

San Joaquin County Master Gardeners

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<u>Garden Chores</u>	2
<u>Sheet Mulching</u>	3
<u>Pests and Plants</u>	4
Spider Mites	
Redwood Needle Browning	
Catchweed	
Bedstraw	
Castor Bean	
Winter Daphne	
Japanese Maple	
<u>Growing Knowledge</u>	
Square Foot Gardening	6
Garden Home	8
<u>Internet Resources</u>	9
<u>Protecting Frost Sensitive Plants</u>	10
<u>Mondavi Giving Garden</u>	11
<u>The Help Desk</u>	12
Capturing Water	
<u>Recipes</u>	13
Fall Salad	
Squash Soup	
<u>Coming Events</u>	14

Fall is in the air... Soon We Hope!

Marcy Sousa Master Gardener Coordinator

Fall is officially here, although my outdoor garden thermometer would have me believe otherwise with this warm weather we are experiencing. Things will begin slowing down in the garden soon but we are still busy with the Master Gardener Program. We just had our second Smart Gardening Conference on September 29th. Thank you to the 150 people that attended that made this event fun and successful. We had a great lineup of speakers and awesome displays that were open during lunch. Now we are switching gears and are busy planning weekend workshops for 2013 along with prepping for the Master Gardener Training that will begin in February. Applications are being accepted until November 16th. The next training won't be until 2015 so don't miss out on your chance to become a Master Gardener! There are a few events that you will find the Master Gardeners at this fall including the Manteca Pumpkin Festival and the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival. Make sure you stop by and say "hi" to the volunteers that are working these events. We want to remind you that we have garden journals for sale that would make great holiday gifts! Contact the Master Gardener office for more info at 953-6112. We hope that you find this issue of Garden Notes full of useful information. Happy Gardening!



2012 Smart Garden
Big Valley Winners—Rita Canales

Plant Low Water Use Plants in Fall

Steve Sanguinetti Master Gardener

Our area, USDA Hardiness Zone 9 and Sunset Magazine zone 14, provides us with hot, dry months from May to September, and cooler, hopefully wet months, from October through April. These cooler months offer gardeners the opportunity to successfully establish some otherwise finicky plants in our land-



Matilja Poppy

scapes. These plants, which include many California natives and Mediterranean climate species, often offer us the ideal properties of low water use and disease and pest resistance we look for in sustainable gardens. Their "finicky-ness" can be due to going through summer dormancy, like [continued pg 15](#)

Garden Chores Calendar

Sue Davis Master Gardener

OCTOBER



Time to Plant ~

Cool weather annuals such as dianthus, Iceland poppy, pansy, primrose, snapdragon, stock, and violets.

Scatter and plant bulbs for natural, colorful spring displays. Nurseries should have a good selection from which you can choose anemone, calla, Narcissus, freesia, Hyacinth, Muscari, or Dutch iris to celebrate spring. Tulips are nice, but most hybrids are annuals rather than perennials, so they are rather expensive for an annual. **Wait for the temperature of the soil to fall to 55 degrees F (average night time temps are 50 degrees or cooler for at least 2 weeks) to plant.**

Winter vegetables to get in the ground from transplants might include Bok Choy, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, endive, kale, and kohlrabi. Carrots, leaf lettuce, peas, radishes, spinach, and turnips are easy to start from seed this month. Garlic cloves in the ground now produce an early summer harvest.



Sow wildflower seeds. Fall is the time to sow wild flower seeds. Choose seeds that will grow into plants that attract butterflies and beneficial insects – good bets are California poppies, Alyssum, and larkspur.

Fall is the best time to plant trees. For autumn colors of red, gold, or yellow choose, Chinese pistache, Gingko, Tupelo, scarlet oak, red oak, red maple, crepe myrtle or redbud. **Be sure to check the mature height and width of the trees to know if you are planting a tree where it will have room to grow.**

Lawns ~

Dethatch your lawn if needed and be sure to fertilize. Thatching could help control both Bermuda and bent grass especially if you over-seed with a perennial rye and fescue mix to keep your

lawn green through the winter. Cool season lawns, such as the popular fescue blends, are putting on a spurt of growth now. Mow often so that you are never removing more than a third of the total height of the grass blade. Reduce the frequency of watering by 50% to 75% as the weather cools.

Maintenance for your Garden ~

Clean up the summer vegetable garden. Use the plants you pull up to nourish your compost pile. Continue to cut spent blooms to extend the flowering period of your plants. Feed roses one more time to keep the blooms coming through the fall. Knock down water basins around trees and shrubs to avoid standing water around the root crowns which encourages crown rot.

To discourage brown rot on citrus, prune the tree skirts 24" above the soil, clean fallen leaves and old fruit from under the trees and mulch to prevent fungus spores from splashing up from the ground.

Add a layer of mulch to each plant for added protection.

Tomato hornworms are going into hibernation in the soil beneath your tomato plants now. Dig down about four inches and discard their cocoons, which resemble two inch-long, reddish footballs.



Prune out dead, diseased, crossed or broken branches on deciduous trees. Be sure to remove water sprouts and root suckers. Disinfect tools with 1 part bleach to 4 parts water to prevent disease and pests (oil sheers immediately to prevent rust).

If perennials such as daylilies have become crowded, dig each clump with a spading fork so the root-ball comes up intact, then use a spade or sharp knife to divide them (each division should have plenty of leaves and roots). Replant divisions immediately. Some landscapers recommend fall feeding for tree roots.

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



continued pg. 16 & 17

Sheet Mulching

Susan Price Master Gardener

PAGE 3

A Lazy Gardener's Technique for Creating Nutrient Rich Garden Beds

Have you been thinking about replacing all or part of your lawn, or converting that weed-infested section of your yard into a lushly planted garden bed? Have you put off this project because just the thought of all that digging and hauling away of materials makes your back ache? Procrastinate no more. With sheet mulching, you can convert grass to vegetable beds, create new or enlarge perennial borders or simply improve your soil with minimal time and effort.

Sheet mulching, also referred to as lasagna or sheet composting, is an age-old technique for composting in place. It is a "no-till," layering technique that mimics the natural decomposing processes of a forest. Two popular books on this topic include: Ruth Stout's "Gardening Without Work" (1971) and Patricia Lanza's "Lasagna Gardening" (1998). Additional insights can be found in permaculture-related publications like Toby Hemmenway's "Gaia's Garden –A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture" (reviewed in Garden Notes Summer 2012 Issue) in which the author offers his recommended method, "The Ultimate, Bombproof Sheet Mulch."

