

A Garden Runs Through It

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program



Colusa County

Whether it's a vegetable garden, houseplants or a landscape...

July 2018

UC Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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In This Issue

- **Book of the Month**— *Epitaph for a Peach*
- **Ornamental Plant of the Month**— *Philadelphus lewisii*
- **Edible Plant of the Month**— Pumpkins
- **Recipe of the Month**— Szechuan Noodle Salad
- **Garden Guide**
- **Safety Notes**
- **Meet Your Master Gardener**

Upcoming events

[Click here to read our blog.](#)



July

Arbuckle Farmers Market
Wednesdays
July 11, 18, 25

July

Colusa Farmers Market
Thursdays
July 5, 12, 19, 26

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



Book of the Month

Epitaph for a Peach Four Seasons on My Family Farm

Written by David Mas Masumoto

This wonderful book was recommended by Gerry and I thank her for lending me the book.

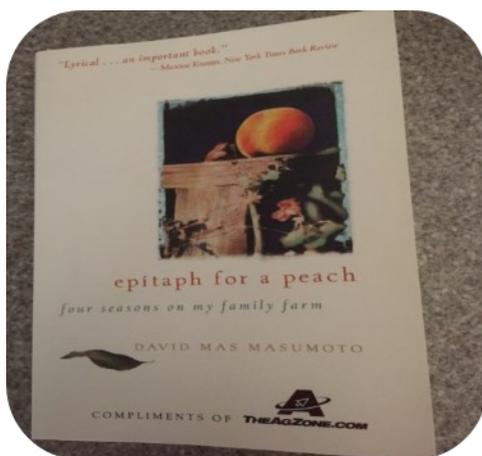
Mr. Matsumoto struggles to decide whether or not to keep his 80 acres of 25 year old heritage Sun Crest peaches. He knows that, even though the taste is unsurpassed, there is a limited market demand because of the short shelf life. He takes us on a 4 season journey of his decision making process. Many of you will relate to this book about peaches set in the San Joaquin Valley.

It is really so much more than the 4 current seasons however. It spans his memories of when his father started the farm and his entire family was part of the day to day work; including his grandmother. Because his family was such an influence on his orchard education you see it from a typical farmers' point of view as well as from his Japanese-American point of view.

You can see the evolution of the orchard based on decisions he has made over the years such as whether to integrate cover crops and wildflowers and the impact those types of decisions have had on the over-all production and harmony of the land.

He writes of the struggles with pests, fertilizer choices, irrigation, heat in the summer, early rain in the fall, pruning errors and competing with neighboring farms for labor.

And, always, it is about whether there will be a market and profit if he decides to keep his beloved Sun Crest peaches.



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Philadelphus lewisii (Mock Orange)

My *Philadelphus lewisii* exhibited at this year's fair received the best of the division for the best exhibit in the Arboreal perennial shrub. Many of the exhibitors had never seen this old plant and were so enthusiastic when they saw and smelled the specimen. My shrub is most likely over 60 years old; I transplanted it from the original sunny location, during its dormancy (winter) 23 years ago and it is still a beautiful bloomer.

Philadelphus, often known as mock orange, (however there are many other plants of other genus also called mock orange, so learn this plant by its botanical name) is deciduous during winter and blooms fragrant, clusters of beautiful white blooms, summer and spring. Like many other spring blooming shrubs, *Philadelphus* should be pruned immediately following the blooming period, rather than during winter time.

Amazingly, *Philadelphus* is a member of the *Hydrangea* family, native of the Northwest, northern California to the Sierras, southern British Columbia, Montana and Idaho. Its maximum height is 12 ft, developing when allowed to 6 ft. wide. Water requirements are low to extremely low, but should be moderately watered when newly planted until well established.

Poisonous to deer, attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, good for bees, easy to grow and for soil erosion. Sounds like a winner to me!!!



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

Pumpkins

It's time to plant pumpkins!

