

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...

January 2018

Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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Upcoming events



February

Colusa Farm Show
February 6-7-8
Colusa County Fairgrounds
Main Exhibit Hall

March

Watch for our workshops to continue in March,
April, May and June.

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



Book of the Month

The Grumpy Gardener

An A to Z Guide from the Galaxy's Most Irritable Green Thumb

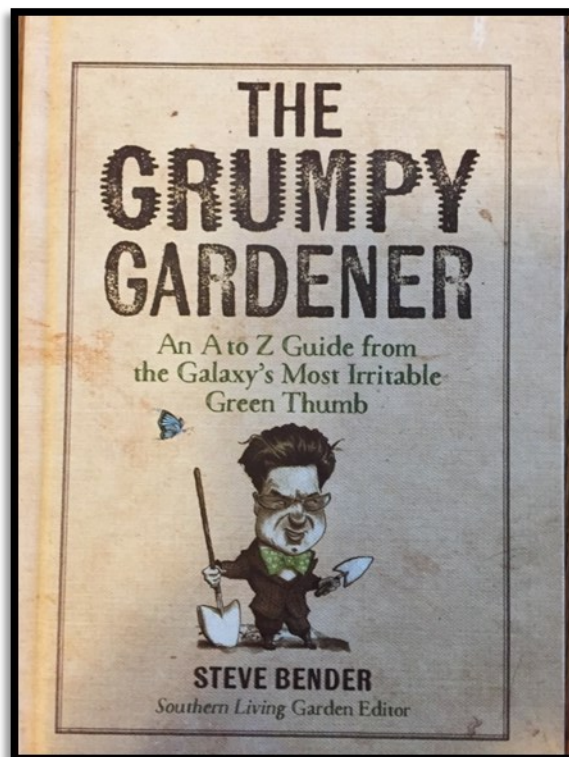
Written by Steve Bender (Southern Living Garden Editor)

The book was written by a Southern Living Garden editor so it is no surprise that the information is geared toward that climate. I have found that they tend to have the same plants and issues that we do in the western US. However since they do receive rain in the summer their weather does differ from ours.

The best part of the reading is that it is done in a humorous way....or a grumpy gardener sort of way. He talks about "really dumb things that gardeners do" and shares awful plants that no one should grow. In addition to addressing questions and general information on plants he tackles pests, chainsaws, rubber mulch and armadillos.

I liked the 50 Rules he placed throughout the book; like *Rule #46: Know the surest way to kill a plant. Make it to focal point of your garden. It will die immediately.*

It was a fun book to read but should be read in the spirit it was intended: gardening advice shared in a humorous vein.



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Season for Rose Pruning

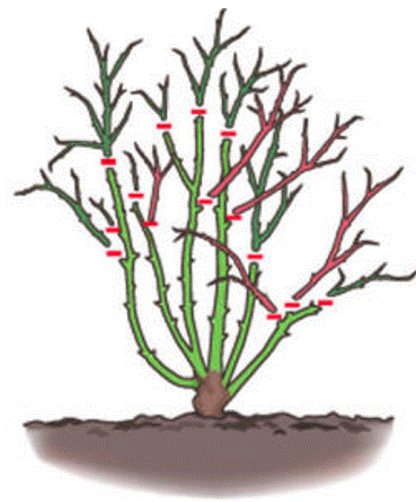
Annual pruning greatly contributes to the health, productivity, and longevity of roses. The basic objective is to promote strong growth that will bear good flowers on healthy plants.

Many gardeners have already done their pruning, however, pruning promote new growth; new and tender growth can easily be hurt by a freeze, when the night/early morning temperature falls below 32 degrees F, without wind or protection. Recommended best time for pruning most roses is at the end of the dormant season, when growth buds begin to swell, generally mid-January (mild climates) clear into April (colder regions).

- Use sharp pruners; remove the right branches.
- Prune out dead wood, wood that had unhealthy growth, branches that cross through center of plant (in other words open the center of plant), branches that make a plant one-sided or lopsided, as well as old canes that have been replaced by last season's new growth. Some Rosarians, describe old canes as being gray to blackening in color. Removing old foliage will reduce the chance of disease in the future.
- Cut back the previous season's growth by $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, making a slanted cut above an outward facing bud. The ideal result is a V shaped bush with a relatively open center.
- Remove suckers, growth produced from under stock of a budded/grafted plant. Dig down to where the suckers grow from the understock and pull them off with a downward motion. Let the wound air-dry before replacing the removed soil. A flowerless climbing cane from a bush rose is almost certainly a sucker.

If you have variety of types of roses, you might check with the American Rose Society for specifics.

www.rose.org



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Picture from *Sunset* magazine.

Edible Plant of the Month

Seed Starting

Once you've decided which crops to grow, you'll need to decide whether to buy seeds and start your own plants or buy transplants from the nursery. With seeds, you can order exactly what you want from a seed company if your local nursery doesn't carry the plant you're looking for. Nursery plants are more expensive, but they have the advantage of being ready to plant at once.