Like traditional composting, you need carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and water in proper proportions to break down the organic materials into a good growing medium. Carbon sources ("browns") include newspaper, cardboard, dry leaves, straw and woodchips. Nitrogen sources ("greens") include fresh grass clippings, green leaves, composted manures, used coffee grounds, vegetable scraps and fresh weeds. The key is to use materials that are readily available to you in your area because you'll need to create a stockpile. Planning ahead makes the project go smoothly. A day or two of effort up front will reap major benefits because, once the layers are in place, the microorganisms do all the work. It is best to start your sheet mulching project months before planting time, because it can take six months or more to fully decompose. Any time can work, but fall is ideal, as the soil can be ready for spring planting. There are many ways to sheet mulch—using different materials, layer thicknesses, etc. The Internet is loaded with detailed descriptions and advice, included YouTube videos of projects. Here are the basic steps courtesy of Oregon State University Extension Service supplemented with additional steps suggested for Central Valley climates:

- The day before you begin your sheet-mulching project, water the site well.
- After the water has soaked in overnight, mow or scalp grass or other vegetation down to the lowest possible level to the length and width you would like the finished bed to become. Three feet wide is a good width as this allows the center of the bed to be reached from either side. This may also be done directly in a constructed raised bed.
- Make sure there is good drainage by breaking up the soil underneath the bed with a spading fork.
- Remove any persistent weeds such as blackberry, bindweed, morning glory or quackgrass, as sheet mulching may not smother these weeds. Add soil amendments if desired. For example, if your soil is compacted clay, you may add a little gypsum or sulfur.
- Add a thin layer of high nitrogen material like manure, blood/cottonseed meal, or fresh grass clippings to attract worms and burrowing beetles to jumpstart the decomposition process. Soak the area with water.
- Cover the ground with 4-6 overlapping layers of newspaper or cardboard (carbon material that smothers the grass and weeds underneath by preventing light from reaching the plants).
- Wet the newspaper or cardboard thoroughly and cover with a one-inch layer of nitrogen source such as manure.
- Top the nitrogen with an inch of leaves, straw, bark or other carbon material.
- Add an inch layer of nitrogen material (any combination of kitchen/produce scraps, manures or fresh weeds without seedheads).
- Cover with another layer of carbon material (straw, shredded paper, leaves, dryer lint, etc.).
- Continue to add alternating layers of carbon and nitrogen until the final height is reached (18 inches to three feet). Spray on water every few inches to keep the layers damp (but not overly wet).
- Continue to add alternating layers of carbon and nitrogen as materials are available. As the material decomposes, more layers may be added, always ending with a carbon layer. This is the "blanket" that discourages egg-laying insects and critters, plus leaves the area looking neat and tidy. The height of the bed may vary depending on the amount of material and when the bed will be planted. Generally speaking, the greater the volume of material, the longer it will take for decomposition to take place.
- If the weather is hot and dry, make sure to keep the pile damp with regular soakings. Cooling weather and natural winter rains should soon relieve you of this task. If a pile becomes too wet with excessive rainfall, cover it with a sheet of black plastic loosely weighted down at the side. This will help to warm the pile, encourage faster decomposition and help prevent nutrients from leaching.

You will know your sheet mulched bed is fully composted when all the layers have fully decomposed to the point that the original materials are no longer recognizable and it looks and smells like fresh earth. This fluffy, nutrient-rich soil is the reward for all your initial efforts.

Happy planting.



Spider Mites & Redwood Needle Browning

Steve Sanguinetti Master Gardener

Pests and Plants of the Season

UC IPM website

Integrated pest management, or "IPM," is a process you can use to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment. IPM can be used to manage all kinds of pests anywhere.

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!



Spider mites To the naked eye, spider mites look like tiny, moving dots. Spider mites live in colonies, mostly on the undersides of leaves; a single colony may contain hundreds of individuals. Stippling of leaves and/or webbing on underside of leaves are signs of their presence. Damage is usually worse when compounded by water stress.

Spider mites have many natural enemies that often limit populations. Adequate irrigation is important, because water-stressed plants are most likely to be damaged. Broad-spectrum insecticide treatments for other pests frequently cause mite outbreaks, so avoid these pesticides when possible. Sprays of water, insecticidal oils, or soaps can be used for management.

For more information on spider mites see below [UC IPM pestnote](#) [UC IPM Quick tip](http://ucipm.ucdavis.edu/UC_IPM_Natural_Enemy)[http://ucipm.ucdavis.edu/UC IPM Natural Enemy](http://ucipm.ucdavis.edu/UC_IPM_Natural_Enemy)



UC Statewide IPM Project
© 2000 Regents, University of California



Redwood Needle Browning

While Coast Redwood trees, *Sequoia sempervirens*, can do well in our area, they do need to be planted and maintained in suitable situations. Allowing trees to be stressed can lead to canker diseases.

They like cooler moist conditions (hence the name coastal), plenty of water and low pH soil. 'Aptos Blue' is the most commonly planted cultivar. Do not water stress young trees, provide them with plenty of root protecting mulch, and once mature, leave their needles on the ground to form their own protective mulch.

Redwoods are not a tree that we recommend planting in our area. These trees do better in the coastal areas where there is fog and cooler weather. Redwoods can use 10 gallons of water a day and can grow to be 50 feet tall and 15 feet in diameter. For more information on coast redwood disease and pest problems see below sites:

[To grow or not to grow](#) UC Davis Arboretum
[UC IPM Redwood information](#)

Catchweed Bedstraw



Seedling

Catchweed bedstraw, *Galium aparine*, an annual weed belonging to the Madder (Rubiaceae) family, can be found throughout most of the world. Bedstraw is a winter or summer annual in California with peak germination in mid- to late December and secondary germination in February or March when soil is still cool and moist.

Seedlings can emerge even if they are buried up to 3 inches deep in loose soil. Bedstraw has a slender taproot and sprawling stems, and can tolerate freezing temperatures while in the vegetative growth stage. Long-term control of catchweed bedstraw in home landscapes relies on removing existing plants before they flower and produce viable seed. For more information, [click here](#).



Copyright © 2007 The Regents of the University of California

Castor Bean & Winter Daphne Lee Miller Master Gardener

Castor bean, *Ricinus communis*, is a large, tropical, palmately-lobed plant indigenous to the southeastern Mediterranean Basin, Eastern Africa, and India. It is a flowering plant in the [spurge](#) family, [Euphorbiaceae](#). It is not in the bean family, but the seed has a definite bean look to it. The seed is used to produce castor oil that older folks experienced as the elixir for many childhood ailments including constipation and worms. The beans contain ricin which is highly toxic. However cold-pressed castor oil can be used safely because toxicity is very low.

Castor bean makes a beautiful accent plant in the landscape, growing about 6 feet tall. The foliage is dark red and green, the flowers white and seed pods bright red, large and showy. It is non-invasive in cold climates as it is not hardy, but is a known invasive in mild climates such as Southern California.

There are 6 ornamental cultivars and several others used in commercial production of oil. It can be started in the green house in early spring. Botanical Interests sells seeds, and they are available at Lockhart Seeds in Stockton as well. Soak the seed for 24 hours in warm water, plant it 1 inch deep in full sun. Castor beans do best in rich, deep, well-drained soil, so it's a good idea to work in a spade full or two of compost to a depth of 2 feet. Keep soil evenly moist. Mulching is a good idea and tell the grandkids not to eat any part of the plant.



Variegated Winter Daphne, *Daphne odora* 'Aureo-marginata', is a fragrant flowering evergreen shrub of moderate growth to 3.5 to 4 feet in height and width. Its fragrant white flowers have a long bloom period in late winter-early spring. It is in the family Thymelaeaceae, originated in China and was named after a Greek female mythological figure. Daphne is ideal for north-facing and east-facing beds, against walls and around patio and deck edges, where its fragrance can be enjoyed up close. A woodland setting with afternoon shade is good in the Central Valley.

