

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:

April 2017

This newsletter is produced by:

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Master Gardener
Coordinator

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Luis Espino
County Director

- ◆ Book of the Month— *Gardens of Awe and Folly*
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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:

Plant Clinic
Friday, April 14
Griff's Feed and Seed
7th & Fremont, Colusa

A Tree Grows in Colusa
A Virginia Read activity
Saturday, April 22, 2 pm
10th & Parkhill, Colusa

Gourd Workshop
Saturday, May 20
Details to follow





Plant Clinic

Presented by
UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County
Griff's Feed and Seed

When:
Friday April 14, 10am -3pm

Where:
Griff's Feed and Seed
7th and Fremont, Colusa

- Have a gardening question? Ask us!
- Hanging basket demonstrations at 10am, 11am, noon, 1pm and 2pm.



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UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County



A Tree Grows in Colusa

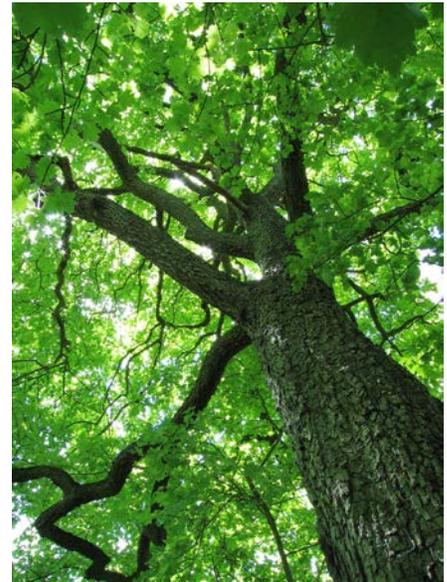
A Virginia Read Project

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

When: April 22, 2 – 3pm

Where: Parkhill & 10th, Colusa



- **Learn about trees and their value in our community!**
- **Sacramento Tree Foundation, speaker**
- **Tree planting**



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UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

Book of the Month

Gardens of Awe and Folly

Vivian Swift

A Traveler's Journey on the Meaning of Life and Gardening

I know that many of you take some very interesting vacations and all of you enjoy beautiful gardens. This book may just inspire your next vacation destination.

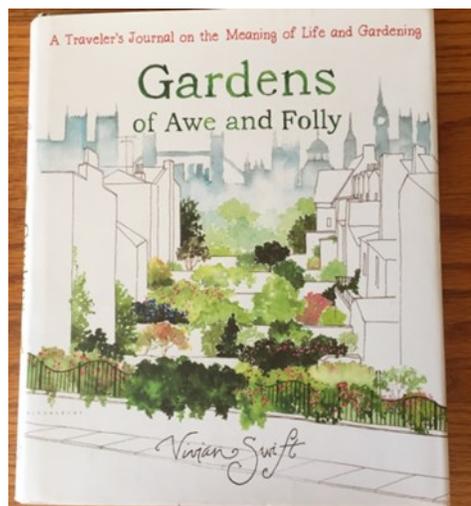
Vivian Swift has chosen her nine favorite gardens and presented them with interesting facts and some really pretty illustrations.

Her garden picks include Paris, Key West, Marrakesh, New Orleans, Long Island, Edinburgh, London and Rio de Janeiro

She starts with the Square du Vert-Gallant in Paris and describes how vast this small 2/3 acre garden seems and all that you should see and feel when you are there. It seems like a really lovely, historic place.

My favorite is the New Orleans Rose Garden. I have been to New Orleans many times and have seen this particular garden. Everything about that town is special and unexpected. You can't help but happen upon a unique garden that is memorable. The rose garden was one of those places that you end up following your nose and before you know it you are in an unforgettable garden.

The Key West Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park and the Marrakech Jardin Majorelle are two others that she describes in such detail that you really want to experience the atmosphere, colors and scents on your own.



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich

Edible Plant of the Month

See What's To Eat in Your Yard

Welcome to Spring! It is time to get out the pestle and muddle that mint for mojitos. Or, you can pick lemons for fresh squeezed lemonade. But whatever, it is time to rejoice as the weather warms up.



Blooming now are lilacs. (One image out of my yard, the other compliments of Didi's Cakes)

They not only smell good, but are edible as well. They have a slightly bitter lemony flavor and are used in salads. Eating a single flower raw is a flavor exploding experience with an almost bitter and floral taste. It is best used as a pastry decoration.



Rosemary is blooming now, also.

As a culinary herb, it is especially good with meats and seafood but can also be used in mashed potatoes and in baked chicken.



