

NEW! Now you can click on the link below and jump directly to that article. Also look for the "return home" link on the even numbered pages to return back to this home page. Click on the blue hyperlink to continue reading an article on another page.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Heirloom Tomatoes 1

Garden Chores 2

Pests and Plants 4

SWD, damping off, dandelion, Iris, salvia, Ginkgo

Growing Knowledge 6

The Education of the Gardener \$64 Tomato

Web-sites 7

The Help Desk 8

Controlling Ants

Coming Events 9

Recipes 10

Strawberries

Growing Vertically 11

Master Gardeners in San Joaquin County

Marcy Hachman Master Gardener Coordinator

Spring is here and that means the MG Program is starting to get busy with office calls as the nice weather we have had lately is getting people out in their gardens. Our office is receiving phone calls on a daily basis from gardeners who have questions about weeds, insects, and vegetable gardening along with other gardening questions.

We are in the middle of training 56 new Master Gardeners that will be graduating in May and will be ready to get involved in community volunteer projects. If you are interested in becoming a master gardener fill out an [application here](#) and you will be contacted when the next training has been set.

Look for the Master Gardeners at many of the spring festivals throughout the county and don't forget to attend one of our monthly workshops in Lodi or Manteca. Master gardeners are busy planning a fall Sustainable Landscape workshop along with a wine tasting fundraiser in September as well. We are getting involved with several local schools in getting garden projects up and running. Needless to say spring is a busy season for us!

Since July of 2007, Master Gardeners have volunteered over 8,935 hours in the county on various projects. We are proud of our master gardeners and all the hard work they have put into this program in giving it a successful start and bringing the program to the level it is today.

MG Trainee Janet looking at thrips damage through a hand lens during class.



Heirloom Tomatoes are a Trip and a Treat

Lee Miller Master Gardener

For a colorful, exciting and tasty summer treat nothing beats growing heirloom tomatoes. What are heirloom tomatoes? Like furniture or family jewelry they are seeds that have been handed down from past generations. Most heirlooms never made it into a seed catalogue. However, recent interest has sparked a commercial market for them. You can categorize two types



Heirloom tomatoes

of heirlooms, one of commercial heirlooms that are older varieties in commerce, and the second, the seeds handed down through generations of farmers and gardeners.

Whether we call them heirlooms or heritage plants, they often have an interesting history which is part of our fascination with them. They also often have very good flavor or special characteristics, which are lacking in many supermarket tomatoes. Store-

[Cont. pg 3](#)

Using a can with oil as an earwig trap



Find past issues of our quarterly newsletters [here!](#)

You can click on any of the blue underlined words in any of the articles to go to a web-page and learn more about that topic!



April

If you [planted bare-root fruit trees](#) this winter, mulch them and keep them well watered until the roots are established, same for new [roses](#) and other perennials.

Time to get busy with spring [vegetable planting](#). Don't forget to rotate crops from last year's planting patterns to minimize diseases or pests. Keep after weeds while small and get the traps/bait out for [snails](#),

slugs and [earwigs](#) because they love those tender seedlings you have just planted. Earwigs can be trapped in tuna fish/cat food cans baited with about a ¼ inch of Canola oil or other cooking oil. They are attracted and suffocated by the oil.

[Potatoes](#) can go in if not already planted in March. Keep watering them evenly and pinch off blossom to encourage tuber formation. It is time to ready the garden for [tomatoes](#), [peppers](#), [eggplant](#), and [zucchini](#). Get irrigation materials in place if using drip. Soil temperatures should be about 60°F for planting these vegetables and danger of frost should be past. Last year on April 19 and 20th some of us got surprised with one of the latest freezes seen in over 30 years. Seeding carrots, cucumbers, lettuce, and herbs can be done.

[Beans](#) and [corn](#) can be started after soil temperatures are above 50°F. Temperatures below that will result in seeds rotting, especially if untreated with fungicide.

[Table grapes](#) and [wine grapes](#) will need to be treated with fungicides such as sulfur dust to keep [powdery mildew](#) at bay. Begin application when shoots are 6 inches in length and repeat at 12 and 18 inches.

Mulching landscape plants, containers and vegetables will help conserve moisture and control weeds. Compost, bark chips or other organic material can be used.

It is [fruit thinning](#) time if you want high quality fruit. [Apricots](#) and apriums should be thinned to 3-5 inches between fruit; [plums](#) and pluots, 4-6 inches; [peaches](#), 5-6 inches; and [apples](#), one per 4-6 inches or one per spur. Early thinning is important; good outcomes are less if done later than April. "Be ruthless in thinning" is a good rule. For more information consult the [Home Orchard online](#)

Plant perennials such as day-lilies, coreopsis, [salvias](#), [yarrow](#), celosias, portulaca, lavenders, [dahlias](#), and [lantanas](#) as well as tropicals such as [bougainvillea](#), [hibiscus](#), and Mandevilla now that frost danger is diminished.

Plant summer bulbs: Dahlias, [gladiolus](#), bugle lily (Watsonia), montbretias, and tuberose [begonias](#) to name a few.

Aphid can be controlled on roses and other plants with a quick rinse with a hose. If you have ants on citrus or other trees stymie them by using some Tanglefoot around the trunk. Ants like to farm scale and aphid pests for their honeydew.

