



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Garden Chores 2

Community 3

Connections: In-Season Market and Nursery

Pests and Plants of the Season 4-5

Feature 6

Garden Tools

Beneficials 7

Spiders

Growing Knowledge 8

Book Review: *Unearthed*

From the Garden 9

Horticultural Terms 10

The Help Desk 11

Taste of the Season 12

Coming Events 13

Coordinator Corner

Marcy Sousa, Master Gardener Coordinator

Happy New Year! The New Year brings renewed energy and enthusiasm, plans for improvement and of course, resolutions. Our program resolution this year is to provide timely, meaningful, and environmentally sustainable information pertinent to our San Joaquin County gardeners.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Master Gardener Program in our county. Master Gardeners have volunteered over 43,000 hours on various projects in the county since 2007 and have earned over 12,000 continuing education hours. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the support of the San Joaquin County Public Works, Solid Waste Division which funds our program. We also rely on all of you who read our newsletter, attend our workshops, call our helpline office, and tell your friends about our program. Thank you for your continued support!



2017 brings another year of Master Gardener Training that will begin at the end of January. I am excited about the experiences, enthusiasm and expertise this class will bring to the Master Gardener Program. It was a great group of applicants and I can't wait to get started. We are still working on finalizing new workshop locations and will notify you as soon as they are set.

Master Gardeners are available to answer your gardening questions at 953-6112. The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:00 am—Noon.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Garden Notes. Happy Gardening!

Confessions of a Failed Garden Journalist

Susan Price, Master Gardener

Whenever I think of it, I add soil acidifier to the blueberry bushes that I grow in raised containers. The label says to add every 60 days. Seems like I should have made a note of my last application. I didn't. I also apply snail bait on a regular basis. If I didn't, many of my perennials would disappear by spring. I wish I could say I record each application on my calendar. I don't.

I have the San Joaquin County Master Gardener's [Blooming Journal](#) ready to be filled with the details of my garden. It's designed to contain any information I deem important to maintaining a healthy garden, whether it is to remind me of fertilizer applications or pest control management, or to record additions to the

landscape. It's a wonderful tool to serve as an ongoing record of your garden throughout the seasons and even throughout the years. In it, you can document your successes and failures. What better way to avoid making the same mistakes season after season?

There's no need to be overly formal or regimented in your "journal." A 3-ring binder or spiral-bound notebook may be all you need. My father had a huge calendar tacked to the wall in his basement that led to his garden. Anyone visiting could take note of the last time he fertilized his roses. Simple, but effective! If you are more of a "techie," why not explore computer apps for your phone or

[Continued on pg. 14](#)

Winter Garden Chores

Sue Davis, Master Gardener

Plan to spend these cold months with a bit of garden maintenance and a lot of decision making about what you want your garden to be for spectacular spring and summer results.

January Ideas:

Plant - Bare root roses and fruit trees are available in your local nursery now. Bare root plants are less expensive than they will be in a couple of months when they have been potted.

It's not too late to plant spring bulbs if your local nursery still has some in stock. For production of good blooms, bulbs should feel heavy and dense.

Camellias in nurseries are in bloom now. Choose one that catches your eye. Before purchasing a plant, make sure it's healthy and its leaves are lush and green. Avoid plants that have pale leaves, overly leggy growth, or roots protruding through drain holes.

Japanese maples (*A. palmatum*) are available in nurseries now. These trees come in many varieties, including ones with deeply cut leaves or variegated foliage. They can range in height from 3 to 20 feet and should be protected from the wind. Sun tolerance varies by species.



Determine the mature size of plants you are adding to your landscape so that you allow sufficient space when placing it in your garden. If the area looks sparse now, fill it in with some annuals or small perennials that can be relocated later.

Maintenance – Pruning tips and tools. Vines, fruit and shade trees, grapes and roses all benefit from pruning with sharp tools to remove dead, diseased, and broken branches, open their framework to the sun and improve air circulation. As you work, disinfect your pruning tools with a ten percent bleach-to-water solution to prevent the spread of disease. You can also wipe your tools with rubbing alcohol as you go, and/or submerge and soak them for 1 minute between uses. Be sure to dry them with a clean rag and oil them after use to prevent rust. Keeping Lysol spray in your garden tote and spraying your tools each time you move to a new plant or tree will also work to keep your pruning tools disinfected.

Rake and discard all the fallen leaves around your rose bushes

which may be harboring next season's pests.

Remove all mummified fruit from your fruit trees, as well as any fruit or leaves still on the ground to discourage pests and diseases. Apply dormant oil sprays to control pests, disease and infection. Dormant sprays are labeled for specific diseases or pests as well as for the recommended amount and frequency of spraying.

Please read labels carefully. You'll get the best results from spraying after rain or foggy weather and not during or just prior to freezing weather.

Mulch around your plants at least as far as the drip line but not near the trunks to discourage weeds, prevent soil erosion and help regulate soil temperature.



Work compost into the soil around your plants and continue or start a composting pile for your spring and summer gardens.

Use a balanced fertilizer for winter-flowering plants to keep them blooming in these cold months. Among those that should be fed: primroses, stock, calendula, snapdragons, poppies, pansies and violas. Potting a few of these will add a splash of color to your porch or patio.

Snails and slugs hide under pots, wood, benches and pavers. Dispose of any you find in a pail of soapy water.

In February:

Plant – Start seeds indoors (see Lee Miller's Winter 2012 and Trish Tremayne's Winter 2015 articles on starting seeds). Peas can be planted outside; however, it is best to pre-germinate the pea seeds on moist paper towels in a warm room for a few days before you sow them.

Winter blooming annuals such as pansies and snapdragons can still be planted this month.

Dahlia tubers are available in area nurseries. For best selection, choose them now then plant them in the garden in mid to late April (when the soil reaches 60 degrees) for a rich array of color and different flower forms.

Tuberous begonia bulbs should be available at your nursery. Choose the largest and healthiest looking bulbs to start indoors now. Move them outside in late March.

Azaleas in bloom are arriving now.

[Continued on pg. 16](#)

In-Season Market and Nursery

Corinne Bachle, Master Gardener

Natural Farm Natural Food Natural Landscape Natural Life

A welcome new addition has come to the central Stockton community. In Season Market and Nursery has opened for business in the former Alpine Nursery location at 215 E. Alpine Avenue in Stockton. Owners Julie Morehouse and Eric Firpo, long-time friends and associates in the horticulture and urban agriculture world, saw the need for a source for nursery plants and fresh vegetables in this area of town where nothing like it existed.

Eric has developed the plot of land directly behind the retail space into an organic urban farm where he grows much of the fruits and vegetables that are sold in the store. It can't get any fresher than that! Everything he grows is completely free of pesticides. For items he doesn't grow, Eric buys from local area farmers, bringing in organic strawberries, heirloom tomatoes, gorgeous cauliflower, and a raft of other wonderful organically grown items. Now residents of central Stockton and other surrounding communities can enjoy organic, seasonal goods without having to travel great distances to get them.



