations for Park Seed, Burpee Seeds, Thompson and Morgan, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Pinetree Garden Seeds, Renee's Garden Seeds, Select Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, Seeds of Change, Cooks Garden, Nichols Garden Nursery and Bountiful Gardens.

Garden Glove also recommends three catalogs for ordering plants: Bluestone Perennials, Whiteflower Farms and Wayside Gardens.

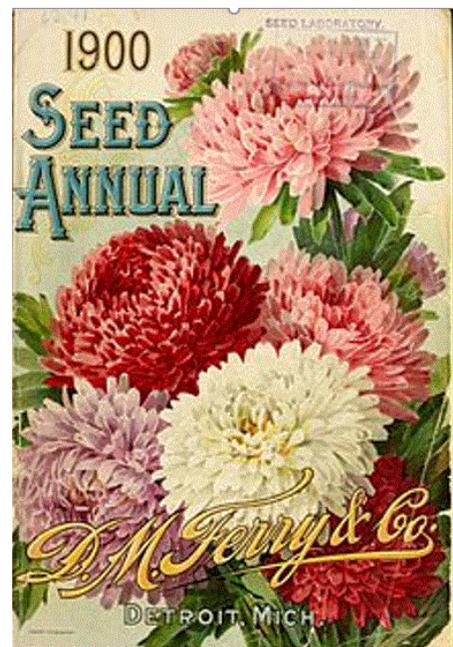
Some companies no longer print paper catalogs, so you will need a computer or tablet to access their offerings. If they do offer a print catalog, you may request a copy on their website.

At gardenlist.com there is a list: Cyndi's Catalog of Garden Mail Order Gardening Resources. This is an exhaustive list of over 2,000 mail order companies in USA and Canada.

An online search or stack of garden catalogs will keep a gardener busy on a cold winter day and will provide many ideas for the warm spring days to come.

Remember UC Master Gardeners do not recommend any specific products or companies.

Submitted by Peggy Townzen



Ornamental Plant of the Month

NOT TOO LATE TO PLANT SPRING BLOOMING BULBS

Many of us still have spring blooming bulbs, tulips, daffodils, freesia, and hyacinths, that are waiting to be planted in the ground. You may be wondering if it is too late? No, no, especially if they have been stored outside, in the refrigerator, in a cold protected area and have not yet started to sprout. Even if they have started to sprout, plant them as soon as possible. Normally, the bulbs are planted two times the size of the bulb deep. As long as the weather stays cold, plant as recommended. However, I recommend planting the bulbs much deeper, 3-4 times the bulb size. The bulbs have to establish themselves, developing their roots before they should start sprouting, so that they have good strength. Yes, the bulbs may bloom later, but they can be beautiful and there is a better chance for them to not rot during their dormant or summer time, especially tulips. I have tulips appearing that have been returning to bloom for many, many years. I encourage you to plant your bulbs as soon as possible, putting a bit of bone meal for nourishment in the bottom of hole, cover with just a little soil, set the bulb and cover. Good luck. Now I have to go out and plant daffodils I dug last fall.



Recipe of the Month

Orange Bread

about 3-4 whole oranges

4 Tbs sugar

2 1/4 cups flour

1 c sugar

2 1/2 tsp baking powder

1/2 t salt

1 t cinnamon

3/4 cup chopped nuts - almond or pecans my favorite, but walnuts are ok too

2/3 cup whole milk

3 Tbs oil

2 large eggs

1 tsp vanilla

1 tsp pineapple extract

1/2 tsp each brandy, lemon and orange extract

Grind the oranges, peel and all, in either a meat grinder or food processor.

Save all the juice!

Mix 1 3/4 cups whole ground oranges and juice with the 4 Tbs sugar in a heavy saucepan.

Cook the ground oranges and sugar together until peel is tender, about 30 min.

Stir often and don't let it scorch - it should look kind of like marmalade.

Cool to room temp once peel is soft.

Blend the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and nuts together in a big bowl

Blend milk, oil, eggs and extracts, whisk well, in a separate container.

Mix the orange mixture into the milk and eggs.

Add the liquids to the dry ingredients by hand, mixing only enough to blend.

Think of making cornbread - the less you stir it the better!