May

Plant [watermelons](#), muskmelons, and [cantaloupe](#) in May when the weather is more settled and soils have warmed to 70°F. Time to plant winter squash and pumpkins too.

Put those grass clippings and weeds to work in a [compost pile](#). Time to get the [zinnias](#), [impatiens](#), [cosmos](#), [petunias](#), [nicotiana](#), and other summer annuals

planted.

Continue harvesting [strawberries](#) and keep them weeded. Set up a trellis for pole beans and plant them. Pruning [forsythia](#), [mock orange](#), [spiraea](#) and other early blooming shrubs can be done after bloom to enhance next year's production of new wood and flowers. Continue to trap/bait for snails, slugs and earwigs.

June

Still time to get some summer vegetables planted like beans, squash, [pumpkins](#), winter squash, [cucumbers](#), and melons. It is good to stretch the harvest by 2-week staggered plantings. Keep after the [weeds](#) while small and don't forget to monitor for slugs and snails and keep baiting for them. Iron phosphate baits are pet-friendly.

If you have a heavy fruit crop you may want to get the props under those heavy limbs to prevent breakage. Bird netting may be in order for fruit trees if you have a [bird problem](#). Red Haven peaches will be ripening near the end of the month.

Deadhead annuals, herbs, and perennials to discourage seed set and encourage a second round of blooms. Basil, coreopsis, Centaurea ruber (Jupiter's beard), roses, Penstemon, [cosmos](#), [sunflowers](#), black-eyed susan and others will benefit. When dead-heading [roses](#), cut the stems just above a 5 leaflet leaf. This could be the first one encountered going down the stem or if the rose is very vigorous, go for a lower one to keep the rose from getting too tall. Prune to outside buds that will keep the vase-like shape for Hybrid Tea, Floribunda and Grandiflora roses.

Happy Gardening.

Heirlooms (Continued from page 1)

bought tomatoes are bred for ease of shipping and storing, not for taste. They are designed for a tough life of being picked green, shipped far, gassed with ethylene oxide, and having a long shelf life. A desire for more flavor and variety are two reasons for the resurgent interest in heirlooms.

Heirlooms are numerous. Seed Saver's Exchange, a non-profit organization located in Decorah, Iowa that promotes conservation of our seed heritage, lists a total of 5059 tomatoes in their 2007 Seed Saver's Yearbook.

There are 552 orange-yellow tomato varieties, 584 pink-purple varieties, 2,439 red varieties, and 484 other color varieties-- black, green and white. There are so many tomatoes and so little time to grow, taste and enjoy all of them. The good news is that the interest in growing heirlooms is likely saving many from extinction.

One way to be sure that you can find the heirloom of choice is to grow your own from seed. Alas, it is already getting late in the year for seed starting, so the next best bet is to seek heirlooms at your local nurseries or plant sales. Many now carry a limited selection of heirlooms. Some good choices in yellow, orange or bicolor heirlooms are Golden Jubilee, Big Rainbow, Gold Medal, Amana Orange, Azoychka, Marvel Stripe, Marizol Gold, and Moonglow.

For red and pink varieties, there are many choices such as: Abraham Lincoln a small red tomato with fabulous flavor, Aker's West Virginia, a large beefsteak; Crimson Carmello or Carmello; similar to Early Girl, early, medium sized; Druzba, a heavy producer of medium sized, flavorful fruit and a good canner; Eva Purple Ball a good producer, thin-skinned, flavorful medium size; German Pink a large, beautiful and flavorful beefsteak type. Kosovo is a large heart-shaped tomato, delicious and a great producer. Mortgage Lifter is a large tomato with an exotic economic story of a tomato grower in West Virginia who paid off his mortgage selling this tomato.

Another group of tomatoes are mostly from Russia with a black color note. Black Krim, Black from Tula, Carbon and Paul Robeson are all very flavorful black tomatoes. There is also a small one named Black Prince, but I did not find it to be flavorful.

Pruden's Purple is a beefsteak variety reputedly good for climates with hot days and cool nights which fits San Joaquin County. Sioux, developed in Nebraska, is a medium sized tomato excellent in production and flavor. Thessaloniki, a moderate sized Greek tomato, has good flavor and is a heavy producer. Purple Cherokee, a favorite of mine, has excellent flavor though moderately productive. Brandywine is one of the first heirloom tomatoes marketed and while tasty it is not always productive, but worth trying if others can't be found. Brandywine is easier to pronounce than Soldacki or Azoychka but keep in mind that taste may not be related to the difficulty in pronunciation because heirlooms have an international heritage.

One nice thing about these heirlooms is that they are open pollinated so you can save your own seeds unlike hybrid tomatoes which will not come true to type from saved seed. Of course there are some good hybrid tomatoes that will do well here if you don't find heirlooms. Ace, Better Boy, Early Girl, Celebrity, Shady Lady and Beef Steak are all worthy tomatoes, but don't save the seeds.

According to Real Age website, tomatoes are a rich source of [lycopene](#), beta carotene, [lutein](#), potassium, and vitamins C and A -- nutrients known to help fight inflammation, protect skin from UV light, give extra strength to bones and protection from cancer whether eaten fresh or canned. So grow some tomatoes and be healthy.