Julie is well known in gardening and horticulture circles in Stockton. In addition to running her own landscaping business for many years, she has worked on several large projects in Stockton such as the Rob Garden and the Bon Appetit Native Garden at the University of the Pacific, and has taught numerous classes at Delta College and elsewhere. She loves sharing this knowledge with her customers, encouraging them to try their own hand at growing fresh vegetables. She shares advice on drought-tolerant gardening, landscape design, and plant selection specific to each customer's needs. The nursery offers old favorites as well as new, not-so-common plants that will do well in this area.

In addition to nursery plants and fresh vegetables, In Season has a gift shop featuring the work of many local artists and craftsmen and women. There, you can find unique garden tools, pottery, potting soils, and fertilizers. Another unique feature at In Season is a free lending library of nursery-related books! You can borrow a book or bring in some of your own to share with other gardeners in the community.



A small café is planned for the future which will feature items available for purchase right there at the store.

Julie recently hosted a "craft party" where participants created colorful beaded plant sticks which can add a bit of whimsy to anyone's garden. Other craft workshops are planned for the near future.

You can follow Julie and Eric on Facebook by typing In Season Stockton in the search bar.

Pests of the Season

Christeen Ferree, Master Gardener

Cliff Swallows While tourists celebrate the return of the swallows to San Juan Capistrano each spring, homeowners may find the birds and their nests a nuisance. Cliff swallows (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*) typically build their gourd-shaped mud nests on protected vertical surfaces or overhangs of buildings or bridges. Their droppings are messy, foul-smelling and can create potential health hazards by contamination of foodstuffs. Also, their nests frequently contain mites and other harmful insects. Prompt management action, i.e., nest removal and exclusion techniques should be taken as soon as the initial stages of swallow nesting is noticed.



Mud Nests Made by a Colony of Cliff Swallows

However, it is important to note that all swallows are included under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and are protected from harm under state and federal regulations. In addition, there are only certain times of the year that swallows' nests may be removed. The California Department of Fish and Game considers February 15 to September 1 to be swallow nesting season. Completed nests during this breeding season cannot be touched without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and such permits will only be issued for strong, compelling reasons.

Exclusion techniques may also require a permit if the birds have already built their nest or if there are eggs or young in the nest. Exclusion techniques include using [netting](#), [metal projectors](#), or installing [fiberglass panels](#) to block the swallows from nest sites. *For additional information on cliff swallows, including legal status and permit requirements, [click here](#).*



Frost Damaged Leaves.

Low Temperature Injury Low temperature injury may occur when plant tissues are chilled below the temperature they are adapted to tolerate. Since temperature is the least controllable environmental factor in a landscape, it is important to choose plant species that are cold hardy for the location. [Click here](#) for more information on plant climate zones.

Low temperature injury can occur on all parts of a plant: leaves, shoots, flowers, buds, fruit, bark, and, less commonly, roots. When exposed to critical low temperatures, tender new leaves appear water-soaked and may turn black. Mature leaves turn reddish brown to dark brown or nearly black. Wood and bark tissues damaged by low temperatures produce frost cracks (longitudinal splitting of wood), xylem darkening, (black heart of stems) and bark splitting. Roots of plants in containers and raised beds can also be susceptible to freezing damage.

In some cases, low temperature damage may only occur in foliage or tender shoots. In other cases, the whole plant will be killed. Do not prune the plant (no matter how unsightly) until you are sure of the extent of the injury. Look for signs of regrowth in the spring. If none, prune out dead parts or remove the plant and replace with a low temperature tolerant species. *For additional information and tips on protecting plants during low temperatures, [click here](#).*

Yellow Starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) Bees foraging on yellow starthistle produce flavorful, high quality honey. However, in the central California, yellow starthistle is considered one of the most serious rangeland weeds. It can contaminate grain harvests and also can cause a nervous system disorder in horses that feed on the weed.

Yellow starthistle is a long-lived, winter annual and, occasionally, a biennial broadleaf plant. It grows up to 5 feet tall and, at maturity, has a deep, vigorous taproot, grey-green to blue-green leaves, wiry stems and lobe-shaped leaves. Its yellow flower heads have long, stiff spines at their base.

Yellow starthistle reproduces by seed. Most seeds germinate within a year of dispersal but some seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 3 years. Seeds germinate from fall through spring – throughout the rainy season.

Weed control is accomplished by pulling and disposing of the weed after the rainy season when soil is dry; encouraging competitive, desirable vegetation; and introduction and encouragement of natural enemies of yellow starthistle, such as [Bangasternus orientalis](#) and [Eustenopus villosus](#), weevils that help to reduce seed production by attacking the flower/seed head *For additional information on other host-specific insects that act as biological control agents for yellow starthistle as well as recommended herbicide controls, [click here](#).*



UC Statewide IPM Project
© 2000 Regents, University of California

Plants of the Season

Sue Davis, Master Gardener

Tree: Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*)

This large, beautiful tree is a conifer native to the Western Himalayan Mountains. The aromatic wood from the tree is used in storage boxes and chests to keep contents insect free. Incense is produced from an oil distilled from the wood of the Deodar Cedar. In addition to the pleasing fragrance produced by the wood of this tree, its pyramidal shape, gray-green foliage and arching branches make it an excellent living Christmas Tree.

Plant this beauty in an area where it will receive full sun and allow plenty of room in your landscape for this tree which quickly grows from 40 to 50 feet tall and 20 to 30 feet wide. As with all new plants, this one will need regular watering during the first year to establish a strong root system. A general purpose fertilizer is helpful before new growth begins in the spring and prune (if needed) in the winter. Once established, this evergreen tree is a strong focal point for a large garden and is both heat and drought tolerant and only needs occasional watering.



Shrub: Variegated Winter Daphne (*Daphne odora* 'Aureo-marginata')

Named for a female figure in Greek mythology, Daphne is an evergreen shrub that provides winter interest with its yellow-margined, variegated foliage and delights the senses with fragrant pink and white flowers in early spring.

This tidy round shrub is a moderate grower that will reach 3 to 4 feet tall and wide. Daphne grows best in a north- or east-facing bed, against a wall, or around a patio or deck where its fragrance will be enjoyed. Groupings of 3 at the corners of your garden add drama to otherwise forgotten areas. To keep Daphne appearing tidy, shear annually in the winter to shape and fertilize in early spring before new growth appears. Daphne does best with weekly watering once established.

Perennial: Ashwood Strain Christmas Rose (*Helleborus x niger* 'Ashwood Strain')

This little semi-evergreen perennial grows only 6 to 8 inches tall and 12 to 24 inches wide with mounded, blue-green foliage. In late winter or early spring the plant produces white nodding flowers that are cup-shaped. The flowers not only brighten your landscape through a long blooming season, but make beautiful cuttings to enjoy in your home.