Most varieties of Cucurbita pepo, includes summer squash, ornamental gourds, and many pumpkins. Pumpkins are available in vining and bush types, and fruit varies greatly in size. One of the best for a jumbo Halloween pumpkin is 'Atlantic Giant', 'Orange Smoothie' is smooth skinned, making it easy to decorate with paint. 'Small Sugar', a smaller pumpkin with finer-grained, sweeter flesh, is great for pies. 'Jack Be Little' and 'Wee-B-Little' are miniature types used for decoration. Novelties with white skin and orange flesh include miniature 'Baby Boo' and 'Lumina'. Seeds of all type are edible.

How to Grow it

Best site—pumpkins need sun and plenty of room; a single vine can cover 500 sq. ft.

Yield—10 to 20 pounds per 10 ft. row.

Planting— Sow pumpkin seeds from spring to summer. In our long growing season, July is ideal.

Spacing—For vining pumpkins, sow clusters of five or six seeds 1 inch deep in 6 to 8 in high, 3 ft. wide hills (mounds).

Water—irrigate regularly, keeping foliage dry to prevent leaf diseases.

Fertilizer—give complete fertilizer periodically.

Training—in late summer, slide wood or other protection under the fruit to protect it from wet soil and rot.

Harvest—depending on variety, pumpkins are ready to harvest 90 to 120 days after sowing, when the shell has hardened. Use a sharp knife or hand pruners to harvest fruit along with 1-2 in. of stem.

Challenges—squash bugs cause leaves to wilt and may damage fruit. Mildew can be another problem; get a resistant variety and/or plant where there's good air circulation.

It is best to read and follow the directions on the seed packet.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Information from Sunset Western Garden Book of Edibles

Recipe of the Month

Szechuan Noodle Salad

- 6 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup tahini (sesame paste)
- 1/2 cup smooth peanut butter
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup dry sherry
- 1/4 cup sherry vinegar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon hot chili oil
- 4 tablespoons dark sesame oil
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1 pound spaghetti or angel hair pasta
- 1 red bell pepper, julienned
- 1 yellow bell pepper, julienned
- 1 medium carrot, peeled and julienned
- 4 scallions, sliced diagonally (white and green parts)



Optional add ins:

- 1 -2 cups cut up cooked shrimp or chicken
- 1 cup blanched and slivered sugar snap peas (or just frozen peas)
- 1 cup daikon radish, julienned
- 1/2 cup sliced water chestnuts
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1/4 - 1/2 cup dry roasted peanuts, coarsely chopped, as topping

Garnish - I would go with fresh cilantro!

Place the garlic and ginger in a food processor fitted with a steel blade and chop.

Add the vegetable oil, tahini, peanut butter, soy sauce, sherry, sherry vinegar, honey, chili oil, sesame oil, and black pepper and (optional) cayenne. Puree the sauce and set aside.

Cook the spaghetti al dente in boiling water.

Drain the pasta in a colander, place it in a large bowl, and while still warm, toss with 3/4 of the sauce.

Add the red and yellow bell peppers and scallions (and any optional add ins). Toss well.

Serve warm or at room temperature.

The remaining sauce may be added, as needed, to moisten the pasta.

NOTE:

If you do not have tahini, just add 1/4 cup more peanut butter and a little more sesame oil.

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	July	August	September
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can still plant seeds of annuals: zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers and alyssum will grow and bloom this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Cool-Weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now.</p> <p>Also, transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale can be planted this month.</p> <p>Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.</p>
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blackberries, cut the canes that bore fruit to the ground. Tie up 3-5 of the new canes. Dig and divide bearded iris that have not been divided for 3 yrs. Deadhead blooming plants as they finish flowering. Fertilize roses after each burst of blooms. Cut back lavender after flowering to promote a second bloom. You can prune by half to keep the plant in bounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September is a good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. It is also a good time to rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding. Put your spent annual and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile. Dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have fruit trees, be sure to pick up dropped fruit to prevent brown rot from developing and leaving spores for future infection. Be sure everything is well mulched for the heat of summer. Water before 10 am to avoid fungal infections and to minimize water loss to evaporation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to weed. Be especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds. Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds. 