Spoon the batter into well-buttered and floured loaf pans - you don't want this to stick!

Bake at 350 degrees until a toothpick comes out clean.

Timing will depend on the size of loaf and whether you use glass or metal pans.

A single loaf will take about an hour to an hour and 15 minutes

Several small loaves will take about 30+ minutes.

Dust tops with cinnamon sugar once cool.

This recipe came from a wonderful neighbor, Aileen Kader, when I moved to Davis from Santa Barbara in 1976. Our moving truck pulled up and as soon as we opened the door to our new home, the neighbors showed up - all hands on deck - and helped us move in. As soon as the truck was empty, the food arrived and we all sat down on unopened boxes and got to know one another. It was and still is a great neighborhood, even if I don't live there anymore.

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Edible Plant of the Month

Exploring Asian Vegetables

More tasty and nutritious Asian vegetable favorites are showing up in supermarkets and farmers' markets nationwide every spring. If you have relegated these veggies to the category of tasty exotics mostly encountered in restaurants, you'll find adding easy to grow Asian vegetables to your garden will make them part of delicious everyday cooking.

We import the best varieties of seed for these Asian specialties from where they've grown best in their countries of origin and you'll find growing many of them especially suited to the cool conditions of the early spring garden.

Besides being versatile and quick to mature, Asian vegetables offer rich colors, graceful forms and mouth pleasing textures. You can use them not only in traditional stir fries, but also in soups, pickles, sautés, braises, wraps for fillings, and as welcome early salad greens. All of these specialties have the added advantage of being chock full of naturally occurring vitamin C, calcium and beta carotene. They are also excellent sources of essential minerals and high in dietary fiber, so there are enormous health benefits to enjoying them frequently.

Pak Choi has 6 to 8 inch tall green vase shaped heads with broad, pale green crunchy leaf stalks that contrast handsomely with their dark green leaves. The heads grow multiple stalks that form an urn shape. Pak Choi has a slightly sweet, very mild cabbage flavor and very juicy stalks. Separate and chop both stalks and leaves to use. Besides, stir frying with scallions, fresh ginger and garlic, then finishing with soy or Thai peanut sauce, I enjoy the leafy stalks in chicken soup or as a quick sauté with snow pea pods and red sweet pepper and carrots. When you thin the plants to their final spacing, the young thinnings with just 4 to 6 tender leaves are particularly tender and tasty. The remaining heads quickly grow into full heads making this great spring crop, one of my favorites for extended continuous harvesting in the garden. Cook all baby Pak Choi very simply to enjoy their tenderness. I sometimes steam or sauté the heads whole just until tender crisp as a side dish with broiled ham steak, roasted pork or chicken. Or you can stuff the little vase shaped heads like you would an artichoke and steam them in chicken broth.

This article is from Renee's Garden.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

January in the Garden:

In the Garden:

Plant rhubarb, strawberries, and cane berries. Plant seeds for broccoli, cabbage, parsley, turnips, peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach.

This is the time to plant bare root roses, trees, artichoke crowns, grapevines, and other vines. You can still plant pansies, violas, snapdragons, and fairy primroses.

Plant gladiolus every 2 weeks for a succession of blooms.

Later in the month you can divide Shasta daisies, daylilies, chrysanthemums, and other perennials.

NOTE: Beware of digging in soggy soils. All plantings should be well-drained; the new plants might rot if soil is soggy.

Pruning:

Roses, fruit trees and other perennials can be pruned this month.

Do not prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom.

Prune berry canes that bore fruit last year to the ground.

Prune grapevines back, leaving 2 to 3 buds per side shoot.

Pest and Disease control:

Spray horticultural oil on pruned fruit trees to control scale, mites and aphids. Thorough coverage will kill over-wintering eggs.

Later in the month, spray neem oil on roses to control mildew, rust, and black spot. Do not apply oils unless there will be 24 hours of dry weather following application.

Be sure to clean up debris (leaves and twigs) around roses and fruit trees to help prevent disease.

Order seeds for this year's vegetable and flower garden.



Science word of the Month....

Fasciation - Flattening and enlargement of a branch as if several stems were fused, often accompanied by curving.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- January 23, 2017
- 6:30 pm
- St. Stephens Episcopal 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.

