



THE YOLO GARDENER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE U.C. YOLO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

FALL 2007

Think Spring

Linda Parsons, Yolo County Master Gardener

In autumn, my thoughts jump ahead to spring and the colorful palette of colors that abound in my garden. My favorite spring flower is the narcissus, more commonly known as the daffodil. Daffodils come in a fascinating variety of colors and shapes and originate from Europe and North Africa. Today, about 93 percent of all bulbs in the world come from the Netherlands.

Daffodils are a huge group, with about a dozen different classifications depending on height and type of flowers. The flowers consist of outer petals (called the *perianth*) and usually inner ones fused into a tube (called the *corona*). If the corona is equal to or longer than the petals, it is called a *trumpet*. If it is shorter, it is called a *cup*.

I choose my bulb varieties according to bloom times. Yellow daffodils usually begin blooming in February, with the more exotic colors and styles finishing up in late March or April. "King Alfred" has been the standard yellow trumpet for years. Others are "Dutch Master," "Golden Harvest" and "Unsurpassable." My favorites are the bi-colors, "Salome" (white/pink) and "Ice Follies" (white/yellow), which bloom midseason. The most popular white daffodil is "Mount Hood," and the most exotic are double daffodils, such as "Tahiti." "Tete-a-tete" is a popular yellow, mini-cluster daffodil that you often see sold in grocery stores; it can be easily transplanted to your garden when it is past bloom.



Daffodil bulbs can be left in the soil and increase in numbers from year to year. They stand up to extremes of cold and heat, and they grow well in the garden or in pots. They don't need summer water but will tolerate it,

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Coming September 29th

Autumn Gardening Festival
Woodland Community College
See Fliers on pages 12 & 13

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don't need to be divided very often (and will survive without it), and are unappetizing to deer and gophers. They bloom from late winter through spring, and, best of all, they cheer up the garden, are fragrant, and make wonderful cut flowers.

Daffodils are not fussy about soil, as long as it is well drained. They prefer to be in full sun while blooming (at least 6 hours daily of direct sunlight) and in partial shade after bloom, especially in hot climates. Ideal locations include: under a deciduous tree, amongst flowering shrubs, and in ground covers. I like to plant bulbs in groups or clumps, rather than rows. For a nice show of color, I plant bulbs in front of evergreen or flowering shrubs, and among perennials or roses.

The best time to plant daffodils in our area is mid to late October, which gives them about 4 to 6 weeks of warmer soil temperatures in which to establish roots. Choose bulbs that are solid, heavy, and without injuries. The so-called double-nose bulbs will give you the most flowers, and the largest.

Prepare planting beds by digging up the top 6 to 8 inches of soil and incorporating peat moss, or other organic matter, and then mixing in a fertilizer containing phosphorus to promote root development. Avoid using bone meal if you have problems with rodents, skunks, or small mammals because these critters are attracted to the meal and are prone to digging it up.

Using a shovel, trowel, or bulb planter, plant bulbs with the pointed ends up, at the recommended depth. As a general rule, a bulb should be planted three times as deep as its greatest dimension. Space them according to size, with larger bulbs, such as daffodils and tulips, 4 to 6 inches apart and smaller bulbs, such as crocus and snowdrops, 1 to 2 inches apart. Water newly planted bulbs thoroughly.

Daffodils also perform well in containers. For a nice display, plant three large daffodils or four tulips in a 6-inch wide pot. Keep potted bulbs in a cold place and remember to water them. Most spring bulbs need about 12 weeks of cold (40°F) before their shoots begin to emerge. Keep the pots moist, but don't over-water, and when temperatures rise to 60-65°F, move them to a sunny location. They should have blooms in several weeks. To dress up containers while waiting for the bulbs to emerge, I often add companion plants in bloom such as fairy primroses

and violas. I enjoy having potted daffodils, crocuses, tulips, and grape hyacinths on my front porch and patio. They also make cheerful springtime gifts.

Exceptions to these cold requirements are paperwhites and yellow narcissus. These do not require cold temperatures to bloom. Simply pot shallowly or place in a jar of glass pebbles or marbles. Keep water in the bottom of the container, and you should have blooms in about 6 weeks.

Once the blooms are spent, they should be removed: the leaves need to remain on the plant until they turn yellow. This can take several months, and the plants can look unsightly. As long as the leaves are green, however, they are using sunlight to rebuild the bulbs' energy for next year's growth. I tuck the yellowing leaves under groundcover or low-growing shrubs to hide them, or I fold them in half and tie them neatly until they have turned brown. By that time, many perennials and shrubs are providing a colorful distraction to the spent spring bulbs.