Meet your Master Gardeners!



In today's fast paced, social media way of life, fake news has become normal.
This includes fake gardening advice.
UC Master Gardeners use cutting edge, research-based information to help you garden better.
We are practical, connected and trusted.
Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!

Tomorrow's activities are created by today's dreamers—you can make sure that the UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County is still working to help future generations through your support.

[Click here to support us.](#)

Science Word of the Month

Habit—A plant's growth pattern; for example, weeping, columnar, upright, spreading or trailing.

If you attended one of your workshops, you will receive an email from mgevaluation@ucanr.edu. Your input gives us the tools we need to grow and improve our program. *Thank you!*

PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED

Seasonal IPM Checklist

The list below reflects possible landscape activities to do during the selected month(s) in your region. You can use the checklist as a guide for IPM activities in your own landscape or provide it to your clients.

July

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, herbicide, salinity, soil pH, sunburn, wind, and too much or little water.
- [American plum borer](#) - Check for frass and gum on lower branch crotches and graft unions of young trees such as almond, mountain ash, olive, sycamore, and stone fruit.
- [Ants](#) - Manage around landscape and building foundations, such as using insecticide baits and trunk barriers.
- [Aphids](#) - On small plants, spray a strong stream of water or apply insecticidal oils and soaps. Look for and conserve [natural enemies](#) such as predaceous bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, and syrphids.
- [Asian citrus psyllid](#) - Look for it and if found where not known to occur report it and other new or [exotic pests](#) to your local county agricultural commissioner.
- [Bacterial blast, blight, and canker](#) - Inspect apple, citrus and especially *Prunus* spp. (e.g., stone fruit). Remove entire affected branches in the summer, making cuts several inches away in healthy wood.
- [Carpenter bees](#) - Paint or varnish and seal wood in which they nest. If intolerable, treat tunnels during fall or early spring.
- [Carpenterworm](#) - Protect trees from injury and provide proper cultural care, especially appropriate irrigation.
- [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as leafminer.
- [Clean up](#) mummies and old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests.
- [Clearwing moths](#) - Look for signs of boring in ash, birch, pine, poplar, and willow; less often in oak, sycamore, and stone fruits.
- [Coast redwood dieback](#) - Check for drought-stress related maladies such as abiotic disorders, bark beetles, fungal diseases, and spider mites. [Deep water trees](#) and apply mulch.
- [Codling moth](#) of apple and pear - Bag fruit. Promptly remove infested and dropped fruit. Apply insecticides only if precisely timed.
- [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist.
- Cover fruit trees and grapes with netting to [exclude birds](#) and other [vertebrate pests](#).
- Cypress, or Seridium, [canker](#) - Prune dying branches at least 6 inches below any apparent cankers. Irrigate appropriately. Replace severely affected trees.
- Deter [borers](#) - Deep water trees adapted to summer rainfall e.g., fruit and nut trees. Protect trunks and roots from injury and avoid pruning, except for hazardous trees and certain pests and plants that warrant summer pruning. [Paint trunk and scaffolds with white](#) interior latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water.
- [Eutypa dieback](#) - Prune apricot and cherry.
- [Fire blight](#) - Look for oozing and dead limbs on pome plants such as apple, crabapple, pear, and pyracantha. If a problem in the past, apply blossom sprays to prevent new infections.

