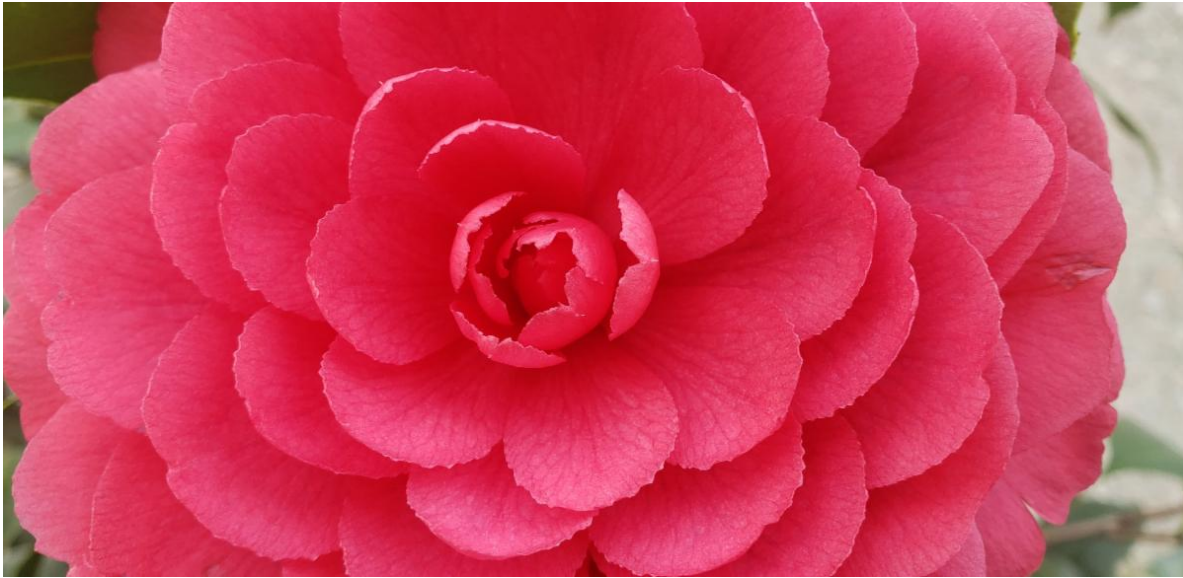




Garden Notes

Winter 2023



Have a Gardening Question? Ask
Us!



Photo: Bruce Hagen

Inspecting Your Trees After A Storm

Storm damaged trees are something many people in our community are currently dealing with. This last storm brought with it some pretty powerful winds and with that many downed fences and trees. For some, it may be too late to inspect trees for potential hazards but hopefully for many of you, this last storm spared trees planted around your home and neighborhood. Although some tree failures are not predictable and cannot be prevented, many failures can be prevented.

We hope you are safe and survived these storms with no to minimal damage. For more information in inspecting your trees, download **ANR Publication 8365**.

~ Happy Gardening ~
Marcy Sousa, Program Coordinator

Flooding of streams and creeks not only causes property damage, but can also damage gardens by affecting your soil quality and the safety of crops being grown. Working in the garden and consuming garden produce after a flood can be unsafe because of health risks posed by flood waters, which can carry unknown and hard-to-identify microbes and contaminants. For more information on growing food after a flood, download "[Gardening After a Flood](#)".



Mulching Oak Leaves for Turf, Garden and Landscape, and Composting

When we lived in St. Louis Missouri, pin oaks graced the yards of our neighborhoods. When they dropped their leaves in the fall, the raking began with families filling up paper sacks purchased in bulk from the box stores. We encountered a much different situation when we moved back to California in 2016. Collaborating with Master Gardeners and

reviewing university studies on leaf mulching / composting, my first “aha” moment arrived. The answers to whether you should mulch oak leaves into turf, compost the leaves, use leaves for landscape mulch, till leaves into your vegetable garden, simply let the leaf litter lie, or combinations thereof, were summed up in two words: “it depends.” For my situation, it made sense to mulch some leaves into the turf, collect some for landscape mulch, till some into the vegetable garden, and compost the remainder.