For more information on growing tomatoes in the home garden, [click here](#).

To read about safely preserving and storing tomatoes, [click here](#).

Below: Purple Cherokee, Thessaloniki, and Amana Orange.



Pests and Plants of the Season

Weeds are nature's graffiti.
~Janice Maeditere

You can click on any of the blue underlined words in any of the articles to go to a web-page and learn more about that



Spotted Winged Drosophila & Damping Off

Steve Sanguinetti Master Gardener

Spotted Winged Drosophila California Invasive Pest Watch

Spotted wing drosophila (SWD), *Drosophila suzukii*, has recently been found in many California counties infesting ripening [cherries](#), and in coastal areas infecting ripening raspberry, blackberry, blueberry, and strawberry crops. It has also been observed occasionally attacking other soft-flesh fruit such as plums, plumcots, nectarines, and figs when conditions are right. Adults and maggots closely resemble the common vinegar fly and other *Drosophila* species that primarily attack rotting or fermenting fruit. The spotted wing drosophila, however, readily attacks undamaged fruit.

Adults are small (2-3 mm) flies with red eyes and a pale brown thorax and abdomen with black stripes on the abdomen. The most distinguishable trait of the adult is that the males have a [black spot](#) towards the tip of each wing. Spotted wing drosophila attacks ripening fruit and unfortunately is often not noticed in backyard fruit crops until fruit is being harvested. For more information and control measures, monitoring and an identification key please [click here](#). For more information from the USDA Invasive Pests web-site [click here](#).



Female SWD

Damping Off

In the garden or planter box, seedlings often fail to come up, or [die soon after they have emerged](#) from the soil. Seeds may rot before they germinate, shoots may be decayed before they emerge, or stems of seedlings may be attacked near the soil line, causing young plants to collapse. These diseases often are collectively referred to as "damping-off," and may be caused by a number of soil-inhabiting pathogens.

Damping-off is controlled primarily through good sanitation, high quality planting material, and proper cultural and environmental controls. Damping-off is worse when soil is wet or compacted. For more information on controlling and identifying damping off [click here](#).



Damping off of seedlings

Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), also known as lion's tooth, puffball, blowball, and monk's head, is a major problem in turf and ornamental plantings. Dandelion is a perennial that grows best in moist areas in full sun; however, it can survive some shade and dry conditions once established. Dandelion grows year round in California except in the coldest intermountain areas where it is dormant during the winter. It produces a strong taproot that is capable of penetrating the soil to a depth of 10 to 15 feet, but it is most commonly 6 to 18 inches deep. In the home landscape, dandelion plants can easily be pulled out, especially when they are young. Control dandelion plants before they set seed to reduce the potential for further invasion by this weed. No single control procedure has been successful in controlling dandelion in turfgrass. Early removal of new seedlings has been successful when practiced diligently. These plants must be dug up regularly for several years to be successfully eliminated. For more information on dandelions [click here](#).



Iris & Salvia

Marcy Hachman MG Coordinator

Iris, Dutch iris, Bulbous and Rhizomatous iris—*Iris* spp. Family Iridaceae* (Iris family)

PLANT IDENTIFICATION

Irises are perennial plants that grow from bulbs and rhizomes. There are more than 200 species of irises. Leaves are tall and grass-like. Flowers consist of 3 inner petals and 3 outer petals and vary in color including white, purple, pink, blue, orange, and yellow. Plants bloom primarily in spring or early summer.

*Some species are [invasive weeds](#). Other species may be better choices when planting. For more info on invasive weeds [click here](#).

OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH

Irises survive under a wide variety of conditions according to species. They may do well in full sun or full or partial shade. Most species require regular water during the growth and bloom period. Plant in well-drained soil. Divide in late summer when crowded. For more information [click here](#).



Salvia, Sage—*Salvia* spp. Family Lamiaceae (Mint family)

PLANT IDENTIFICATION

Salvia is the largest genus in the mint family and includes evergreen or deciduous shrubs, perennials, biennials, and annuals. Foliage is often fragrant, stems are square, and two-lipped flowers are produced in whorls on flower stalks. Flower stalks may be crowded and appear like a dense spike. Flowers bloom in many colors including white, yellow, pink, red, lavender, blue, and purple. Sages attract hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies.

OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH

Sages grow best in areas with full sun and good air circulation. Plant in good soil. If soil is heavy, add organic matter. Provide regular water and good drainage. Prune lightly during the growing season to shape plants. Pruning before bloom will delay flowering. For more information on Salvias [click here](#).



Salvia "May Night"

Ginkgo

** Denotes Arboretum All-Stars

Maidenhair tree, Ginkgo—*Ginkgo biloba* Family Ginkgoaceae (Ginkgo family)

PLANT IDENTIFICATION



Female foliage with fruit

Maidenhair trees are somewhat slow-growing deciduous trees. Leaves are fan-shaped, leathery, and light green. They turn gold in the fall and drop. Trees can grow up to 80 feet tall.

OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH

Maidenhair trees are often planted as street or lawn trees. Male trees are better as female trees produce messy, smelly fruit. Trees prefer areas with full sun. Plant in loose, well-drained soil, and provide moderate to regular amounts of water. Established trees only need occasional water. Remove broken, dead branches. For more info on Ginkgo's [click here](#).