Seasonal IPM Checklist

- [Green fruit beetle](#) in fig and stone fruits - Plant varieties that mature early or late in the season, avoid varieties that mature midseason.
- [Irrigation](#) - Adjust watering schedules according to the weather and plants' changing need for water. Check systems for leaks and broken emitters and perform maintenance as needed. Consider upgrading the irrigation system to improve its water efficiency.
- [Leaffooted bug](#) - Look for feeding on fruit and nuts such as almonds, pistachios, and pomegranates.
- [Mosquitoes](#) - Eliminate standing water e.g., in gutters, drain pipes, and flowerpots. Place *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* in birdbaths and ponds to selectively kill mosquito larvae.
- [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- Oak [gall wasps](#) - Usually do no serious harm to oaks. Control is very difficult.
- [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Prune off galled branches if intolerable.
- [Powdery mildew](#) - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits.
- [Redhumped caterpillars](#) - Monitor trees such as liquidambar, redbud, stone fruits, and walnut. Cut off shoots infested with groups of young caterpillars. Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* or spinosad.
- [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- [Rose pests](#) - Manage or take preventive actions for powdery mildew.
- [Spider mites](#) - Irrigate adequately, mist leaf undersides daily, reduce dustiness, spray horticultural oil.
- [Weeds](#) - Manage weeds using nonchemical methods such as [cultivation](#), handweeding, or mowing.
- [Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps. Trapping is most effective during late winter to early spring.

Safety Note #149

BARBECUE COOKING SAFETY



A company barbecue can be viewed as a great way for team building and formulating working relationships in a fun environment. Your local fire department and hospital might have a different view, one of serious burns and nasty food poisoning incidents. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, each year an average of 6,500 grill fires result in \$27 million in property loss. These fires account for 150 injuries and an average of five deaths. Most barbecue accidents occur during the lighting of gas and charcoal grills. Improper maintenance of grills is another factor of barbecue accidents.

Listed below are several basic steps can help ensure safe, reliable operation of your outdoor barbecue appliance, regardless of what type you use:

- Consult the manufacturer's manual for safe use and assembling instructions of your barbecue grill. Follow all safety instructions given in the manual.
- Only use barbecue grills outdoors, in an open area away from any enclosure or overhang where carbon monoxide can accumulate and cause fatalities. Keep lit grills 10 feet or more away from structures and, away from flammable or combustible products and materials. Grills should always be placed on a hard, flat surface.
- Check liquid propane (LP) gas grills regularly for signs of wear, particularly for hose cracks and possible gas leaks. Also, keep burners clear of dirt and insects that can block gas hoses or tubes. Always start the LP gas grill with the lid up. If the spark igniter is going out, replace it at once. Gases can buildup while trying to reignite the grill, resulting in a potential explosion or fire.
- If you have an LP gas grill, always store the propane tanks outside, never in the house, and keep the tank in an upright position.
- Never use a propane tank if it shows signs of dents, gouges, bulges, corrosion, leakage or other forms of visual damage. The tank may be hazardous and should be checked by a liquid propane supplier.
- A fire extinguisher should be located at the barbecue grill for emergencies. If you don't have a fire extinguisher, keep a bucket of sand or a garden hose nearby.
- Using lighter fluid can be a dangerous method for lighting charcoal and wood grills. Never add lighter fluid to hot burning coals and store away from the charcoal grill. A safer alternative is to use a charcoal chimney starter instead of lighter fluid.
- Use long-handled utensils and flame-retardant gloves to avoid burns. Do not wear loose clothing which can hang into the grill rack. Wear closed-toe shoes when using a charcoal grill to prevent hot coals and sparks from burning the feet.
- Never leave a hot grill unattended and keep children and 4-H animals away from the grill area.
- Cook food thoroughly by using a food thermometer and grill temperature gauge to cook food safely and prevent food poisoning.
- Do not use electric grills and smokers in wet locations or in the rain. Before using, check electric cords for damage.
- Always have help nearby to assist with barbecue chores and if an accident should occur.

For further information on food safety, please visit <http://ucanr.org/foodsafety>.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- No Garden Club activities in July

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Additional Links

- Integrated Pest Management ipm.ucanr.edu
- UC Davis Arboretum arboretum.ucdavis.edu
- Invasive Plants www.cal-ipc.org
- Plant Right www.plantright.org
- Save Our Water saveourwater.com
- California Garden Web cagardenweb.ucanr.edu
- McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens turtlebay.org
- UCANR Colusa County cecolusa.ucanr.edu
- UC Master Gardener Program (statewide) mg.ucanr.edu
- California Backyard Orchard homeorchard.ucanr.edu
- ANR publications anrcatalog.ucanr.edu

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