The Christmas Rose needs full shade to partial sun to perform well and regular water in extreme heat. Once established, however, it will do well on less water. A slightly acidic, well-drained soil, and acid fertilizer after bloom, will provide a perfect growing environment for this perennial. It is a moderate grower with a round shape that is easy to care for, water-wise, and provides year-round interest in your landscape.



Garden Tools—Selection and Maintenance

Lee Miller & Victor Rosasco, Master Gardeners

Hand Garden Tools

Selection: The first rule of tools is to buy the best that you can afford. Good tools can last a lifetime and you get what you pay for. A spading fork with heavy forged tines costs about 3 times what a cheaper one would. I do have a cheaper one which I bought at a garage sale years ago (cheaper still) which has the tines bent after a few uses. It would be very hard to bend the tines on the more expensive forged one made by [Clarington Forge](#), a quality English tool maker, that has a large line of hand-forged, quality garden tools and has been in business since 1790. Their website lists California dealers. Whenever possible, it is good to purchase tools that are forged from one piece of metal. They are stronger and less likely to be compromised.

Shovels made of sheet metal wrapped around the handle are cheaper, but not as strong and durable as ones that are forged with a socket for the shovel handle. When you step on a shovel and the blade feels like it is moving sideways, you know you have a cheap shovel. Good shovels also have blunt tops or pads so when you step on the shovel it is more comfortable. Digging is best done with your feet and legs, not your arms or back.

Forged trowels are also best and are not compromised by heavy use as are cheaper trowels unable to handle hard use. Recently I purchased a cast aluminum trowel and it is ergonomically designed as well as very sturdy. It was reasonably priced and available from a local hardware store.

Tool sharpening: This is a required skill to maintain tools in good working order. For shovels, spades, some weeders and hoes, it is important to keep a sharp edge which makes them more effective and easier to use. A hand-held grinder is best for initial sharpening of these tools with about a 45 degree bevel. Holding the tool in a vice works best, although bench grinders can also be used. These tools are usually dull when purchased, so right off it is important to sharpen them. After this initial sharpening, tools edges can be maintained with a sharpening stone or a mill file. Files sharpen only on the forward stroke; so it is stroke, lift, return, and stroke again. For pruners, loppers or any fine cutting tool, never use a grinder. If the edge is nicked, as sometimes happens when we accidentally cut wire or other hard surface, a file is best for removing them. If just dull, a small sharpening stone, file or diamond sharpener can be used.



Maintenance: If you want to protect your tools from weathering, you either need a tool shed or other place to keep them out of the weather. Even with good intentions, over time wood handles can deteriorate. Fiberglass handles will also crack if left in the sun. A once-a-year treatment with linseed oil will help wood handles retain smoothness and wood resilience. If handles do get weathered, you can scrape or sand them to smooth out the raised grain and then treat with linseed oil.

Keeping tools especially shovels clean and shiny is important. Dirt left on the tool creates a rusty surface to which dirt will stick. Use a wire brush or whatever is at hand to remove dirt after using. Spraying with a vegetable oil or WD-40 will help keep rust away while stored.

Selecting, Using and Maintaining Power Tools

Selecting power tools: The first thing to consider when choosing a power tool is the type of propulsion; there are plug in electrical, rechargeable battery electrical and of course gasoline powered in two and four stroke. Plug in electrical tools generally give you the most value for the money spent, and they are the best choice for reducing your carbon footprint. They are also a good choice for small yards as you usually aren't too far from an electrical outlet, but remember to use a good quality cord plugged into a GFI receptacle. Battery operated re-chargeable tools are also good for the planet and they work well in smaller yards but you are dependent on the battery run time so it's best to have extra charged-up batteries. Many manufacturers make several tools that share the same battery/charger to simplify things, i.e. blower, trimmer and hedger.

The next type of tools is the gas-operated models, and although they produce emissions, they have the power to get larger jobs done. The size of your yard or job determines what type of tool to acquire. Always try to get a tool with enough power to do what you want, the higher amperage/horsepower the better.

Using power tools: All new tools come with instructions, and it's best to read them before use and keep them in a file folder. If you don't have instructions for a tool, then look it up on the Internet as almost all manufacturers have a

[Continued on pg. 10](#)

Beneficials — Spiders

Kathy Ikeda, Master Gardener

With apologies to those who suffer from arachnophobia (the fear of spiders), this article covers a member of the animal kingdom that isn't usually thought of as beneficial. Spiders often get a "bad rap." They're portrayed as evil or deadly creatures in movies. Large, black bodies with eight spindly legs are common spooky decorations during Halloween. Real-life spiders are viewed as frightful critters to be screamed at or smashed. We've been conditioned from childhood to treat spiders with revulsion.

Not all cultures fear spiders. Spiders were symbols of wealth and protection from poverty in ancient Rome. The ancient Chinese believed anyone who saw a spider drop from its web was blessed with good luck. The spider-man character Anansi, the embodiment of wisdom and storytelling, is prominent in the folklore of west Africa, the West Indies, the Caribbean, and even the southern U.S. (as "Aunt Nancy"). Spider Woman is a powerful figure in the mythology of southwestern Native Americans. While all spiders are predatory and make venom, *very few* spider species pose a serious threat to humans. Although spider bites can be painful, they're more of a nuisance than a health threat. Furthermore, most spiders shy away from people, and will bite only if disturbed.

Let's examine some basics of spider biology. They're not insects or "bugs," (all of which have six legs, wings, and two eyes); instead, spiders are wingless and have eight legs and eight eyes. All spiders belong to the Arachnid family, a group that also includes ticks, mites, and scorpions. Female spiders lay eggs that hatch into spiderlings; these look like miniature adults and grow to maturity in several stages.

A few of the most common spiders in California are the:

Orb-weavers or garden spiders: These spiders spin the classic spider web, with a spiral of silk overlaid on spokes that radiate from a central point.

Jumping spiders: These fairly small and hairy spiders don't spin webs; instead, they're stealthy predators that stalk and pounce on their prey. They can jump up to 50 times their body length! They're also the largest family of spiders worldwide.

Black widows: This is one of many spiders classified as "cobweb weavers." The female is a jet-black spider with a red hourglass-shaped pattern on the underside of its large, round abdomen; the male is smaller, brown, and non-poisonous. Black widows spin irregular, amorphous webs using silk that is extremely strong and sticky. If bitten by a female, seek medical care, since this is one spider whose bite can be harmful and sometimes even fatal to people (especially children, older adults, or those with compromised immune systems).

Here are some fascinating facts about spiders and the beneficial role they play in our ecosystem:

- Spiders are vital for controlling insect populations, and they eat other garden pests too.
- They are found on every continent except Antarctica.
- Spiders are a crucial food source for many birds, lizards, snakes, and even some small mammals.
- Web-weaving spiders have special organs called spinnerets that they use to create "silk" from liquid protein. Many filaments are combined to make a single silk strand.
- Spider silk is the strongest-known natural material; it's pound-for-pound much stronger than steel, and it's inspiring innovations in materials science and mechanical engineering.
- Scientists are studying spider silk for various medical uses since it's strong, biodegradable, and tissue compatible (not subject to rejection).
- Chemicals derived from spider venom are used to treat several diseases.
- Many hummingbirds rely on spider silk to bind and anchor their nest materials.