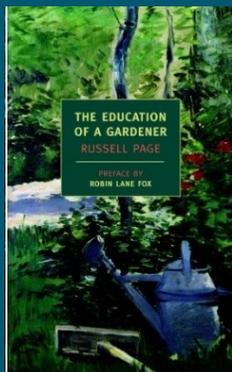
Ginkgo tree during fall



Growing Knowledge

Useful books and web-sites

Bob Cox Master Gardener



2007 Revised
Version

Few books on landscape design equal Russell Page's classic memoir, *The Education of the Gardener* (1962, revised 1983; republished 2007 in paperback for New York Review Books with an introduction by Robin Lane Fox). Some place Page among the most influential landscape designers of the twentieth century, though he himself would not have agreed. His own choices were Burle Marx in Brazil and Thomas Church, father of the "California style" in residential landscape. During a career of more than fifty years Page designed over 400 gardens large and small on six continents. His large projects involved public and private parks of hundreds of acres, his small ones courtyards, a balcony or even a window box. Some of his gardens are still breathtakingly beautiful; unfortunately others have disappeared following change of ownership. Before his death in 1985, in fact, so many gardens he developed had disappeared or become neglected that he had doubts about the lasting value of his work. But his own clear principles for developing a "landscape picture" and plans and photographs of his projects leave no doubt about his continuing importance.

His first rule was to discover a "style" for the garden, dependent on its location, the architecture of the house or other buildings on the property or nearby, whatever else was in view including existing trees or plants, and on how the client intended to use the garden. He made a firm distinction between "fashion" (gardening clichés of the moment) and "style," which is unique, authentic to a particular garden and to be followed in every aspect—in the geometry and proportions of plot layout and design of the hardscape, as well as in the choice and placement of plant materials. He emphasized how thoughtful a gardener had to be to get the style right. When it is right, he says, the garden looks "inevitable."

His second rule was to simplify. For small residential gardens this could mean creating sight lines to make a space look larger and limiting the choice of plant materials in a particular spot to a harmonious palate of colors and textures (as well as to similar needs for water, soils, sunlight or shade). He thinks intently about the sizes and proportions of plants. In a late essay he suggests "one tree, three large shrubs, seven subshrubs, five large herbaceous plants and ten to fifteen smaller ones is a useful ratio." He favors mass plantings as a way of simplifying: "As to flower color—I use the largest available area for closely related colors." But he also employs contrasts: "A stretch of cream and different yellows works all the better if you point it up with a shiny leaved variegated shrub or an odd plant with blue-gray foliage." Red flowers, he says, "are difficult in the garden, they seem to make a dark hole. Orange tones need pointing up with the odd scarlet plant, and all the bright reds will sing together in harmony if you add a single note of magenta." One is not surprised to learn that he was trained to become a painter at the Slade School. He became deeply interested in plants as a child, and through years of practical gardening experience he earned a high reputation as a plantsman, but his approach to gardening was always that of an artist.

Page was fond of enclosed gardens and included them often in his designs. Even on relatively small residential properties he sought ways to create one or more enclosures while at the same time maintaining a sense of larger space through careful transition from one area to the next. Hedges, walls or fences, even a line of identical trees or shrubs would lead the eye to define a space, beyond which lay a different space.

Among Russell Page's best-known larger projects in the United States are the Kendall sculpture gardens at PepsiCo headquarters, the 70th Street courtyard of the Frick Museum, and the National Capitol Columns at the National Arboretum. Click the following to see them:

- [Donald Kendall Sculpture Gardens](#)
- [Virtual Tour of US National Arboretum Garden \(see columns toward the end\)](#)
- [Courtyard at the Frick](#)

Elsewhere perhaps the most beautiful today of his extensive private gardens are [Giardini della Ladriana](#). For an retrospective photos of Page's other work see Marina Schinz and Gabrielle Van Zuylen, [The Gardens of Russell Page](#) (London: Francis Lincoln, 2008)

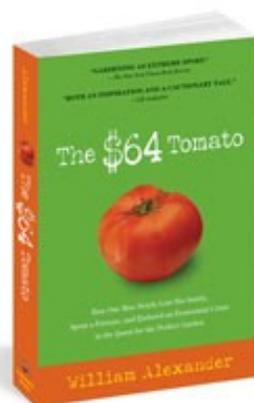
Growing Knowledge

Marcy Hachman MG Coordinator

The \$64 Tomato (2007 Bill Alexander Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill)

As its name implies, "The \$64 Tomato" is not a how-to garden book. It is, rather, a wry memoir in which every reader who's spent way more to grow a plant than he could purchase it for at the supermarket will recognize his own successes, failures and struggles. If you've ever tried any type of gardening you'll be able to relate to Bill Alexander's trials, tribulations and gardening experiences. Alexander had no idea that his simple dream of having a vegetable garden and small orchard in his backyard would lead him into life-and-death battles with groundhogs, webworms, weeds, and weather; midnight expeditions in the dead of winter to dig up fresh thyme; and skirmishes with neighbors who feed the vermin (i.e., deer). Not to mention the vacations that had to be planned around the harvest, the near electrocution of the tree man, the limitations of his own middle-aged body, and the pity of his wife and kids. When Alexander runs (just for fun!) a cost benefit analysis, adding up everything from the live animal traps to the Velcro tomato wraps and then amortizing it over the life of his garden, it comes as quite a shock to learn that it cost him a staggering \$64 to grow each one of his beloved Brandywine tomatoes. But as any gardener will tell you, you can't put a price on the unparalleled pleasures of providing fresh food for your family. Throughout the book, Alexander manages to maintain a sense of humor, riffing on everything from the ugliness of garden ornaments to the politics of giving away vegetables to friends.