As a specimen, its variegated leaves are good for lightening shade areas. It can be grown in groups of three at corners and transitions from path to patio.

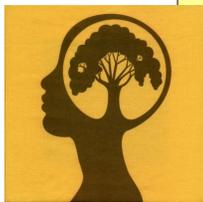


Although some Daphnes are easier to grow than others, all require fast draining soil and careful summer watering. They have a reputation for being temperamental and can die without warning. It can also be grown in well-drained containers. It tolerates a range of well-drained soil types and it needs regular irrigation especially until well established. It is a shrub that has a reputation for intolerance to being moved once established. It attracts pollinators such as bees and lepidopterons, but all parts of the plant are poisonous. For more info on Daphnes, [click here](#).

Japanese Maple —Tree of the Season

Japanese maple, *Acer palmatum*, a native to Japan and Korea is a great patio tree or small tree for shady locations. It grows to 20 feet and is as wide at maturity. The common seedlings are graceful with foliage that is mostly green with red tones. These are easy to come by because anyone with a tree usually finds seeds germinating and growing under them. However, the various colorful genetic sports of this species are usually grafted onto root stock, are slow growing and consequently, more expensive. You pay a high price for a large grafted tree. These cultivars are smaller than the seedling with finer leaves and brighter red coloring. Fall color is beautiful even on seedlings like the one pictured here. The named grafted cultivars are quite numerous: 'Bloodgood', 'Bonfire', 'Burgundy Lace', to 'Waterfall' and 'Wolf' are listed in the Sunset Western Garden Book. Those with highly dissected leaves do best in areas protected from drying winds. The 'Bloodgood' cultivar is a good one for this area. All do best in the Central Valley with morning sun and afternoon shade. Some can be grown successfully in containers, but this requires occasional repotting (see *A. palmatum* in Western Sunset Garden). For more info on Japanese Maples, [click here](#).





Growing Knowledge

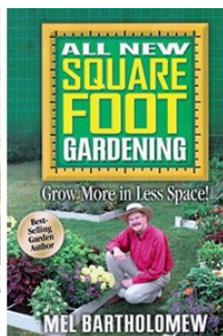
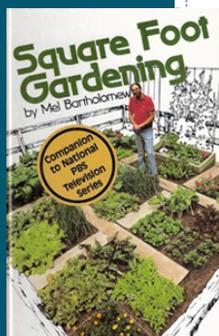
Useful Books and Websites

Betty Liske Master Gardener

“Whoa, Whoa, It’s So Hip to be Square!”

Huey Lewis and the News didn’t exactly have gardening in mind when they wrote their classic hit. If Mel had helped them out some, it might just sound like this...

*Hip To Be Square
I used to be a gardener, I used to dig around
But I couldn’t take the punishment, and had to cut it down
The time and space and effort, it wasn’t even fair
You might think I’m crazy, but this I do foreswear
That you should try this out pal ‘cuz
It’s hip to be square!*



Perhaps that’s what Mel Bartholomew was humming to himself way back in the ‘80’s when, as a frustrated and puzzled community garden organizer, he was attempting to design a better way to garden. “Better” meaning easier, faster, cheaper, and more rewarding. Over the years he watched and observed that the participants in the garden (150 or so in the spring) came in roaring with enthusiasm and eager to get started on their dreams of successful gardening. By the end of September, having faced the realities of the work, time, and expense that their gardens required, not to mention the frustration and disappointment, that crowd often had dwindled to around seven determined “survivors”!

What would a former engineer and efficiency expert, as well as a long-time teacher and writer of gardening information, do to turn this around? How do you make would-be, as well as established gardeners, experience the joy of gardening and have success at their endeavors?

Well, Mel Bartholomew started asking questions. The result of his efforts became a series of books on the method he developed that *would* be easier, faster, cheaper, and more rewarding...this was Square Foot Gardening.

His investigations showed that the teaching precepts for home gardening were modeled after what worked in farming practice. And that what worked for farmers did not work so well for the home gardener. He spent the next year or two asking questions and experimenting to develop a system that allows gardeners to raise the best crops with the least amount of work, time, money, and space. The result of his efforts: the square foot garden. The concepts first published in 1981 have been updated through the years following reader feedback and experimentation. The result is “All New Square Foot Gardening: the Revolutionary Way to Grow More in Less Space”, second edition, 272 pages, due out March 15, 2013.

So what are the basics? Though modified and expanded upon over the years, they are:

1. Limit the size of the garden—besides keeping things manageable, this keeps the pleasure in the process.
2. Garden using one foot squares arranged in 4 X 4 blocks (16 squares each) as a basis.
3. Plant only 3 seeds in each planting hole, at the recommended thinning distance.
4. Stagger plantings at intervals to extend the harvest (use different squares or interplant).
5. Make walkways between planting squares about 3 feet wide or what works best for you. In this format, plants are always reachable without standing on and compacting your garden soil.
6. Grow larger vining plants vertically.

Rework soil and add necessary amendments in each small planting area as a square is harvested.

Using these guidelines, special techniques such as interplanting, crop rotation, and succession planting can be



Growing Knowledge

Useful Books and Websites

accomplished almost automatically.

Bartholomew makes the point that in addition to the logistics and cost benefits of a square foot garden, at least as important are its motivational aspects. Dealing with only one square at a time makes it easier and quicker. The garden looks great, and because it is less effort, gardeners are likely to follow through and continue gardening, and enjoying the process while at it! This design (sometimes with modifications) also enables a broader range of folks to garden successfully, including those with limited funds, space, or mobility.

This author writes in a user-friendly fashion, sharing his enthusiasm as well as covering the necessary information. With over 2 million books sold, a long-running PBS series, square foot gardening training, and a non-profit foundation bringing his methods to food-scarce areas around the world, there is no doubt that Mel Bartholomew has added an innovative method to gardening knowledge and approaches.

The book contains chapters detailing the process from designing the layout to enjoying the harvest. It also includes “how-to’s” for items or methods suggested including photos, diagrams, and instructions. It has a chapter on special gardens as well: children’s, rooftop, wheelchair, raised, indoor, winter, and others. In this latest addition, Bartholomew expands on ways to do vertical gardening and adds expanded information on pest control.

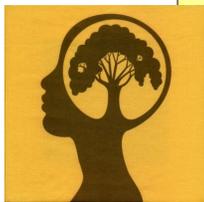
Reviews of past books acknowledge his contribution with the caveat that some have found that he spends too much time on profligating—convincing the readers of the value of the concept before getting to the information itself. And some also note too much reference to his own products as substitutes for making your own. It is to be seen whether these criticisms have been addressed in the new edition.

This book can be preordered from amazon.com or from its publisher, Cool Springs Press.

For the [real lyrics](#) for those “seasoned” enough to remember...

[Mel introduces Square Foot Gardening on U Tube](#) (also see several other instructional SFG videos on U Tube





Growing Knowledge

Useful Books and Websites

Lynne & Bill Gowdy Master Gardeners

Let's talk about landscape designs! The purpose of this article is to review P. Allen Smith's book GARDEN HOME: Creating a Garden for Everyday Living, Clarkson Potter/Publishers, February 2003. His book is a valuable resource for gardeners interested in the basic principles of landscape design.