Leave spiders in your garden where possible so they can continue to perform their beneficial role. If spiders make their homes in places where they're a nuisance — inside homes and attics, near exterior entryways and porches, on outdoor seating, or in wood-piles — it's best to use non-toxic methods of removal. Catch-and-release techniques and simple spider-catcher devices can be used to remove and relocate spiders without harming them. Brooms, dusters, and vacuums can be used to rid an area of spiders and their webs. Sticky traps can control spiders in and near homes without poisons. Insecticides should be avoided both indoors and out since they're minimally effective and have the potential for greater harm.

For more information, please refer to: UC IPM Pest Note: [Spiders](#) UC IPM Pest Note: [Black Widow and Other Widow Spiders](#)



Crab spider nailing a fly (Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey.) (Source: <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?>)



Growing Knowledge

Julie Schardt, Master Gardener

Unearthed: Love, Acceptance, and Other Lessons from an Abandoned Garden A Memoir by Alexandra Risen

For ten years, Alexandra Risen and her husband worked to tame the jungle-like garden of their property in the middle of downtown Toronto. Those years of fighting overgrown plants and encouraging the nascent beauty of hidden flowers paralleled Alexandra's struggle to unearth and understand a childhood shaded by longing, silence, and unasked questions.

Risen's parents were forced from their birthplace in the Ukraine by Nazis during the Second World War. They were married at a displaced person's camp and immigrated to Edmonton, Canada. Her parents' silence about those troubled years, and the lack of any family photos or documents from that period, left Alexandra and her older sister wondering, yet incapable of asking, about their parents' past. "It was wartime" was the catchphrase of her childhood, meaning "we don't talk about it."

Their inscrutable father was a pipefitter who seldom spoke but spent hours scavenging and repairing neighbors' broken castoffs. Their no-nonsense mother was a factory worker who spent her spare time working in her garden and canning its produce so the family wouldn't go hungry as she had during the war. Though Alex was never able to break through her father's self-imposed silence, she learned that the key to her mother's attention was joining her in the garden and working at her side.

As Alexandra's interest in growing things deepened, she ventured beyond her family's garden to explore the nearby forest. Nature captured her imagination and gave her the solace she needed. Throughout college, through friendships, and into her marriage she was informed by the time she spent outdoors. When it came time to try to unlock the puzzles of her past, the garden of her new house gave her the structure of this memoir. Each chapter of *Unearthed* is named for a plant in the garden, and Alex uses each plant to unfold a revelation about family.

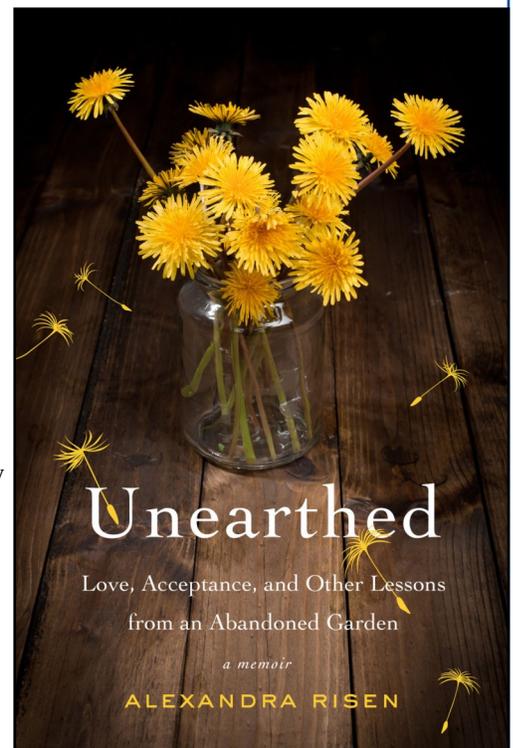
In "Sour Cherries" Alex reveals one of the few stories her mother ever shared, of having to leave a younger brother behind when she was forced to leave to work for the Nazis: "My mother picking a few cherries from her family's trees, laying them beside her brother's pillow while he sleeps, putting a few dark serrated leaves into her pocket."

"Willow Trees" offers the musical sound of chimes made years ago by her father, now hanging among the trees in the Toronto garden. Alex is also reminded of the time her father found a puppy, brought it into their house and unceremoniously placed it in her lap, a strangely tender gift from the man who showed little emotion toward his daughters.

It wasn't only Alex's mother who offered the genes of a gardener. The chapter, "Apple Trees," reveals her father was the orchardist for their home garden, and it was a fall from an apple tree that ultimately caused his death. Although she was now an adult with a family of her own, Alex was left with the struggle of never having found a way to get her father to open up to her.

After both parents were gone, a box of papers left in their father's garage open up the family history for Alex and her sister. A ration card that allotted a small amount of food to her parents as they tilled the rich Ukrainian soil for the benefit of German soldiers; an identification card from Germany; a United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency referral slip; a wedding photo. These long-hidden mementos guide Alex as she researches the history her parents lived during World War II. Their story finally unfolds for Alex and her family, just as the reworked plot of land in Toronto reveals the fullness of its past.

Unearthed is a beautiful book. Taming the elusive chaos of a garden frames family's reconciliation with its history. As readers follow the unfolding of Alex's revelations, they may be inspired to reflect on the personal histories their own gardens tell.



From the Garden

Pegi Palmes, Master Gardener

Herbs are generally easy to grow in the garden or in containers, and there are so many ways to use them. Below are a few simple ideas for gift giving or use in your own home.

Herb-Grow Kit

As a cheerful gift for winter gardening, your herb-grow kit should contain the following:

- Terra cotta pot or other attractive container
- 1 ½ inch round peat pellet, available at any greenhouse or garden center
- Small packet of herb seeds, (sweet marjoram, parsley or chives work well).
- Tongue depressor labeled with plant name
- See-through plastic bag
- 12 inch length of decorative ribbon
- A 3-inch by 5-inch instruction card.

Write these instructions on the card: 1. Expand peat pellet in water. 2. Sow a few seeds on the pellet. 3. Place pellet in pot, then put pot back in the plastic bag with tongue depressor label. 4. Keep sealed until the herb seeds sprout. 5. Once seeds have sprouted, open the bag, remove the pot and place it in full sun, indoors in winter, outdoors when weather permits. 6. Water when necessary. 7. Pick, use and enjoy!

To assemble the kit, place the pot, peat pellet, seeds and tongue depressor in the plastic bag. Punch a hole in the instruction card and run the ribbon through it. Tie the bag securely with ribbon.