This book was an easy and entertaining read and I caught myself several times shaking my head in agreement with this backyard gardener. Some of the phrases he uses made me laugh out loud & some of the other material is thought-provoking & makes you really ponder things. If you're having a bad day & need a good laugh, read this book!



Useful Garden Web-sites



[The UC Guide to Healthy Lawns](#)

The UC IPM program has a great guide to managing lawns that covers all topics related to lawn care and management. Now is the time to be fertilizing many of our area grasses. Find out what type you have, when you should fertilize and how much to use.

[SJ County Household Hazardous Waste Facility](#)

The HHW takes many things that you may find in your house or garage that shouldn't go in the garbage FREE of charge. Visit the site to view their hours and what items you can properly dispose of at the facility.

[PG&E Right Tree Right Place](#)

PG&E offers some great advice when selecting trees for your home landscape, especially those near or under power lines. Visit their site for some great information along with some free publications you can order.

[San Joaquin County Master Gardeners](#)

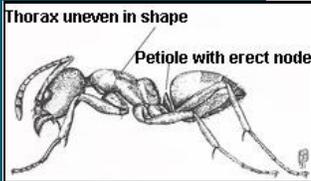
Our county program web-site has a new look! Our site is full of information on gardening. We are continually adding information to this site. Have questions? We have answers!

The Help Desk

Susan Price Master Gardener



Argentine Ant



If you have a gardening question, call the Master Gardeners Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 am-12:00 pm at 209-953-6112 or by e-mail mgsanjoaquin@ucdavis.edu

Find past issues of our quarterly newsletters [here!](#)

What is the most effective but least toxic way to control ants from invading my home?

The most common ant found in and around our homes is the Argentine ant. It has become the #1 household pest in California. With millions of ants and multiple queens per colony, sightings are common and invasions are difficult to control. These ants have been particularly “pesky” this year, with outbreaks often coinciding with abrupt changes in weather. Typically ants enter homes in search of food or water, warmth or shelter. Kitchens and bathrooms are prime entry points. Inside buildings, ants feed on sugars, syrups, honey, fruit juice, fats and meat. Outdoors they are attracted to honeydew, produced by soft scales, mealy bugs and aphids. It is unrealistic and impractical to completely eliminate ants from an outdoor area. Instead, focus your management efforts on excluding ants from your home and valuable plants and eliminating their food and water sources. A combination of mechanical, cultural, sanitation and targeted chemical methods of control will give you the best result.

The first line of defense is to identify which ants you have and what is attracting them. For management information particular to your species refer to the [UC Davis Ant Key](#). Look around your home for ant trails and possible entry points. Inspect under sinks, in cupboards, along pipes and along electrical wires. When you spot ant trails, try to follow the ants to where they are entering the home. Look for holes, cracks in the foundations or walls that are providing entry. Caulk cracks and crevices

around your home to seal potential entry points. Cut back shrubs where branches may be providing a bridge for ants to access the home. Remove or manage sweet food sources next to your house such as aphid-infested bushes and ripened fruit on trees. Keep plants, grass, and organic mulch at least a foot away from the foundation of the home to reduce ant foraging and nesting. Ants are attracted to moisture so avoid over-watering plants near the home and repair any leaking faucets or hoses.

Indoors, eliminate attractive food items by storing in closed containers. Rinse out soft drink and juice containers and make sure any food residues are cleaned up. Remove garbage from the home daily and replace liners. Place pet dishes in a moat of water. Check potted plants for ant nests and remove if ants are detected. These preventive measures should go a long way towards managing ants in the home. When chemicals are needed, choose outdoor baits to control the ant colony. Pesticide baits attract worker ants so they will take it back to the nest where the entire colony, including queens, may be killed. The pesticide must be slow acting so workers won't be killed before they get back to the nest. This is why fast-acting chemical sprays are often ineffective. While sprays may kill foraging ants, they will not prevent more ants from entering the home. Baits offer the best, least toxic solution. They are available in several forms, including solids and liquids, which are prepackaged into ant stakes or small plastic bait stations. For serious outbreaks, refillable bait stations are more effective. It is important, though, to check these often as they may

be rapidly consumed or dry out.

Avoid the use of pyrethroids (e.g. bifenthrin and cypermethrin), especially on hard surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, or around the foundation of buildings. Avoid use near storm drains. Place baits near ant trails and nest openings. Prepackaged or refillable bait stations are safest and easiest to use. Active ingredients in baits may include boric acid/borate, fipronil and avermectin B. If you plan to hire a pest control company to manage your ants, ask them to use baits rather than perimeter treatments or monthly sprays. Choose a pest control company that practices integrated pest management.

For more information on ant control [click here](#).

For do-it-yourself ant control, refer to the new University of California publication, “Urban Pest Management of Ants in the Home”, available for purchase [here](#).