[Find Out More](#)



Soil Amendments

Is your garden soil as productive as you want? Need to make some enhancements? Soil amendments may be the solution to improve the quality of your soil, but before making any additions or changes to your soil, it is best to understand what soil amendments are and how they could



Why Not Grow a Winter Vegetable Garden

We are so fortunate to live in an area where food can be grown year-round, even in winter. Traditionally, vegetable gardens are planted in the spring, but if you have a plot, raised beds, or pots used for summer vegetables, why not use the space for a winter garden also?

improve your soil. Remember, soil improvement will not overcome poor design, plant choice, incorrect planting, and lack of care.

[Find Out More](#)

Beets, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, chard, garlic, lettuce, onions, potatoes, and shallots can be seeded or transplanted in the winter months in our area.

[Find Out More](#)



Winter Garden Chores

[Find Out More](#)



Plants of the Season

[Find Out More](#)



Pests of the Season

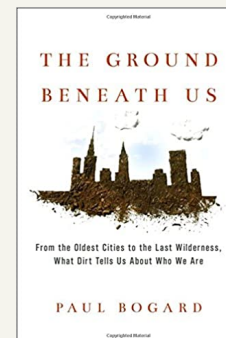
[Find Out More](#)



Gifts From the Garden

Now that we are harvesting and bedding down our gardens for the winter, our thoughts may naturally turn to sharing or “gifting” some of our bounty. Distinctive and personalized gifts can come straight from our garden, but if you are like me, you may be at a loss in creating those gifts. In preparation for this article, I stumbled upon a used book titled, glorious gifts from the garden, inspirational projects from the potting shed, written by a British author, Stephanie Donaldson.

[Find Out More](#)



Growing Knowledge The Ground Beneath Us

Tree rings reveal age, Earth's atmosphere reflects the state of its own health, and waterways move to the tune of a changing ability to support life. The ground upon which humanity stands also discloses itself in a myriad of ways: the quiet seasonal joy of flowers blooming and food growing, the terror and beauty of a volcanic eruption, the fragility of life on the battlefields of Gettysburg and the heartbreaking remnants left behind, discovered in the soil.

[Find Out](#)

[More](#)



Opening Doors in the Community

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Horticultural Terms "Frass"

[Find Out More](#)



A Taste of the Season Recipes from the Garden

[Find Out More](#)



Help Desk How to Attract Pollinators

Whether you are planting a vegetable garden, growing fruit trees, or you just love watching pollinators in your garden, the best way to succeed at all three is by keeping plants that bees, butterflies, and other pollinators love to visit! Here are a few things to keep in mind when you begin thinking about a pollinator garden...

[Find Out More](#)



Herbs at Your Fingertips

Having fresh herbs at hand can make you one happy cook and gardener! There is nothing that better enhances even the simplest culinary efforts than adding a bit of your own herbs fresh out of the garden. In addition, herbs are easy to grow, not too demanding in terms of conditions, fairly pest free, and can be creatively placed in a variety of garden and home settings.

[Find Out More](#)



From the Master Food Preservers Lemon Curd

What is a fruit curd?
Fruit curds are traditional English spreads, made with fruit juice, butter, eggs, sugar and flavorings. The result is a rich, smooth, melt-in-the-mouth blend that is prized in the best year-round or holiday gift-giving tradition. Visit the [San Joaquin UC Master Food Preserver website](#).

[Find Out More](#)



Find us on Social Media!

The San Joaquin County UC Master Gardeners have several social media pages. Find us on our [Facebook page](#), Instagram @sj_mastergardeners, [Pinterest](#), Twitter @UCsanjoaquinMgs and our [YouTube page](#).

Have a Gardening Question? Ask Us!

Master Gardener Helpline: 209-953-6112

E-mail: anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu

Website: ucanr.edu.sjmg

The helpline office is open Tuesday-Thursday from
9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Find past editions of our newsletter here.