Bouquet Garni

A Bouquet Garni is a pre-mixed selection of seasonings in small porous pouches that can be used to season soups, stews and sauces. To make your gifts you will need: a package of small (2" x 2" or so) cheesecloth bags, string and the following herbs:

- For Meat: 1 teaspoon each of chervil, chives and tarragon. This makes the classic bouquet garni. For variety use a special blend of 1 teaspoon each basil, chervil, marjoram, parsley, rosemary, thyme and savory. Tie into tiny cheese cloth bags and tie tightly with string.
- For Fish: combine 1 teaspoon each dill weed, tarragon, dried lemon peel, sesame seed, peppermint and celery seed. To use your Bouquet Garni, simply place the pouch into the soup or stew as it cooks. Discard pouch prior to serving.

Fireplace Bags

These are great for those evenings you want to chase away the chill with a fire in the fireplace. A brown paper bag filled with herbs will fill the whole house with fragrance when tossed into the fireplace. Give a half dozen or so assorted bags to a friend

who likes a fire on a cool evening. (Before starting your fire, be sure to check air quality conditions and local restrictions for wood burning fireplaces).

Ingredients:

- 1 penny candy bag
- 1 small label, cut with pinking shears, from a brown paper bag and reading: *This fireplace bag can be tossed whole into your fireplace to fill your house with fragrance.*
- Red yarn cut into 10 inch lengths (not flame retardant!)
- Dried herbs such as mint, lavender, or other fragrant herbs. Stems of dried herbs are ideal for this gift; be sure to save stems after you've stripped off the leaves for other uses. Dried herb leaves work too.
- Put herb leaves and/or stems into the penny candy bag.
- Punch a hole in the label and string yarn through. Tie the package shut.

Cat Sacks --- Gifts for Cat Lovers

Cats, especially indoor cats, will love these gifts from the garden. They are very simple to make and make nice treats for your cat or your cat-loving friend's cat. You will need:

- 1/3 yard calico or other cotton fabric
 - Dried catnip or catmint *Nepeta × faassenii* works well
- Cut two simple cat shapes, fish shapes, triangles or other shapes from calico or other cotton material. With right sides together sew around the edges, leaving an opening for turning and later stuffing. Turn material right side out and fill with herb. Blind stitch shut and decorate with ribbon or a piece of yarn which you have tied or stitched to the cat sack.



Lavender Sachet



These little sachets add a pleasant scent to cars, purses, closets, and drawers. They are simple to make and can be as fancy or plain as you like. Simply cut a square of cotton or silk 5 inches by 5 inches. With right sides together fold in half so the material

now measures 5 inches by 2 ½ inches. Sew the two side seams, leaving the long side open for turning and stuffing. Turn right side out, fill with dried lavender leaves and/or flowers, and blind stitch the remaining seam. Add ribbon or yarn to embellish, if desired. To present as a gift wrap several sachets in matching fabric tied closed with ribbon or yarn.

Garden Tools cont. from page 6

Lee Miller & Victor Rosasco, Master Gardener

site with instructions for all their models. Using the tool safely is the main consideration and being safe starts with being properly attired. Good shoes, long sleeves and pants, gloves, and eye protection all have their place depending on what tool you are using. Always be aware of your surroundings as string trimmers and lawnmowers can pick up objects and fly them into people, pets or other objects causing injury or damage.

Maintaining power tools: All machines require maintenance of some type usually and there is a schedule that comes in the owner's manual that tells you when and what to do. Electric tools don't require much; cords and connectors have to be kept in good shape, and if they have batteries and chargers, they should be kept in the same area near a receptacle. It is always good to wipe them down after use.

Gasoline powered tools need more attention. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the location of the air and fuel filters and know how to remove and replace them, as they are some of the most common causes of failure. Oil in four cycle engines should be changed once a year and that also goes for the oil filter if they have one. Two stroke engines get their lubrication from oil mixed with the fuel so it is important to always accurately measure when mixing. The 50/1 ratio of fuel to oil is best achieved by first adding ½ gallon of gasoline to a clean container, then 2.6 oz. of oil, then the other ½ gallon of fuel, that way the oil mixes completely with the fuel. Fuel stored over 30 days should have an additive to keep it fresh; Stabil is a good product for this.



Lawn mowers, after use and when cooled down, should be cleaned of debris as the wet grass stuck to the metal parts will cause rust. All lawn and garden equipment should be kept in a garage or shed during the wet season. Blades on mowers need to be kept sharp as dull blades damage the grass and do not do a neat job. Always disable the ignition system on mowers when changing the blades so the engine can't start during the procedure. Whether you do it yourself or take it to the shop, winter is a great time to get your tools serviced and sharpened for the spring.

Horticultural Terms—Grafting

Corinne Bachle, Master Gardener



Whip Grafting on an older branch. Photo Chuck Ingles

Budding and Grafting: Methods of plant propagation used to grow more than one variety, and in some cases, more than one species, of fruit on a single tree.

Scion: A branch, shoot, or bud removed from one plant and grafted onto another (the stock or rootstock). Also, the aboveground portion of a tree that is asexually produced from a single parent by budding or grafting.

Rootstock: The plant to which the scion is attached. A union forms as the result of the tissue connection that is formed between the rootstock and the scion by the cambium, a thin layer of actively dividing cells located between the wood and the bark of a tree.

Cambium (Vascular Cambium): An actively dividing layer of cells found between a plant's bark and its wood that generates new sapwood (xylem) to the inside and new bark (phloem) to the outside. The cambium causes stems and roots to grow in diameter and it forms a tree's annual rings. In grafting, at least a portion of the scion's vascular cambium must match up with that of the stock.

Phloem: Inner bark tissue that conducts carbohydrates, hormones, and other organic compounds from the site of production to tissues and organs throughout the tree.

Xylem: The complex vascular tissue located at the inner edge of the vascular cambium through which most of the water and nutrients in a tree are conducted in an upward direction.

The Help Desk—Peach Leaf Curl

Norena Norton Badway, Master Gardener

This summer my peach tree had reddish crinkled leaves. What happened and how can I prevent it from happening again?

Although symptoms of Peach Leaf Curl (PLC) will not appear until spring, it's time to take steps to avoid an outbreak of this disease. PLC can cause defoliation that weakens the tree, making it susceptible to injury. Leaf Curl is common in rainy years and can become serious if left untreated. If PLC is not treated for several years, fruit production can be reduced and the tree may need to be removed. Acting now can safeguard peach and nectarine trees.

Signs and Symptoms of Peach Leaf Curl

PLC is caused by the fungus *taphrina deformans* which can infect blossoms, leaves, shoots, and fruit of peach and nectarine trees. The first signs of PLC appear in spring, when new leaves have reddish areas that thicken, pucker or curl. The affected leaves turn yellow and then gray-white, as the fungus deposits velvety spores the surface of leaves. The first round of seasonal leaves may remain on the tree or fall off. Infected twigs are swollen and stunted, usually with deformed leaves at their tips.



The spores are washed or blown onto the tree's swigs and buds, where they remain throughout the summer and winter. Spores germinate only during frequent rains during bud break in the spring; if there is no rain

during this time, the spores remain inactive and little or no infection occurs. Secondary spores, known as bud candida, may also occur during periods of wet, cool weather. Both types of spores can remain inactive for several years until conditions are right for infection to occur. This dependence on weather explains why PLC can periodically cause severe defoliation even though it was not noticed the prior growing season.