Buying and Storing Seeds

Be sure the seeds you buy are fresh; they should be dated for the current year. A packet often contains far more seeds than you can use in one year, especially in a small garden. You can save many kinds of seeds for future use. Store in an air tight container in a cool, dry place.

Starting Seeds

Warm-season vegetables need a long, warm growing season to produce a harvest. If you plan to grow your own seedlings, start such crops indoors in early spring in order to have plants ready to set out in the garden when the weather has warmed up.

You can use a variety of containers, including flats or trays, small individual pots, or cell-packs. If you're using old containers, scrub them out, then soak them for a half-hour in a solution of 1 part household bleach to 9 parts hot water to destroy any disease organisms. Follow these steps for sure success.

1. Fill your container to just below the rim with a light, porous seed-starting or potting mix. Moisten the mix, and let drain.
2. Scatter seeds thinly over the surface. Check the seed packet for the recommended planting depth and cover the seeds with the proper amount of mix. (As a rule of thumb, cover seeds to a depth equal to twice their diameter.)
3. Moisten the soil lightly.
4. Label each container with the plant's name and the date.
5. If you are starting heat-loving plants (tomatoes, cucumbers, etc.) set the containers on a heating mat to keep the soil warm.
6. When the seeds germinate, move the pots into an area with bright light and temperatures between 60 and 75 degrees F.

Tips and Tricks for Starting Seeds Indoors

Seedlings of edible crops need bright light to develop properly; when grown in conditions that are too dark, the seedlings are spindly and weak.

If you don't have a suitable place for your seedlings, try growing them under fluorescent lights. As soon as the seeds sprout, give them 12 to 14 hours of light each day, setting the light fixture 6 to 8 inches above the tops of the plants. Seeds of summer crops also need warm soil to germinate quickly and strongly. Thin waterproof heating mats placed under the containers keep the soil warm.

About 10 days before transplanting, set the containers outdoors a few hours each day.

Information from *Sunset Western Garden Book of Edibles*

Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

WINTER/SPRING Vegetables for the Sacramento Area

	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
cauliflower & broccoli													
onion													
cabbage													
lettuce													
lettuce													
lettuce													
shallots & garlic													
tomato													
carrots													
carrots													
potato													
chard													
beets													
pepper & eggplant													
cucumber													
cucumber													
corn													
corn													
corn													
corn													
green bean													
green bean													
melon													
melon													
squash													
lima bean													

Recipe of the Month

Ricotta Gnocchi

2 cups whole milk ricotta cheese
1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
1 1/2 tsp olive oil
2 large eggs
1/2 tsp salt
1 1/4 cups all purpose flour

FOR GNOCCHI

Gently combine the cheeses, oil, eggs and salt with a whisk.
Gently add the flour in three parts using a spatula - don't mash it up - keep it light!
Gently bring dough together and divide off a small portion, set the rest aside for now.
Dust your work surface with a little flour.
Roll the dough into a log about 5/8 - 3/4 inch in diameter.
Cut into 5/8 - 3/4 inch lengths and toss onto parchment paper dusted with a little more flour.
TEST COOK a couple of gnocchi now!
If they fall apart, add a little more flour to your reserved dough and repeat the test.
Once dough just holds together, divide in fourths, roll and cut, and put aside onto parchment.

TO COOK

Bring a large pot of water to a boil and add plenty of salt.
Cook the gnocchi in batches for about 2 minutes - they should float and firm up but stay tender.

TO SERVE

Toss with your choice of sauces (see below).

OR FREEZE

You can freeze them on the parchment, then package in Zip bags for a couple of weeks.
If you freeze, you can cook directly from the freezer, just increase time.

SAUCES

Simple Tomato Sauce

6 ounces of pancetta or 6 slices of bacon, cut in 1/2 inch pieces
3/4 cup diced onion
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 28 ounce can crushed tomatoes
1 bay leaf
fresh basil to taste

Sauté pancetta or bacon until fat has rendered and meat is crisp.
Remove meat from pan and sauté onions in drippings until soft.
Add garlic, tomatoes, bay and basil, simmer 15 min.
Return meat to pan, simmer about 15 min more and serve.

OPTIONS - instead of tomato sauce... try one of these Sage brown butter sauce Bacon, garlic, thyme, butter, lemon and peas (with or without cream) Creamy cheese sauce with sautéed mushrooms, lemon zest and nutmeg Pesto - basil, garlic, parmesan, pine nuts and olive oil whizzed in food processor Any bottled sauce that suits you!



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

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.

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

Sidedressing—Applying fertilizer to the soil at the side of a plant row, usually after the crop has started to grow.

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!*

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- January 22, 6:30
- Grafting techniques
- Don Bright of Jeffery's Pecans

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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