Refillable Ant Bait Station

Coming Events

Corinne Bachle Master Gardener

Every Friday throughout Spring when school is in session

Delta College Nursery open to the public

Schedule: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Shima Greenhouse, San Joaquin Delta College, North Burke Bradley Road
Phone: (209) 954-5501

April 7, 8, 9 & 10, 2011

California State Flower Food & Garden Show

Schedule: Apr 7: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Apr 8 & 9: 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

Apr 10: 10 a.m.–6p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Cal-Expo, Pavilion Building - East Gate entry, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, CA

Phone: 1-877-696-6668, Ext 4

[Visit the Website](#)

Cal State Shows is very pleased to announce the new California State Flower, Food & Garden Show to be held at Cal Expo, Sacramento. This Show is driven by the passion and enthusiasm of gardeners from all over the State. Highlighting the diversity, scope and interest of the California gardening community, this will be a true Flower, Food & Garden Show with something for everyone.

April 9, 2011

Linden Community Garden Club Plant Sale

Schedule: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (or thereabouts) (Rain or Shine)

Cost: Free

Location: Southeast Corner of Jack Tone and Comstock Roads, Linden. Come and see all the great plants, both flowers and veggies: Annuals, perennials, succulents, herbs, red buds, gourds, peppers, and heirloom tomatoes, to name just a few.

April 9, 2011

Master Gardener Community Workshop (Lodi) – Drought Tolerant Landscapes for the Valley

Schedule: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Classes are free with \$5 admission to park and museum

Location: Micke Grove Regional Park, 11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi, CA
Phone: (209) 331-2055 (All participants must register a week prior to the class)

April 15-17, 2011

Stockton Asparagus Festival

Schedule: 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Cost: Adult admission - \$12.00 Senior/Teen/College Student/Active Military - \$7.00

Location: Downtown Stockton/Weber Point Events Center

Phone: (209) 644-3740

[Visit the Website](#)

Close to 100,000 asparagus fans are expected for this annual, multi-event festival. Included are entertainment by nationally known performers, deep-fried and other asparagus dishes, contests, crafters, cooking demos, kids' play area, and boat cruises.

April 16, 2011

Master Gardener Community Workshop (Manteca) – Introduction to Container Gardening

Schedule: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca, CA

Phone: (209) 953-6100 (All participants must register a week prior to the class)

April 16-17, 2011

Sacramento Orchid Society Orchid Show and Plant Sale

Schedule: Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$6.00 at the door (\$4.00 in advance)

Children under 16 admitted free with adult
Location: **Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street Sacramento, CA (basically 59th and H Streets)**

Just across from the entrance of Sac State University (entrance off H Street or Carlson Dr. at 61st St.)

See orchid exhibits. Free seminars and how-to classes. Buy orchids. Hourly raffle – win plants. Buy supplies. Greenhouse display. Buy arrangements.

April 17, 2011

Going Native Garden Tour

Schedule: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: Free with registration

Location: Santa Clara Valley & Peninsula, San Francisco Bay Area

Organizer: California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley

Contact: info@goingnativegardentour.org

[Visit the Website](#)

April 30- May 1, 2011

11th Annual Garden Tour “Gardens of Folsom”

Schedule: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$12.00 (Tickets can be purchased [online](#). After April 1st purchase tickets at the following locations: American River Ace Hardware, The Blossom Shop, Green Valley Nursery and Landscape, and The Folsom History Museum in **Folsom**.)

Location: To be provided with ticket purchase

Phone: 916-850-5082

[Visit the Website](#)

Contact: suzannestaley@att.net

Visit exclusive gardens and the grounds of the historic Giuseppe Murer House.

May 1, 2011

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Schedule: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cost: Free with registration

Location: East Bay

Phone: Kathy Kramer, KathyKramerConsulting.net, (510) 236-9558

[Visit the Website](#)

May 14, 2011

Master Gardener Community Workshop (Lodi) – Integrated Pest Management – The 10 Most Unwanted Bugs and How to Deal with Them

Schedule: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Classes are free with \$5 admission to park and museum

Location: Micke Grove Regional Park, 11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi, CA

Phone: (209) 331-2055 (All participants must register a week prior to the class)

[Cont. pg. 12](#)

Recipes of the season

Fresh Strawberry Pie

Ingredients

- 1 (9 inch) pie crust, baked
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 tablespoons strawberry flavored gelatin mix
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 pints strawberries, cleaned, stemmed, halved
- 2 cups whipping cream (optional)



Directions

Combine sugar, gelatin, cornstarch, and salt in a medium saucepan. Stir in boiling water. Boil mixture for 3 minutes over high heat, stirring constantly. Cool completely. strawberries in pastry shell. Pour gelatin mixture over berries. Chill before serving. Top with whipped cream.

Strawberry Coolers

Ingredients

- 2 cups chilled orange juice
- 1 1/2 cups hulled strawberries
- 1 tablespoon sugar, or to taste
- 1 1/2 cups chilled ginger ale



Preparation

Combine orange juice, strawberries and sugar in a blender; blend until the berries are pureed. Place the berry puree in a large pitcher. Add ginger ale; stir to combine. Serve over ice.

Tip

Make Ahead Tip: Prepare through Step 1, cover and refrigerate for up to 2 days. Add ginger ale just before serving.