Managing Peach Leaf Curl

There is little that can be done to control the disease once symptoms are visible in the spring. Pruning diseased leaves or shoots has not been shown to control PLC. Managing PLC requires action before budding. Usually the disease can be managed by a single application of a registered fungicide while the tree is dormant in late autumn or winter in the San Joaquin Valley. Fixed copper products, with high metallic copper equivalent (MCE) are most effective. Copper is active only when it is wet, so trees should be sprayed until they are dripping. Two cautions are important: (1) Copper products can wash off during hard or frequent rains and may need to be reapplied. (2) Repeated annual use of copper products can result in a buildup of copper in the soil, which becomes toxic to soil organisms and can runoff into waterways.

Preventing Peach Leaf Curl

A few peach and nectarine varieties are resistant to PLC. Frost, Indian Free, Muir, and Q-1-8 are tolerant of PLC but must be treated with fungicide for the first 2 or 3 years. Kreibich is a resistant variety of nectarine.

For more information, [click here](#).

A Taste of the Season

Julie Hyske, Master Gardener

Welcome to the New Year with a recipe that will fill you up and keep you warm. The white chicken chili recipe is also a complete meal when ladled over a bowl of white steaming rice. The muffins recipes were showcased at our own Master Garden public garden display day in October. The apple muffins were a most-requested recipe baked by Anita Herman and graciously shared from Cindy Della Monica from Lodi's Cheese Central. Enjoy!

White Chicken Chili Soup

Ingredients

1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, chopped
1 large onion, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup finely chopped celery
½ cup chopped carrots
2 cans chicken broth (14 ounces each)
1 can RO*TEL diced tomatoes and green chilies
2 tsp. ground cumin
4 cans (14.5 ounces each) white beans drained and divided
1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese
2 cups crushed tortilla chips
Cilantro coarsely chopped



In a Dutch oven over medium heat, cook chicken, onion, celery and carrots in oil until lightly browned. Add garlic: cook 1 minute longer. Stir in the broth, RO*TEL tomatoes and chilies, add cumin and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low. With a potato masher, mash two cans of beans until smooth and add to the saucepan. Add remaining beans to saucepan. Simmer for 20-30 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink. Top each serving with cheese and cilantro. Sprinkle crushed tortilla chips on top.

Serves: 10

Raw Apple Muffins

Ingredients

4 cups diced apple, peeled or unpeeled (Braeburn or Granny Smith)
1 cup sugar
2 eggs, slightly beaten
½ cup vegetable oil
2 tsps. vanilla
2 cups all purpose flour
2 tsps. baking soda
2 tsps. cinnamon
1 tsp. salt
1 cup dried cranberries or raisins
1 cup broken walnuts



Mix the apples and sugar together. In a large bowl mix the eggs, oil and vanilla, Add the dry ingredients and blend until there are no dry ingredients showing. Add the apple/sugar mixture and gently mix. Add the walnuts folding into the batter. This mixture will be stiff with just enough batter to hold the fruit and nuts together. Spoon the mixture into prepared muffin tins. Bake for 20-25 minutes at 325° or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean. Serve warm or cooled.

Makes: 12 large muffins or 16 small muffins.

Sweet Corn Bread

Ingredients

2 Jiffy Corn Bread mixes
1 yellow cake mix
1 ½ cups water
3 eggs
1/3 cup milk
cupcake liners if making muffins

Mix all ingredients together and pour into a greased 9 x 13 in. pan. Bake at 325° for 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. For cupcakes bake at 325° for 17 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.

Makes: 30 muffins



Coming Events

Corinne Bachle, Master Gardener

NOTICE: The San Joaquin Master Gardener weekend seminars are changing locations. Watch for a special email blast announcing these interesting and informative classes.

JANUARY 2017

Friday – Sunday, January 6 – 8

Fri: Noon-6pm, Sat: 10am-6pm, Sun: 10am-5pm

California State Home & Garden Show

Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J St. Admission: Adults \$6.00. Children 16 and under are FREE. Active Military & First Responders are FREE with current ID. Seniors are \$2.00 - Friday ONLY. A \$2.00 off coupon is available at

www.calstateshows.com (Attendee Info) SAVE YOUR LANDSCAPE. Yes, the drought has impacted your landscape, but there is help. Our landscape professional will offer unique ideas on re-purposing your lawns. Learn about selecting the right plants for the future and creative ways to give you a yard that you'll enjoy for years to come.

Saturday, January 14, 10am – Noon

Winter Rose Pruning

Delta Tree Farm Nursery, 12900 N. Lower Sacramento Rd., Lodi

January is rose pruning month in the Valley. The Rosarians from Lodi/Woodbridge Rose Society will be demonstrating the right way to prune your dormant winter roses for maximum health and bloom.

Learn tips, ask questions, and join in for a fun and informative event. There will be a 10% discount on all roses for workshop participants. www.deltatreefarms.com

Class is FREE

Saturday, January 14, 9am

Sacramento Master Gardeners Pruning Workshop

Fair Oaks Horticulture Center, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks

Watch demonstrations on winter pruning deciduous fruit trees, blueberries, cane berries, grape vines. Discover the proper pruning fundamentals for landscape trees. Learn tips for proper bare root fruit tree planting and care. Observe the on-going composting and worm composting demonstrations. Located outside – rain or shine. **Class is FREE**

Tuesday, January 24 10:00-11:30 am
Ravishing Roses

SJ UC Master Gardener Office 2101 E. Earhart Ave. Stockton 95206
San Joaquin UC Master Gardener's present our first workshop at a new location. Come out to our Master Gardener Office and learn about various types of roses, common pests and diseases, and routine maintenance procedures for healthy roses. Event is FREE, call 953-6100 to RSVP.

Saturday, January 28, 1 - 2:30 pm

Alden Lane Pruning Basics Class

Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore

Learn the basics to shape deciduous trees and shrubs, prune fruit trees properly, or get any of your own pruning questions answered. www.aldenlane.com

FEBRUARY 2017

Saturday, February 11, 10am-Noon

Japanese Maple Basics and Pruning

Delta Tree Farm Nursery, 12900 N. Lower Sacramento Rd., Lodi

Join Andi Bersi of the San Joaquin Delta College Horticulture Program as she discusses the many ins and outs of Japanese Maples, including the fine art of pruning these unique trees. There will be a raffle and a 10% discount on all maples.

www.deltatreefarms.com **Class is FREE**

Saturday, February 11, 10am – 3:30pm

Inspiration by Invitation

Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Ln., Livermore

A full day of Seminars for Gardening Enthusiasts. Prepare to be INSPIRED! Attendees will be able to design their day according to their interests; we have lots of incredible seminars and instructors to choose from! More information will follow so check back here for further details as they develop. www.aldenlane.com Call (925) 447-0280 and reserve your tickets soon. The cost is \$55.00 per ticket and includes lunch.