Nasturtiums have started to bloom, too. They have a sweet peppery flavor and can be used in a number of ways. They are suitable for stuffing or lend a peppery taste to salads. The seed pods can be pickled and used as a substitute for capers. Mixed with chives, both the leaves and blossoms blend well into omelets or potato salad. They are also great mixed into soft butter—really colorful!



Take a walk around your yard. See if you have any non-traditional edibles. If you have roses in bloom, all roses are edible. Try them for decorations on cakes.

Keep in mind, you should NEVER use pesticides or other chemicals on any part of any plant that you plan to eat, whether it be the blossoms or other plant parts. Never harvest plants growing on the roadside as you don't know whether they have been sprayed with pesticides or other chemicals.

Also, remember not every flower is edible! When in doubt, look it up from a trusted resource.

Submitted by Lynne Spivak

Recipe of the Month

Bacon Pea Salad

From the website Foodie with Family, adapted from and with thanks to the talented Amy of She Wears Many Hats.

Ingredients

1 pound of bacon cooked according to package instructions, drained and crumbled or finely chopped

2 pounds frozen peas thawed in the refrigerator overnight

3/4 cup coarsely grated sharp Cheddar cheese

1/2 small red onion peeled, and finely chopped

1/2 cup of mayonnaise

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper

1/4 teaspoon paprika

Instructions

Stir together (gently, so you don't mash the peas) all of the ingredients and serve immediately, or (preferably) put in an air tightly covered container in the refrigerator to give the flavors a chance to meld for an hour but up to three days prior to serving. Give it a gentle stir before serving.



Ornamental Plant of the Month

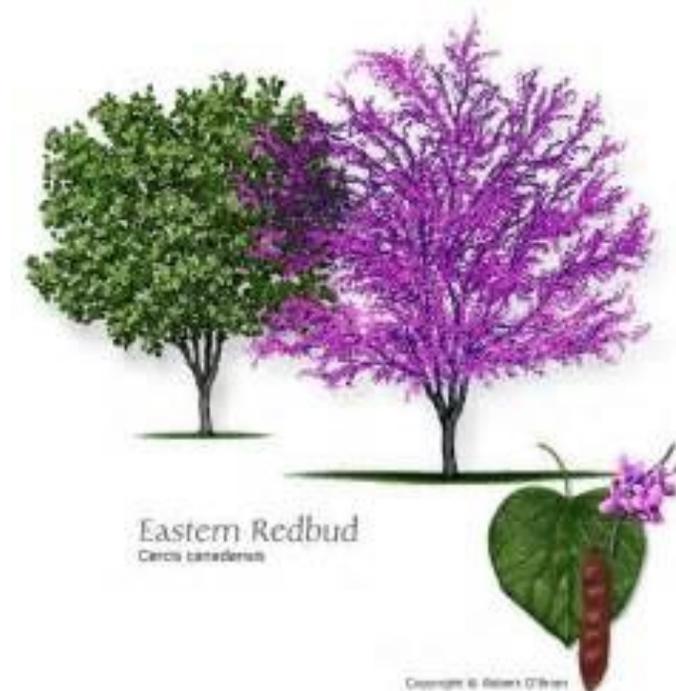
EASTERN REDBUD

Cercis canadensis

General Notes

Utility friendly tree. Eastern Redbud is a commonly used single or multi-trunk tree, effective as a flowering or foliage accent, in lawns or residential garden settings. Leaves are an attractive lemon in fall. It blooms best in full sun, where it receives moderate moisture. Occasional tent caterpillar attacks can be controlled with spraying. Several varieties are available, including Forest Pansy (Purple-leaved), Texas White (White Flowering), and Silver Cloud (Variegated). Plants may require light top-trimming of vigorous top shoots to maintain its height below 25'. Native to Eastern United States.

For more information [click here](#).



April in the Garden:

What to plant?

- In a shady spot early in the month you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses.
- You can plant dahlia tubers and transplant most perennials.
- As temperatures warm (nights consistently over 55 degrees) you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.
- You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard. (Cilantro will go to seed quickly as the weather warms up.)

Chores:

- Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring.
- Watch azaleas, camellias and citrus for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to 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. To keep the garden tidy, you can braid the leaves together and hold with a rubber band. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal.
-  Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.

Spring

Science word of the Month....

Inflorescence—The arrangement of a flower or flower on an axis; a flower cluster.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- April 24, 6:30 pm
- St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Colusa
- Noelle DeMartini, Succulents

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.