Gardening is not a static activity. It constantly changes with time, growth, seasons, activities, evolving tastes and the latest plant releases. Whether you have a new home with no landscaping or a home with a mature landscape, you will find it worthwhile and rewarding to learn more about the principles of garden design. They will provide you with a repertoire of tools for planning, decision-making and growing the garden of your dreams.

If you have a passion for gardening or simply enjoy relaxing in your garden, you need to make a plan. There are many resources for learning about landscape design: workshops, classes, books, magazines, the Internet, retail nurseries, professional landscape architects and Home and Garden shows.

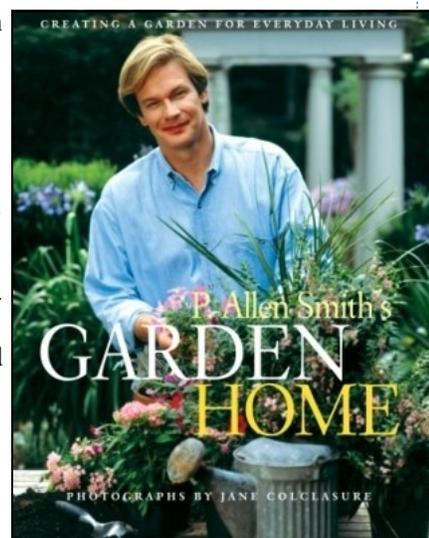
One resource we keep returning to is P. Allen Smith's book Garden Home: Creating a Garden for Everyday Living, 2003. Smith is one of America's most recognized garden design and lifestyle experts. He hosts several PBS television programs and provides inspiration and creative ideas through other multi-media sources. He is the author of the best-selling Garden Home series of books published by Clarkson Potter/Publishers.

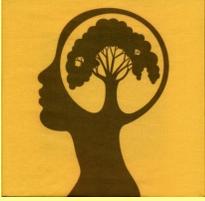
There are many reasons why we love this book. First, it is a gorgeous book with colorful illustrations of Smith's own home and garden and a discussion of how his concept of the "Garden Home" evolved. His book includes insights into his successes and the realization that landscape design is a continuous process.

In the second part of his book, Smith discusses some of the landscape projects that he has created from grand and expansive gardens to tiny gardens, from rural to urban and from brand-new homes to historic home gardens. Each garden is unique with its own challenges and attributes. In this section he talks about the fact that there are "essential elements of design" that are universal to every landscape project and "...when woven into the plan of the garden, they are unifying components that magically transforms the space into a place of enchantment and beauty...(they) assist you as you create the garden of your dreams." His goal is to make a strong connection between the inside of our homes and our gardens. A Garden Home builds upon the interaction of life with nature rather than apart from it.

Smith goes on to identify his "Twelve Principles of Design." They divide naturally into two categories. The first six elements are Enclosure, Shape and Form, Framing the View, Entry, Focal Point and Structures. These elements form the structural framework for the garden. The next six elements are Color, Texture, Pattern and Rhythm, Abundance, Whimsy, Mystery and Time. These elements add the decorative, finishing touches of charm, pleasure and personality of the garden. The rest of this section explains each principle in detail with simple well-written text, charts listing the "essential ideas," and beautiful photography illustrating each principle.

The Third section is devoted to "Creating Your Garden Home." It deals with the reality that our garden dreams have to match the reality of our everyday lives. We need to create a garden that not only meets our daily needs, but that also can grow and change with our personal lifestyles. We need to become familiar with our garden and its potential. Smith does this by generating a list of questions for homeowners to ask themselves. He encourages us to assess the site and engage the senses and emotions so that we can balance the potential of the site with the dreams that we have for our "Garden Home."





Growing Knowledge

Useful Books and Websites

Lynne & Bill Gowdy Master Gardeners

Every garden dream has the same basic components of climate, scale, personal taste and budget. You will need to identify your garden style, “The Big Idea” unifying concepts that determine all future landscape decisions. Observe how you enjoy your home inside and design complimentary areas for your garden. Think of ways to extend your indoor activities to your garden. Don’t rush the planning process!

We have compiled a self-inventory of questions to help you survey and assess your needs. Not every question applies or needs to be answered. Hopefully these questions will help you prioritize your garden goals and guide you towards visualizing your dream Garden Home.

- Go through the survey and answer as many questions as you can that apply to the “Garden Home” of your dreams.
- Identify your unifying “Big Idea” or garden theme.
- Simplify and prioritize your needs. Keep it simple. Start small and add elements as your budget and needs allow.
- Check these websites for design and lifestyle ideas.

[PAllen Smith website](#)

[YouTube P Allen Smith](#)

[CreateTV](#)

[At Home with Allen Smith](#)

[Garden to Table P. Allen Smith](#)

•Enjoy the process and join us in the next newsletter for more information about P. Allen Smith’s “Twelve Principles of Design” and how they apply to your “Garden Home!”

To take our Garden Design Survey [click here](#) to jump to pages 18 & 19

Useful Garden Websites



[San Joaquin County Master Gardeners](#)

Our site is full of information on gardening. We are continually adding information to this site. Have questions? We have answers!

[UC Home Orchard Calendar of Operations](#)

If you have fruit or nut trees in your garden this is a great seasonal calendar to keep your tasks on track.

[Garden Dictionary:](#)

Access more than 15,000 entries, including an extensive selection of plants and varieties, fruits, herbs, vegetables, botanical terms, pests, diseases, pesticides, fertilizers, soils, tools, materials, and techniques.

[UC Bug Squad](#)

A great blog to follow if you are interested in insects. Lots of close, detailed photos as well as informative articles. Subscribe today!!

Protecting Frost Sensitive Plants

Farmer Fred Hoffman



UC Statewide IPM Project
© 2000 Regents, University of California

Fruit at right is frost damaged, fruit at left is normal

Cold winter days may be the last thing on your mind right now with our temperature in the 90's, but the chilly nights are just around the corner. Here are some great suggestions from [Farmer Fred](#) and the University of CA.

In the Sacramento area, frost can come as early as the first week in November...or as late as March 27. Typically, the Sacramento frost season extends through December and January.

Of special concern to backyard growers are citrus trees, many of which are currently producing oranges, lemons, limes and mandarins. Here are a few steps recommended by the University of California that might save your citrus trees from a mushy fate during prolonged cold spells when the nighttime temperatures could possibly plummet into the upper 20's for an extended period:

- * If the citrus plant is in a container, move it to an area that may shelter it from the wind while providing some ambient heat from the side of a building. South or west facing wall is best.
- * Make sure plants are well-watered, especially those under patio covers. The combination of dry soil and freezing temperatures can stress a plant beyond recovery.
- * Move aside any mulch beneath citrus trees. This allows the soil to radiate heat back up through the tree during cold nights.
- * Harvest any fruit that is ripe. Unripened citrus will not continue to mature if it is picked. Leave those on the tree.
- * For citrus trees under three years old, wrap a thick insulating material such as fiberglass building insulation or old newspapers around the tree trunk. Replace it if it gets soaked.
- * Build a frame around the tree, covering it with burlap or row cover cloth (polypropylene), making sure that this tent-like shelter doesn't touch the leaves. Foliage that touches the sheeting could be damaged by the freezing cold. Take the cover off during sunny weather.
- * The larger sized Christmas lights or a couple of 150-watt light bulbs located in the central area of the tree may add two to four degrees Fahrenheit protection.
- * Two low-emitting mini-sprinklers, ones that put out about a half gallon a minute, placed on opposite sides of the tree, may provide two to three degrees Fahrenheit protection. Turn on these low-angle sprinklers before the air temperature drops to 32 degrees and keep them on until the temperature rises above 32. But be sure that the sprinklers don't spray water over the trees; a buildup of ice can cause limbs to break. For more on frost protection, [click here](#).