Saturday, February 25, 10am-noon

Citrus Tasting

Delta Tree Farm Nursery, 12900 N. Lower Sacramento Rd., Lodi

Generations Growers will be on board for an interesting and informative citrus tasting of the various citrus grown in this area. There will be a raffle and a 10% discount on all citrus for class participants.

www.deltatreefarms.com **Class is FREE**

Tuesday, February 28 10:00-11:30 am

Healthy Soil Healthy Plants

SJ UC Master Gardener Office 2101 E.

Earhart Ave. Stockton 95206

Healthy soil builds healthy plants and can save water. Learn how you can improve the quality of your soil. Basics of backyard composting and other methods will be discussed. Event is FREE, call 953-6100 to RSVP.

MARCH 2017

Saturday, March 11, 10am-Noon

Planning Your Summer Vegetable Garden

Delta Tree Farm Nursery, 12900 N. Lower Sacramento Rd., Lodi

San Joaquin Master Gardeners will give you the run-down on successful summer vegetable gardening. Vegetable plants will be on sale at a 10% discount for workshop participants. www.deltatreefarms.com

Class is FREE

Saturday, March 11, 9am-1pm

UC Davis Arboretum Member Appreciation Plant Sale

1 Garrod Drive, UC Davis Campus

www.deltatreefarms.com

Members of the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden are invited to shop the area's largest selection of attractive, low-water, easy-care, regionally-appropriate plants including lots of Arboretum All Stars and California natives. Not a member? Join online, at the door or call ahead!

[Continued on pg. 16](#)

Confessions of a Failed Garden Journalist

(cont. from page 1)

tablet. There are a growing number of garden journal apps—many of which are free or minimal cost—that let you list your plants, track their performance, and download layouts and photos of your garden. Some include dates to remember and reminders to avoid reliance on our memories. The best garden journal for you is the one you will keep! It can be limited to just the most basic details or an expansive journal, recording daily observations and experiences.

Many of us do a decent job of recording plant purchases. We may save the tags in a box or plastic bag and hope we can retrieve them at a later date, should the need arise. We may even stick them in a binder or even the pocket of our journal. This is a good start. Ideally, we would record the plant name, sun and water requirements, mature size and any relevant cultural details. Worth noting are whether the plant can be pruned (and when), bloom/fruiting times/fall color, how fast it grows, etc. If the plant label states (and you record) that it is “short-lived,” its premature death won’t (necessarily) mean you were to blame!

A diagram or plot plan of your garden is a great addition to any journal. You can update it through the year as you add/subtract or move plants. Maybe it can serve as a starting point for a future garden. Including lists, pictures and other details of the plants you have or wish you had, make the journal more useful and personal. Adding the date and location of the plant in your garden is especially important if your garden is large and densely planted. It is easy to lose track of plants after a few seasons and easier yet to forget special needs or details. For example, some plants take 2-3 years to get established. Without noting that somewhere, most of us will get impatient and discard a plant just on the verge of greatness! Plants that do poorly year after year need to be documented. It could be the plant, but many of us have “dead spots” in our garden that no matter what we do, the plant dies. Here’s where a year or two of documenting a plant’s performance pays off. You may find out that it is an area with poor drainage, tree root erosion, chemical residues, or any number of other growth inhibiting factors. You can then make an informed decision of whether to remedy the situation or make your next plant a boulder!

Your journal might include advice from garden professionals, workshops, seminars, etc., that you want to retain. Maybe you attended our workshop on succulents and would like to retain the list of local plants that thrive in our area, or perhaps the preferred soil mix. I recorded select details from a webinar I watched on ornamental grasses, making sure I didn’t forget those that look great alongside perennials and those that work well in containers. Favorite garden suppliers, websites and any other garden sources or references can be great additions to your journal. Ultra-organized garden journalists might designate their journal as a one-stop location for all of the garden-related information that they want to have handy throughout the year.

Propagation details belong in a garden journal. Edibles are often the stars of our journals. Most of us record much of the details in some form. We keep the seed packet so we don’t forget the variety, days to germinate, and when to harvest. Color and flavor notes are vital, especially if we grow multiple varieties of peppers or tomatoes or any other edible that come in so many forms. For example, some tomato varieties have green shoulders when ripe; if you didn’t make a note of that, you might harvest too late.

Every season there are new favorites discovered and poor performers discarded. There are tools and techniques that get added to our repertoire. Plant failures are every bit as important as successes, as no one wants to waste precious garden real estate on lettuce that bolts too early or bell peppers that are not sweet or productive enough.

Seed planting is “ripe” for journalizing. Besides the obvious plant details described on the packet, it’s worth noting the soil mix you used, the light and water regimen, the age of the seeds, what company they came from, etc. The more details recorded, the greater your knowledge will be for next year’s planting. If you had any plant failures, a simple review of your journal entries may explain what went wrong. Did you have damping off disease? A review of your watering practices might reveal that you overwatered your seedlings without letting them dry a bit in-between. Maybe your peas didn’t come up like they should. Did you record the age of the seed, whether you scarified them or any incidence of snails? These are just some of the relevant details that can make a journal a valuable resource.

How about weather inputs? The amount of rain, frosts, and freezes has a major impact on the success and failures in our gardens. Keeping track of any plants you grow that are frost tender is important. Noting when you moved your lemon tree to a covered patio or covered it with cloth may be worth recording.

Garden journals can be your historical diary. Yearly entries can be reviewed and reflected upon and can easily add up to a wonderful collection of notes and memories. Favorite photos, wildlife sightings, and garden experiences can quickly turn an organizational tool into a wonderful keepsake. If you’re like me and have been a failed garden journalist, don’t despair. There’s still time and so many reasons to become better recordkeepers in our gardens. Whether you go the fancy and formal route, with pictures, plot plans and copious details, or you go sweet and simple—with just a notebook or calendar and the most critical entries, you’ll be greatly rewarded with a healthier, more productive garden. The method of recordkeeping is up to your personal preference. Any system that allows you to be more organized and to learn from past successes and failures is worth the time and effort it requires. Let the new year be a chance to make a fresh start. Why not resolve to make your first entry on January 1, 2017: “Started a garden journal”.

Winter Garden Chores (cont. from page 2)

Sue Davis, Master Gardener

Your favorite garden center should have the best selection of these shade-loving plants early this month.

Evergreen vines that grow well in our area include fragrant yellow-flowered Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*); white-flowered evergreen clematis (*C. armandii*); purple Hardenbergia violacea 'Happy Wanderer'; pink H. v. 'Rosea'; fragrant pinkish white Jasminum polyanthum; pink or white Pandorea jasminoides; and violet trumpet vine (*Clytostoma callistegioides*). All of these are easy to grow, reaching 15 to 20 feet.

Maintenance – **Empty** any rain-filled containers around the yard to eliminate mosquito breeding areas. **Remove** old flowers on camellias to reduce the chance of petal blight.