Selecting, Storing and Health Benefits

Selecting: Choose berries that are firm, plump, free of mold, and which have a shiny, deep red color and attached green caps. Since strawberries, once picked, do not ripen further, avoid those that are dull in color or have green or yellow patches since they are likely to be sour and of inferior quality.

Storing: Strawberries are very perishable, and should not be washed until right before eating or using in a recipe. Do not remove their caps and stems until after you have gently washed the berries under cold running water and patted them dry. This will prevent them from absorbing excess water, which can degrade strawberries' texture and flavor. Store in refrigerator in clam shell container or colander which allows for air flow. For more info on safely storing and preserving strawberries [click here](#).

Freezing Strawberries: Gently wash them and pat them dry. You can either remove the cap and stem or leave them intact, depending upon what you will do with them once they are thawed. Arrange them in a single layer on a flat pan or cookie sheet and place them in the freezer. Once frozen (about 24 hours), transfer the berries to a heavy plastic bag and return them to the freezer where they will keep for up to one year. Adding a bit of lemon juice to the berries will help to preserve their color.

Nutritional Benefits: Strawberries are an excellent antioxidant and are rich in vitamin C. One cup of fresh strawberries provides roughly 140 percent of the recommended daily allowance. They are also a good source of folate, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B6, omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin E, vitamin A and vitamin K. They are also packed with flavonoids; these which help keep bad cholesterol from damaging artery walls.

Almond Strawberry Salad

Ingredients

- 3 cups fresh baby spinach
- 1/2 cup sliced fresh strawberries
- 1/4 cup sliced honey-roasted almonds
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sugar



Directions

In a large bowl, combine the spinach, strawberries and almonds. In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, combine the vinegar, honey and sugar; shake well. Drizzle over salad and toss to coat. Serve immediately.

Make Room by Growing Up

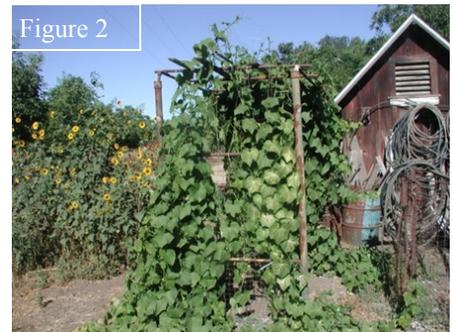
Lee Miller Master Gardener

Back yards in today's subdivisions tend to be on the small side, though I have lived in a couple of homes built in 1912 that didn't have very large back yards either. Of course gardens don't need to be limited to back yards as the trend is to make every part of the property bloom with plants other than lawn. However, as gardeners we have to make do with whatever our garden spaces are. One way to cope with limited gardens is to grow upward using trellises or other techniques. If you are growing grapes, black berries, kiwis, luffas, chayote, pole beans, peas, cucumbers, tomatoes or even cantaloupe, it is either necessary and/or possible to grow them vertically on trellising or cages. Of course growing melons on a trellis is a little tricky in that melons need to be supported by slings attached to the trellis.



Trellises can be made from lots of material. Wood, PVC pipe, scrap metal, iron or copper pipe, old netting, or woven wire fencing can all be pressed into service. If using wood, cedar, cypress, redwood or other rot resistant varieties are best. The kind of material and stoutness depends on the plants involved. For example if you are trellising kiwis, you will need a substantial trellis, perhaps of steel pipe, as the fruit crop from a single kiwi plant can weigh over 200 lbs. Similarly, Wisteria vines can be stout and vigorous requiring a stout structure. Trellises for beans, peas or sweet peas can be wire, string or netting. I have some old sheep fencing that I attach to stakes for my peas. For beans I use an old modified swing set which is strung with sisal twine that works quite well (Figure 1). However, a simple A-frame built of wood can also be used for beans and peas. A chayote trellis also needs to be stout for a heavy crop which is why I made one of old steel pipe (Figure 2).

Tomatoes are best when caged or grown on a trellis to keep fruit from the molds and other destroyers lurking on the soil. There are several approaches that work for tomatoes and the one I prefer is to make your own cages from concrete reinforcing wire or heavy woven wire. Cages that are about 6 ft tall and 18-20 inches in diameter are good for indeterminate varieties like Ace and Early Girl which can top 6 ft. If you are growing determinate types like Shady Lady, Roma or Celebrity, a 3.5 ft high cage will work. There are also commercial tomato cages that you can purchase. However, I never found one I liked better than the custom made cages.



Many flowers also grow upward. I love large, fragrant Moon Flower blossoms which are evening bloomers. They can be trained on string to fences, posts or on a trellis. Climbing roses, sweet peas, Passion vine, Mandevilla, Clematis, Wisteria, Honeysuckle, morning glories and trumpet vine all require something to climb on. I use an old redwood post that is about 16 feet tall for attaching one trumpet vine. For Wisteria, I fashioned a trellis out of some old pipe that was lying around the homestead. There is also the option of letting vines such as Clematis and morning glory climb on shrubs or trees. I also have a trumpet vine which has climbed about 40 feet to the top of a large walnut tree in my garden. It drops colorful spent flowers onto our patio for much of the summer and attracts many hummingbirds.