Table 1. Relative frost sensitivity of selected citrus trees

Common name	Scientific name	Sensitivity to frost*
TREES		
citron	<i>Citrus medica</i>	H
grapefruit	<i>Citrus × paradisi</i>	M
kumquat	<i>Fortunella</i> spp.	L
lemon	<i>Citrus limon</i>	H
lime	<i>Citrus aurantiifolia</i>	H
mandarin orange hybrids	<i>Citrus reticulata</i> ssp.	M
orange	<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	M
Satsuma mandarins	<i>Citrus reticulata</i> ssp.	L
ROOTSTOCKS		
rough lemon or Alemow	<i>Citrus macrophylla</i>	H
trifoliolate orange	<i>Poncirus trifoliata</i>	M
Troyer and Carrizo citrange	× <i>Citronicus Webberi</i>	M

Note: * H = high sensitivity; M = moderate sensitivity; L = low sensitivity. Trees with a high sensitivity are more easily damaged by frost than trees with a low sensitivity. For information on frost sensitivity of particular cultivars in your area, consult reliable nursery staff or your local University of California Cooperative Extension county office.

The Garden Gate.....Opening Doors in the Community

Woodbridge by Mondavi, Giving through Growing

Julie Hyske Master Gardener

The crush is in full swing as trucks pour in and out of the Woodbridge Mondavi facility located in Acampo. Across from the tasting room and the processing plant facilities lies a small gem hidden in the rough, a “Giving Garden.” Although it is rather late in the season for vegetable gardening, here is planted a testimony to a bountiful summer harvest. Tomatoes, red and green peppers, corn, eggplant, melons, and varieties of squash flourish among the marigolds, zinnias and sunflowers. Woodbridge winery-harvested produce provides healthy meals for hungry local families.

The Giving Garden, which raises fresh fruits and vegetables for the Stockton Emergency Food Bank, was planted on the Woodbridge Winery premises in 2010. It continues to be maintained and cared for by the winery employees. This project, led by hospitality manager, Larry Pilmaier, proved from the first harvest that important change can happen with limited real estate: 8 raised beds, totaling less than 1,000 square feet, yielded 3,000 lbs. of produce. In addition, the tasting room and employees took further steps to sponsor food drives that increased food donations to those in need.

The Mondavi commitment to provide produce to the local community does not end here. The Woodbridge Giving Through Growing (GTG) program has established a national platform, in partnership with the American Community Garden Association (ACGA), that works to provide grants to local community gardens across the country. The mission of GTG is to support the expansion of gardens and the donation of harvested produce to local food banks. The Woodbridge Winery Giving Garden has become a demonstration model that has served as an inspiration to bringing community and food together.

This year’s program was supported by a pledge of \$55,000 to re-create five Woodbridge “Giving Gardens” across our country that are designed to supply fresh seasonal produce to food banks in Atlanta, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami and New York City. Grant funding aids with increasing gardening area functionality and making improvements on irrigation systems that will increase crop output. To further ensure that the farm-grown produce makes it to the table, “Top Chef” alum, Candice Kumai, will visit each garden to teach consumers how to transform their garden bounty into simple, healthy meals. The concept is that families deserve to share a communal table of healthy homemade food.

The desire of the Woodbridge by Mondavi GTG program, which has donated nearly \$150,000 in the first three years to the ACGA, is to stimulate creative thinking about America’s hunger problem and bring fresh local produce to those in need of hunger relief. It all began as a simple act of generosity of planting, growing and harvesting while feeding local families within our county. Today it has transformed into a national prototype for community sponsored gardens challenging them to donate healthy sustainable foods within their own communities. The vision of planting a seed can grow hope in the fight against hunger! To visit the website, [click here](#).



The Help Desk

Lee Miller Master Gardener

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

How can an urban gardener capture water for use on their property?

Water harvesting in these times of increasingly expensive and scarce water resources is something that we all need to think about. Water is preferably kept in the landscape where rain falls. In some areas it is possible to create a bog garden where water is directed from downspouts to create a bog area for water loving plants. However this approach is unlikely to work here in San Joaquin County, because rainfall is restricted to Autumn-Winter and the bog would dry up in summer unless we used domestic water to keep it boggy which defeats the purpose. One thing we can do is harvest winter water into a cistern, rain barrels, or tanks and use it as needed to irrigate containers and landscapes. Mulching our landscapes also increases water absorption and lessens runoff. Here is a website that the City of Berkeley has established to help people start rain harvesting. [Click here for more info.](#)

Shown here is a large water harvesting system using the roof of a fiber arts studio and a 1000 gallon tank.

The easiest rainwater to collect is from the roof via the roof gutter and downspout.

- Calculate the square footage of the roof surface and determine the total collected water possible during a normal rainfall event, allow for a collection device that can handle that volume of water.
- [Rain barrels](#) come in various sizes and are designed with a spigot to allow for water usage as well as a method to handle overflow; and divert any overflow water away from structures. You can purchase one or [make your own](#).
- [Rain Gardens](#) or Infiltration Basins should be directed at least 10' away from structures by either the slope of the soil or through a drain line to an area that can hold standing water until it has had time to soak in. This area can either be handled as a graveled stream bed or an area planted with appropriate plants that can take standing winter water.
- Minimize solid hard surfaces in your landscape by using [permeable paving](#) for patios and pathways. Rain water percolates into the soil between the pavers, reducing runoff.
- Capture the water that falls on driveway surfaces. Rainwater can be [directed into an Infiltration Basin](#) or you may choose to install [permeable paving designed for driveways](#).



More information on rainwater harvesting:

[Rain Gardens](#), UC & Sea Grant CA
[How to build a rain garden](#), Rain Garden Network

Recipes of the Season

Betty Liske Master Gardener

Festive Fall Salad

Mixed baby greens...decide on amount by the number of servings desired.

4-6 oz. crumbled gorgonzola, or to taste

1-2 cups candied pecan halves or pieces

1 red (Delicious) and 1 green (Granny Smith) apple, thinly sliced in crescents; toss right after slicing with a bit of Fruit Fresh, ascorbic acid, or lemon juice

6 oz. fresh pomegranate seeds, or more to taste

Ken's Regular or Lite Raspberry Vinaigrette dressing, or other oil and vinegar style (not creamy)

Arrange mixed lettuces in bowl...add a bit of romaine if you desire a bit more crunch. Sprinkle crumbled gorgonzola and pecan pieces over the top. Arrange apple slices, overlapping or close, in circle around center, alternating colors or making separate rings

Sprinkle pomegranate seeds over all, or in center, or design of your choosing.

Alternatives for serving and dressing:

Display arranged salad, then dress and toss just before serving

Allow guests to serve and dress their own salads

Dress the greens only, then continue the layering as above, then display just before serving

Easy Candied Nuts

1 lg. egg white

1 T. water

½ t. salt

3 T. sugar

2 C. nuts

Beat egg white and water till foamy.