Citrus trees will appreciate a feeding of a nitrogen-rich fertilizer 6 to 8 weeks before their spring bloom time. Citrus requires micronutrients not found in turf fertilizers. A good citrus fertilizer will include additional nutrients like Magnesium, Boron, Copper, and Zinc.

Apply dormant spray for the final time mid-month to prevent peach leaf curl, brown rot and scale on your stone fruit trees.

Finish pruning your roses by mid-February. **Cut back** woody stems to within a few inches of the ground on butterfly bush, fuchsia, and Mexican bush sage to stimulate new growth. If left unpruned, plants become leggy and scraggly-looking.

If your cymbidium orchids are bulging out of their containers or the bark has decomposed, it's time to repot them. Do this between mid-February and early July to assure bloom next season. Remove old bark, cut off dead roots, and discard soft or rotted bulbs. Repot the plant into a larger container, or divide plants into groups of three to five pseudobulbs (bulbs with leaves). Replant in medium-size bark or purchase a cymbidium mix.

Mix compost into your flower and vegetable beds to help condition the soil and make them ready for a great crop.

Leave freeze-damaged leaves on plants for a few more weeks to protect and insulate any new growth from a March cold snap.

Sharpen lawn mower blades and change the mower's oil before lawn cutting becomes a weekly job.

March Notes:

Plant - **Beets, carrots, leeks, potatoes, and radishes** can be planted from seed now. Wait until after frost threatens and the soil is workable so your seeds don't rot in very cold or soggy soil. Soil temperature should be 60 degrees for the best results

from seed.

Potatoes can carry soil-borne diseases which are harmless to humans but devastating for a potato plant. Buy seed potatoes from a nursery or a mail-order company that certifies the seed potatoes are disease free. Whole potatoes can be divided to give you a bigger crop by cutting the potatoes into chunks that each contain one or two eyes (the small depression where sprouts will form). To prevent rotting, store the freshly cut pieces at room temperature for three days before planting to allow the cut surfaces to dry and form a callus. Potatoes are heavy feeders, so planting with a good amount of compost will help the plant and your harvest.

Maintenance – **Prune** suckers from trees and shrubs.

Check your drip irrigation for leaks in the lines and make repairs as needed. Flush out sediment from filters, check screens for algae and clean with a small brush, if necessary. Make sure all emitters are dripping water. If some are clogged, replace them (if you can't remove one, install a new emitter next to it). Add emitters to lines if plants have grown significantly since the system was installed. Put new batteries in your electronic drip controllers and check the settings. **Install** new drip irrigation systems in your new landscaping.

Loosen moist, not wet, vegetable garden soil to a depth of 6-10 inches and lightly work in compost and fertilizer. Rake and water the beds to be ready for planting in April.

Pre-emergents applied now to your lawn can help stop the summertime onslaught of crabgrass. A little fertilizer at the same time will help the rest of your lawn be green and healthy as spring begins.

Prune and clean up beneath flowering shrubs such as camellias, quince and forsythia.

Add mulch around shrubs and trees to the drip line. Leave a six-inch area adjacent to the trunk clear to prevent rot.

Woody species in landscapes should not be routinely fertilized - with the possible exception of young plants and fruit and nut trees. As long as woody plants exhibit normal leaf size and color and desired growth, nutrients currently in your soil are probably adequate. For more information on recognizing when your landscape trees and shrubs might need nutrients, check the following web-site: [UCIPM Fertilizing Woody Plants](http://ucipm.org/UCIPM_Fertilizing_Woody_Plants)

Coming Events

(Cont. from page 13)

All members receive 10% off their purchases and at this sale, members receive a \$10 off member appreciation gift; new members receive an additional \$10 off as a thank you for joining. The benefits of membership far outweigh your cost! [Click here](#) for more information on the benefits of membership visit.

**Tuesday, March 28 10:00-11:30 am
Sensational Summer Veggies**

SJ UC Master Gardener Office 2101 E. Earhart Ave. Stockton 95206

It's time to start thinking about your summer garden and vegetables that grow well in our area. Learn how to plant and care

for spring and summer vegetables. Event is FREE, call 953-6100 to RSVP.

COMING IN EARLY APRIL 2017

April 5-9, Wed. thru Sat.: 10am-7pm

Sun: 10am-6pm

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

San Mateo Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403 Stroll

through gorgeous designer gardens with artfully arranged plants, trees, and flowers in full bloom. See the designs and watch the demonstrations by world-class floral designers. Discover how to create your own remarkable garden with hands-on demonstrations and inspiring seminars.

Have a gardening question? Call our hotline!

San Joaquin County Master Gardeners

Phone: 209-953-6112

2101 E. Earhart Ave.

Suite 200, Stockton, 95206

E-mail: anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu

Web-site: <http://sjmastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>

Program Coordinator: Marcy Sousa 953-6100



Find us on Social Media

Twitter: twitter.com/ucsanjoaquinmgs

Facebook: facebook.com/ucsjmg

Pinterest: pinterest.com/sjucmg

Garden Notes is published quarterly by the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of San Joaquin County.

For nondiscrimination policy, [click here](#)



Safe Sharps Disposal and it's FREE!



Using the program is as easy as 1,2,3:

1. All Sharps Must Be In a Sealed Container



2. Sharps Accepted:



3. NO Loose Sharps!



NO MEDICATIONS!



Dispose of Sharps at These Participating Locations:

Stockton

El Dorado Drug Store

2005 E Mariposa Rd
464-7722

Waterfront Pharmacy

123 S Commerce St, Ste A
463-7777

St Joseph's Medical Center

1800 N California St
943-2000

San Joaquin County HHW Facility

7850 R A Bridgeford St
468-3066

Ripon

Ripon Police Department

259 N. Wilma Ave.
599-2101

San Joaquin Residents ONLY!
NO Business Materials Accepted
Call Location for Details and Limits

Tracy

Grant Line Pharmacy, Inc.

2160 W Grant Line Rd, Ste 205
832-2999

Tracy Recycling Buyback Center

590 E 10th St
832-1024

Tracy Material Recovery Facility

30703 S MacArthur Dr
832-2355

Tracy Police Department

1000 Civic Center Dr.
831-6550

Escalon

Vineyard Pharmacy & Gifts

1900 McHenry Ave, Ste 202
838-0511

Lockeford

Young's Payless IGA Markets

18980 N Highway 88
727-3762

Manteca

Community Medical Centers, Manteca

200 Cottage Ave, Ste 103
624-5800

Manteca Solid Waste Division

210 E Wetmore St
456-8440

Manteca Police Department

1001 W. Center St.
(209) 239-8401

Lodi

Fairmont Pharmacy

1121 W Vine St, Ste 13
625-8633

Lodi Police Department

215 W. Elm St.
(209) 333-6727

Community Medical Centers, Lodi

2401 W. Turner Road, Suite # 450
(209) 370-1700

Sponsored by the Communities of San Joaquin County ~ Working Together Today for a Greener Tomorrow

www.SJCreycle.org

"Please Support San Joaquin County Businesses"