We can also espalier fruit trees along a south facing fence or wall, creating a more two dimensional effect to conserve space for other plants. Pears and Apples lend themselves well to espaliering but stone fruits such as plums, apricots and peaches on dwarf rootstocks can also be done with proper attention to pruning, spraying and disease control. It may take more time to train these plants, but it is a challenge that is rewarding with tasty fruit from a small space.

To provide a place to climb can be also be an opportunity to use or fashion some art in the garden. I have built two pyramidal trellises from scrap steel that was here on the homestead when I bought it. They have a rustic, artsy look to them. One of them hosted a Mandevilla this past summer (Figure 3) and the other one, a Clematis. This winter I fashioned a giraffe for which I will need to find a suitable plant this spring. Since not everyone can weld, it is also possible to make attractive pyramid trellises using wood. Whatever your whimsy or your medium for trellising, have fun growing up.

UC Master Gardeners

2101 E Earhart Ave
Ste 200, Stockton, CA,
95206



Phone: 209-953-6112

E-mail: mgsanjoaquin@ucdavis.edu

Web-site: <http://>

sjmastergardeners.ucdavis.edu

Coordinator: Marcy Hachman 953-6100

Some Garden Humor...

In garden catalogs, here are some commonly used expressions, and what they really mean:

- "**vigorous**" : will not only take over your garden, but will house a large family of rodents by the end of summer
- "**old time favorite**" : this may be the tomato that killed your great grandpa; we can't be sure, though.
- "**crack-free**": the skin is as hard as a rock
- "**high yields**": your neighbors will shut their blinds when they see you walking up their driveway, lugging that damn shopping bag...again
- "**spreading vines**": kiss your miniature poodle goodbye.
- "**self-sows easily**": by any other name, a weed
- "**best for storage**": slice it with a chain saw
- "**unique heirloom**": old, ugly
- "**unusual heirloom**": old, really ugly
- "**unusual nutty flavor**": be prepared to spit

From the [Farmer Fred Blog Jan. 2010](#)

Coming Events Cont.

May 21, 2011

Master Gardener Community Workshop (Manteca) – Integrated Pest Management – The 10 Most Unwanted Bugs and How to Deal with Them

Schedule: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca, CA

Phone: (209) 953-6100 (All participants must register a week prior to the class)

Schedule: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Free Location: Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca,

Phone: (209) 953-6100 (All participants must register a week prior to the class)

June 11, 2011

Master Gardener Community Workshop (Lodi) – Weed Control and Prevention

Schedule: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Classes are free with \$5 admission to park and museum

Location: Micke Grove Regional Park, 11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi, CA

Phone: (209) 331-2055 (All participants must register a week prior to the class)

June 15-19, 2011

[San Joaquin County Fair](#)—Look for the Master Gardener display at the county fair this year.

June 18, 2011

Master Gardener Community Workshop (Manteca) – Water Conservation in the Home Landscape

Schedule: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca, CA

Phone: (209) 953-6100 (All participants must register a week prior to the class)

The University of California prohibits discrimination or harassment of any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994: service in the uniformed services includes membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services) in any of its programs or activities.

University policy also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person in any of its programs or activities for making a complaint of discrimination or sexual harassment or for using or participating in the investigation or resolution process of any such complaint.

University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Director, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607, (510) 987-0096.



Free Passenger Tire Recycling



SJ County Solid Waste Dept.

Expires 6/30/11

FREE PASSENGER TIRE RECYCLING



FREE for residents of San Joaquin County and its Cities.

Not available for businesses.

Rims okay. Charges will apply to larger tires.

Recycle up to 4 passenger tires free any day!

Just tell the cashier you saw it in the **Master Gardener Newsletter!**

- **North County Landfill**
17720 E. Harney Lane, Lodi
- **Loveland Transfer Station**
2323 E. Lovelace Road, Manteca
- **Foothill Sanitary Landfill**
6484 Waverly Road, Linden
- **Tracy MRF & Transfer Station**
30703 S. MacArthur Drive, Tracy



NEW

Special large quantity collection events for property owners in San Joaquin County will be held monthly through June. If you have 10 or more tires illegally dumped on your property, request an appointment at 468-3066 or go to our website.

Find more information on RECYCLING at: www.BeGreenSanJoaquin.org



Funded by a Grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

Check out these web-sites

[San Joaquin County Household Hazardous Waste Facility](#)

[Be Green San Joaquin](#)

[San Joaquin County Solid Waste Web-site](#)
(not just garbage but full of information on recycling, disposal and facilities)

Do you have these pests in your home or garden? Click on the links to learn how to control these common pests.

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Aphids | Bark Beetles | Centipedes and Milipedes |
| Cockroaches | Codling Moth | Earwigs |
| Fleas | Fungus Gnats | Gophers |
| House Mouse | Mosquitoes | Pantry Pests |
| Scale | Snails and Slugs | Spiders |
| Spider Mites | Termites | Whiteflies |
| Yellow Jackets and Wasps | | |

Friend or Foe? Which one would you rather have in your garden?



Actually the picture on the left is the larvae stage of the lady beetle (ladybug) and is actually a beneficial insect to have in your garden. Make sure you know who your friends and foes are before you attack those "pests" in the garden. [Click here](#) for more info on beneficial insects.