Add salt and sugar and whisk till thick

Stir in nuts to coat. Spread on greased baking sheet, separate with forks.

Bake at 300' for 35 minutes, stirring and checking frequently, being careful not to burn. Pour out on waxed or parchment paper and separate to cool.



Awesome Butternut Squash Coconut Soup

recipe compliments of Natasha Bruckner, Santa Cruz

1 tbs peanut or olive oil

½ large onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

3-1/2 cups soup stock—homemade, vegetable, or chicken

1 medium-sized butternut squash, peeled and cubed or roasted*

1 small jalapeno

1 can coconut milk

½ cup lemon zest (or less – tastes fine with 1/4 or 1/3 cup)

¼ to ½ cup soy sauce or Bragg's Liquid Aminos**

1 tsp. of fresh lime juice

Sugar to taste



Heat oil in large pot. Saute onion and garlic. Add soup stock, raw peeled and cubed squash, and jalapeno to large pot. Simmer until squash is cooked, about 20 minutes (if roasted, simmer 10 minutes). Add coconut milk, lemon, soy sauce or Bragg's, and sugar. Simmer 10-12 minutes. Do not boil.

Puree.

Add lime juice. Adjust to taste with sugar. YUM!

*To roast squash, cut in half, scoop out seeds, and place cut side down on an oiled baking sheet. Bake at 350' about 1 hour. Scoop and add to stock.

**Bragg's is a gluten-free, non-GMO alternative to soy sauce. Available at Wal-Mart and health food stores.

Coming Events

Corinne Bachle Master Gardener

October

Saturday, October 6

Guided Tour: Take a Walk on the West Side!

9-11 am, Nature's Gallery Court, Garrod Drive, UC Davis Campus

Reacquaint yourself with the Arboretum's West End by taking a leisurely group walk along Arboretum pathways on Homecoming Saturday!

Beautiful vistas, fond memories, and exciting new projects await you! Co-sponsored by Alumni Relations.

[UCD Arboretum](#)

Wednesday, October 10

Guided Tour: Walk with Warren—West End Gardens

12 noon-1 pm, Gazebo, Garrod Drive, UC Davis Campus

[UCD Arboretum](#)

Friday October 12, 2012

San Joaquin Master Gardener Meet and Greet

7:00 pm

Informational meeting regarding the upcoming 2013 Master Gardener training. Come find out what we are all about! Talk with current Master Gardeners and find out if this is a program for you. **Please RSVP at 953-6100 by October 10th.**

Saturday, October 13th, 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Sunday, October 14th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Awards at 3:00 pm.

20th Annual Fall Rose Show

Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore, 925-447-0280

Co-sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Rose Society & Alden Lane Nursery
Public Entries Welcome!

Roses can be entered on Sat., October 13th from 8:30 - 10:00 am.

HINT: Cut the stems long. We can shorten them up when you arrive.

Awards given out at 3:00 pm on Sunday.

[Alden Lane](#)

Saturday, October 13

San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Let's Plant a Tree

10:00-11:30 am

Classes are free (\$6 parking if not a Museum member)

San Joaquin County Historical Museum at Micke Grove

11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi

Sunday, October 14

Plant Sale : Transferring Arboretum Style to Your Landscape

Public Sale: 9 am–1 pm, Arboretum Teaching Nursery

Featuring all-purpose UC Davis Arboretum planting plans for you to "copy and paste" into your home landscape. This sale is open to the public. Members save 10% off their purchases. Become a new member at this sale to receive an additional \$10-off coupon.

[UCD Arboretum](#)

Wednesday, October 17

11 am-2 pm

Open Garden Day

Event is free

Fair Oaks Horticulture Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA

A midweek opportunity to see fall-blooming plants, planting bulbs for spring blooms, and hardy succulents for our area. Other activities include frost protection strategies for citrus trees, the benefits of composting, and how growing cover crops can enrich your garden soil.

Saturday, October 20

San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Let's Plant a Tree

10:30-12 noon

Classes are free

Manteca Library

320 W. Center, Manteca

Saturday, October 20

Guided Tour: Ornamental Grasses

10-11:30 am, Nature's Gallery Court, Garrod Drive, UC Davis Campus

Check out the autumn drama of ornamental grasses in the Storer, Oak Grove, White Flower, and All-Star Gardens.

[UCD Arboretum](#)

Saturday, October 20

Fall Festival Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore, 925-447-0280

10:00 – noon

Come learn about local birds. Visit with local Naturalist John Mottashed and his portable bird museum.

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Paint a Pumpkin Fairy House. The cost is 19.99 plus tax.

Sign up soon with our Alden Lane cashiers 925-447-0280. Space is limited.

Please sign up by October 15th to reserve your pumpkin.

1:00 - 2:00 pm Raised Bed Gardening for Fall with Jo. Please call ahead to reserve your space for this free class.

2:00 – 3:00 pm Plants for a Dry California Landscape. Please call ahead to reserve your space for this free class.

[Alden Lane](#)

Sunday, October 21

Fall Festival

1:00 – 3:00 pm Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore, 925-447-0280

1:00 – 2:00 Fall Veggie Gardening with Brian. No charge for this class, but please call ahead to reserve your space.

1:00 – 3:00 Japanese Maple Class

[Alden Lane](#)

Saturday, October 27

Container Gardening and Winterizing your Containers

10:00 – 12 noon

Class is free

Delta Tree Farms, Inc.

12900 N. Lower Sacramento Road

Lodi

Sunday, October 28

Fall Festival

Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore, 925-447-0280 1:00 – 2:00 pm

Decorating with Cyclamen for the Holidays. Learn all about the ways you can use cyclamen for holiday decorating. Hear everything that's new in cyclamen, plus the best growing conditions for this beautiful winter flower. The cost for this class is \$5.00 plus tax and includes a free 4"

[continued. pg 15](#)

Coming Events (continued)

cyclamen. Please call ahead to pay and reserve your space.

2:00 – 3:00 pm **New for YOU!** Our green goods buyer will share what's new in plants for the fall season. Come and hear all about Pistachio Hydrangeas, cool new daphne, and much more.

\$10.00 plus tax and includes a **FREE** one gallon perennial. Please call ahead to pay and reserve your space.

2:00 – 3:00 pm **Stunning Pots for the Holidays.** Want a beautiful entrance for your home for the holidays? Learn how to create an incredible pot that says "Welcome" right at the front door. Learn ways to transition your pot from Thanksgiving to the Christmas holidays with a few simple touches. No charge, just, please call ahead and reserve your space!

3:00 pm **Walk and Talk Native Plants** through our natives section. Call ahead to reserve your space.

3:00 pm **Pumpkin & Scarecrow Contest Awards**

[Alden Lane](#)

November

Saturday, November 3

Guided Tour: Native American Con-

templative Garden

2:00 – 3:30 pm, Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center, Old Davis Road, UC Davis Campus

Join this public tour of the Native American Contemplative Garden, led by Arboretum docents and UC Davis students.

[UCD Arboretum](#)

Saturday, November 10

San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Refuse into Resources

10:00 – 11:30 am

Classes are free

San Joaquin County Historical Museum at Micke Grove (\$6 parking if not a Museum member)

11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi

Saturday, November 17

San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Refuse into Resources

10:30 – 12 noon

Classes are free

Manteca Library

320 W. Center, Manteca

Saturday, November 17

Guided Tour: Plants of the Southwest U.S.A.

2:00 – 3:30 pm, Arboretum Headquar-

ters, La Rue Road, UC Davis Campus
Explore the autumn sages blooming in the Southwest USA Collection and take a peek at progress on the newest GATEways Garden Project: Animal Science.

[UCD Arboretum](#)

December

Saturday, December 1

Guided Tour: Garden Prep for Winter
Ruth Risdon Storer Garden

2:00 – 3:30 pm, Ruth Risdon Storer Garden, Garrod Drive, UC Davis Campus
Are your garden beds ready for winter weather? Find out how Storer gardeners are preparing.

[UCD Arboretum](#)

Saturday, December 15

Guided Tour: Crazy about Conifers

2:00 – 3:30 pm, Arboretum Headquarters, La Rue Road, UC Davis Campus

Explore the evergreens in the Arboretum's Conifer Collection, and learn how they enhance the landscape.

[UCD Arboretum](#)

Plant Low Water Use Plants in Fall

Continued from pg. 1

poor drainage. Planting in fall, before the onset of cold winter, gives these plants time for root growth (in fall and early spring) before the water stress period of May to September. A short list of plants especially favored by fall planning are: California lilac (*Ceanothus sp.*), Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos sp.*), Currant (*Ribes sp.*), almost all the Arboretum All-Stars, and my favorite, Matilja Poppy (*Romneya coulteri*). These plants should be grouped together in a hydrozone with other plants of similar requirements and not be scattered through the landscape. Also, planting on mounds is helpful, but never bury them in soil above the plant's root flair. I have seen far more plants die from being planted too deep than too shallow. Check planting depth a second time at least a week after the usual watering in to see if it has settled lower than surrounding soil. I believe that tilling and amending soil is important for these plants, and I usually include some peat moss for its antibiotic character. Often root teasing will be needed to loosen the rootball. Make sure that air pockets in the planting hole are eliminated by "watering in", not "boot stomping".

If you have had prior difficulty with some of these plants, give them another try in the fall. Don't expect 100% success with the first effort, but keep in mind the long-term value they will provide. See [WUCOLS](#) document in reference below for a list of low water use plants and definition of hydrozones:

[USDA Plant Hardiness](#)

[WUCOLS - Water Efficiency](#)

Garden Chores (continued from page 2)

NOVEMBER

Time to Plant ~

Brighten your winter garden with plants that produce colorful red berries during the winter. Cotoneaster, toyon and pyracantha do well in our area. [Plant new trees](#) and shrubs "high" to avoid stem rot. The top of the root ball should be about an inch above the soil line to allow for settling.

Cool season annuals like calendula, Iceland poppy, snapdragon and viola can still be planted. Bulbs can still be planted. Choose those bulbs that are plump and firm, and rhizomes or corms that feel heavy. Avoid soft or shriveled bulbs. Bulbs should be planted at least twice as deep as they are tall.

[Plant blueberries](#) in acidic soil, preferably on the east side of a building for afternoon shade. They will succeed wherever you have azaleas that are doing well. They really do prefer an acidic soil, so if you have to lower the pH in your soil, plan to do so well in advance of planting. You can acidify soil by digging in soil sulfur where you want your blueberries, but plan ahead because it takes some time for the lowering of pH to occur.



Lawns ~

Heavy dew on your lawn every morning is usually enough water for November.



Rake fallen leaves from your lawn regularly to prevent damage from lack of sunlight or contracting a fungus infection. Raked leaves can be added to your compost pile or used as mulch. Raking your lawn regularly will warm you up this month, be beneficial for your lawn, and is less polluting with regard to air quality and noise reduction.

If you didn't fertilize earlier this fall, feed your lawn now for the winter with a fertilizer that contains phosphorus and potassium as well as nitrogen.

Maintenance for your Garden ~

After the foliage on dahlias dies, shorten stems to about 3 inches. Do not remove the foliage until it browns and lifts from the ground with just a gentle tug.

Cover your [frost-sensitive](#) plants (being sure to keep covers from touching foliage) before sunset so that ground heat is preserved. Remove the covers during sunny days. Frost sensitive plants include Hibiscus and Begonia. Moist soil retains heat better than dry soil, so keep your container plants watered – but, be sure to remove saucers from under your containers so that the pots can drain during rain.



Drain water from garden hoses and straighten them out to prevent cracking in the frost. Drain and turn off your irrigation system once the rainy season commences. Remove the batteries from your irrigation timer and store the timer for the winter.

If rain is infrequent, water newly planted landscape plants, lawns and vegetables.

Early control of [earwigs](#) and [snails](#) is appropriate this month. Reduce the dark, cool, moist places they favor and handpick or trap and eliminate them. Look for them under boards, pots and broad leaf plants during the day.

You can protect plants near your home from becoming waterlogged by extending rain gutters with flexible pipe. Check outdoor faucets and fix any that are dripping. Wrap the exposed portion of the water pipes to protect them during freezing weather.

Apply [dormant sprays](#) to treat a number of diseases and over-wintering pests only if there was a problem during this last growing season. Spray after pruning starting in late November until buds begin to open in late February or early March. Spray after a period of rain or foggy weather – do not spray during or just prior to freezing weather. Your local nursery person can direct you to appropriate products for your particular fruit tree variety. **Check labels carefully: sprays are tree and pest specific.**

DECEMBER

Time to Plant ~

A sunny day may invite you into your garden to plant acacia, columbine, flowering quince, foxglove, gaillardia, salvia, or winter Daphne, some of which are the first plants to bloom in spring.

Bare root plants begin to arrive at nurseries. [Fruit trees](#), grapevines, cane berries, roses, strawberries, artichoke,

Garden Chores (continued from page 2)

asparagus, and horseradish make nice gifts for family members (or yourself) who garden. Boysen, Marion, and Olallie are blackberries that do well in the valley and should be available as bare root selections late this month. Bare root roses are now appearing in area nurseries. If you are going to add to or begin a rose garden, be sure to choose those plants that list Grade 1 on the label for vigorous first year growth.

Choose poinsettias with an abundance of dark, rich green foliage that is undamaged, dense and plentiful all the way down to the soil line. You can keep poinsettia plants thriving inside through the winter by placing them in a warm, sunny location, out of drafts. Water your poinsettias weekly; feed them monthly through April; then, transplant them outdoors.



Living plants that make good holiday gifts include basil, lavender, lemon balm, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary, tarragon and thyme which all grow well indoors, in a sunny window. If you received houseplants as holiday gifts, be sure to remove the foil surrounding the pot to avoid root rot.

Lawns ~

Lawns need little care in December. Use the time you would normally devote to your lawn to begin planning your spring garden.

Maintenance for your Garden ~

Cover your citrus trees if a hard freeze is expected. [Citrus trees can handle frost](#), but not a hard freeze. Be sure your cover does not touch the leaves of your tree. Little, twinkling holiday lights will keep your tree warm and add sparkle to your winter garden. Inspect your garden after storms for broken branches, overturned pots, and wind damage. Keep your pruners cleaned, sharpened and oiled to be ready for the pruning season. Clean and oil shovels, rakes and other garden tools before putting them away for the winter.

Information for this article was gathered from;

[UC IPM](#)

[Sunset Garden](#)

[Farmer Fred](#)

[UC ANR](#)

San Joaquin Master Gardeners: *A Valley Gardeners Journal*

Sacramento County Master Gardeners: *Gardening Guide*

Garden Design Survey

Lynne & Bill Gowdy Master Gardeners

Reference P. Allen Smith book review, pages 8-9

I. What is the unifying "Big Idea" for your garden? Briefly describe goals for your garden.

II. Site Analysis

- A. How much outdoor space is available --lots of space, small space, open space, confined space, shared space
- B. Soil -- Preexisting conditions, fill, previously agricultural, soil compaction
- C. Slope
- D. Site Preparation – survey property lines, remove construction debris, grading, trenching
- E. Exposure -- sun, shade, mixed, prevailing winds
- F. Water demands -- supply capacity, irrigation, drainage, water restrictions
- G. Are there Homeowner Association Rules where you live? Building codes? Safety Issues?

III. What is your budget?

IV. Will you design the garden yourself or seek professional advice?

V. Maintenance -- Do-it-yourself? Hired gardeners? Seasonal assistance for flowerbeds or pruning?

VI. What is your garden style? Formal, informal, naturalistic, native, cottage, woodland Japanese, Zen, Mediterranean or tropical?

VII. What is the style and age of your home? New, modern, classic, or stylized?

VIII. How have you used your outdoor space in the past? List uses.

IX. How would you like to use your garden in the future? Prioritize list or put N/A.

- A. Entertaining
- B. Outdoor kitchen
- C. Eating/Dining area
- D. Relaxing -- Sitting and conversation, music, reading, meditation
- E. Growing Food --vegetable gardening, fruit trees, herbs
- F. Flower gardening
- G. View from inside the home
- H. Utility area or storage
- I. Garden rooms to provide multiple living areas. Use whatever outdoor rooms or spaces you have to compliment your indoor spaces.
- J. Sports
- K. Pets
- L. Swimming/Spa
- M. Water features

- N. Hobbies
- X. **Make a plan on paper --Gather additional information, visit gardens and neighborhoods that you like, take lots of pictures**
- XI. **Will you include garden structures?**
 - A. Walls, fences, gates, trellises
 - B. Pools and spas
 - C. Water features --fountains, ponds, containers
 - D. Patios
 - E. Planters
 - F. Dining area
 - G. Barbecuing
 - H. Decks
 - I. Gazebos
 - J. Terraces
 - K. Play area
 - L. Exercise
 - M. Porches
- XII. **Finally, review this list of things to consider:**
 - A. Identify the "Big Idea" or style of your garden (Unifying Idea)
 - B. Develop a site checklist that includes light/exposure, topography, wind, soil types, water, noise and ambient sounds.
 - C. Prioritize elements of design and uses. You may need to build your garden in phases.
 - D. Identify entrance and exit areas from your home.
 - E. Look at the garden from the interior of the home outwards as well as the exterior garden inwards. Consider transitions between home and garden as well as between structures and garden rooms.
 - F. Identify garden focal points.
 - G. Look at you garden holistically and plan a design that ties the front yard, side yard areas and backyard all together.
 - H. Gather tools: a tape measure, sketchpad or graph paper, surveyor flags in many colors and a camera.
 - I. Enjoy the process --The best gardens evolve. Develop the "framework" first & then take time to refine ideas.
 - J. Don't hurry the process. Take advantage of your evolving knowledge, taste and style.
 - K. Identify garden rooms desired and transitions between rooms.
 - L. Be innovative and creative. Consider adding features for your senses (color, smell, taste, sound, touch), lighting (no or low voltage lighting) and time of day (Moon Garden).
 - M. Take lots of pictures at every stage of your garden progress as well of lots of other gardens. Google Images is another place to look for lots of images.
 - N. Enjoy your garden growth and experience!
- XIII. **Watch for the next article on The Twelve Elements of Garden Design!**

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 Sousa 953-6100



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.

**Applications are now being accepted
for the**



2013 San Joaquin UC Master Gardener Training



Training will be held
February 5th – June 11th from
8:30 am – 1:00 pm on Tuesdays.
Cost: Registration will be \$150.00

Application deadline is
November 16th

The Master Gardeners will host free meeting on
"Becoming A Master Gardener" Tuesday October 2nd 7:00
pm and Friday October 12th 7:00 pm. Meeting will be held
at the Master Gardener office.

Come to this free meeting to meet and talk to local Master Gardeners. Information about the application process for becoming a Master Gardener in the 2013 class will be presented. Participants will learn about Master Gardener activities including the training program, volunteer events and projects within the community. Please RSVP at 953-6100. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more program information and the 2013 application:

Master Gardener Website: <http://sjmastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>

Master Gardener Phone: 209-953-6112

Master Gardener Office: 2101 E. Earhart Ave. Suite 200, Stockton, CA, 95206

**LEFTOVER PAINT IN THE GARAGE?
DON'T WASTE IT**

RECYCLE IT!

RECYCLE YOUR LEFTOVER LATEX PAINT FOR FREE AT ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS:

Lockeford True Value Hardware
18960 N. Hwy 88
(209) 727-3791

Stockton Ace Hardware
3201 W. Benjamin Holt Drive
(209) 951-8050

Stockton Color Center
2104 Pacific Avenue
(209) 943-1617

Fremont Plaza Ace
2060 E. Fremont Street, Stockton
(209) 451-1459

Valley Lumber & Supply Company
1627 South Center Street, Stockton
(209) 464-4565

Glidden Professional
2504 Monte Diablo Avenue, Stockton
(209) 466-8038

Schemper's Ace Hardware
150 North Wilma Ave, Ripon
(209) 599-2141



Tracy Color Center
318 West Grant Line Road
(209) 835-9720

Van's Ace Hardware
2695 North Tracy Blvd., Tracy
(209) 835-8286

Strand's Ace Hardware
3360 McHenry Avenue, Escalon
(209) 838-7992

True Value Hardware
1436 Main Street, Escalon
(209) 838-7805



Find more recycling locations at www.SJCrecycle.org or call (209) 468-3066

Offer for San Joaquin County households only. Limit 5 gallons per visit. Paint must be in original, non-leaking containers with readable labels.

Up to 80% of the e-waste given to "recyclers" in North America does not get recycled on this continent.

Protect your confidential data.
Protect your environment.



RECYCLE YOUR E-WASTE RESPONSIBLY



Visit www.e-Stewards.org to find a local certified e-Stewards® recycler, or use San Joaquin County's regional recycling program, which is operated by a certified e-Stewards® recycler.

For more information call (209) 468-3066 or visit www.SJCrecycle.org.



Repurposed items for the garden at the Smart Garden Conference





ANNUAL WORKSHOP TO GREEN OUR SCHOOLS

San Joaquin County
Office of Education
Wentworth Education Center
2707 Transworld Drive
Stockton

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

Green Curriculum * Green Campus * Green Jobs
Who should attend? Everyone
who cares about our schools
and students!



[Click here](#) for more
information and to register.



Before and After—Smart Garden Repurposing Display



Kids Garden Boot used as a planter