You can buy bulbs at most garden centers or order them through catalogs. By choosing varieties that bloom at different times, you can enjoy spring flowers from late winter to early summer. "Thinking spring" as autumn gives way to winter will help you create your first garden delights of the New Year! Plant daffodils now for springtime smiles.

Recommended Trees for Yolo County



*Laura Stuber Cameron
Yolo County Master Gardener*

Emily, Emily, Emily, why can't you just choose one tree that there is nothing more beautiful than? Is it because you are so wise that you know one's beauty is another's beast?

In Yolo County a large variety of trees is available, but not all are appropriate to this area. However, a few grow very well in our climate and actually like our soils and water. These trees have few serious insect and disease problems,

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are easy to maintain and not messy. Several of them have flowers, lovely fall colors and a beautiful structure and bark. Any heights noted below are for trees that are about 20 years old; some of these trees can get much larger as they mature.

How can anyone not love the Western Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) in the spring? The Redbud can



*Western Red Bud
Photo by Ellen Zagory
Courtesy U.C. Davis Arboretum*

grow to 16' x 16' though it also has been measured at a full 25'-35'. As a lovely harbinger of spring, pink flowers clothe bare branches, followed by lovely rounded leaves and persistent pods.

Others might argue that the best tree is the hybrid Crape Myrtle (*Lagerstroemia* hybrids) because the blossoms are so beautiful. The most beautiful ones I've spotted this summer have been at 14th & B in Davis. In addition to gorgeous flowers, the bark is beautiful and they have good fall color. Crape myrtles can grow to 18' x 15' and all are mildew resistant. Pick your favorite, and go forth and plant.

So far we've talked about trees with a rich saturation of color. For a more restrained and refined beauty, try the Chinese Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus retusus*). This tree has pure white flowers in June and July in clusters to 4' long. Can you imagine this 18' x 15' tree covered in white? The male trees have larger flowers than the female trees. If both are present the female will produce olive-like fruit in clusters.

Then there are our native Oaks. *Quercus lobata*,

the Valley Oak, Yolo County's largest native tree, can grow to 40' x 30'. A tree infused with character, it tolerates high heat and moderate alkalinity. This tree works best in deep soils where it can tap groundwater. This is a glorious shade tree, but consider location carefully as its debris can cause difficulties for beds of small plants or heavily used paved areas.

Although planting a Valley Oak in the middle of a lawn is not a good idea, planting the Bur, Chinquapin and English Oaks there would be fine. The Bur grows to 28' x 25' with leaves that are glossy green above and whitish beneath. The leaves are 8-10 inches long, broad at the tip, tapered at the base and deeply lobed. The acorns are large and form in mossy cups. The Chinquapin is 35' x 30' and the English Oak is 35' x 40' in height. The English Oak has a short trunk and very wide open head in maturity. The leaves hold until late in the fall and drop without much color change.

Finally, the Blue Oak is a 20' x 30' Yolo County native that is drought tolerant and likes good drainage. It is low branching and wide spreading with a fine textured light gray bark and decidedly bluish green leaves. The fall colors of the blue oak are pastel pink, orange, and yellow.



*Chinese Fringe Tree
Photo by Ellen Zagory
Courtesy U.C. Davis Arboretum*

As with Emily, the author understands that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. So always remember: plant what you love! For other recommended trees for Yolo County, please check out our website:

http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/Gardening%5Fand%5FMaster%5FGardening/Free_Gardening_Handouts.htm

Can Palms be Grown Successfully in Northern California?

Jan Bower, Yolo County Master Gardener

Palm lovers in Northern California are somewhat limited in the number of palm species they can grow in our varied Mediterranean climate. Palms (*Arecaceae*) are chiefly tropical evergreen trees so that the big consideration in growing them here is cold hardiness. At what temperature is a palm damaged and when is it killed?

My Experience

When I moved into my new home in Davis last year, I was greeted with a call by the neighbors to de-whisker the three palms in my yard. Some of the fan-shaped fronds had died from winds at 20 feet up, and there was concern that they might sail through the air onto a car, house or person. I was also told that they are a fire hazard and a bedding place for rodents. Frankly, I liked the way the palms looked with their petticoat thatches hanging heavily on leaf-scarred trunks, but I deferred to the protest and had the palms denuded.



Palm Tree Trimming
Photo by Jan Bowers

My trees are Mexican Fan Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*), commonly grown as ornamental trees in this region. Growth is rapid if they are well-watered. They are cold hardy to 18° F, but grow very tall (up to 90 feet), requiring a cherry picker to prune them. Very similar in hardiness and also popular in this region are the California Fan Palms (*Washingtonia filifera*).

A Sure Thing

A vigorous and beautiful cold-hardy palm is the Pindo Palm (*Butia capitata*). It can survive to 15° F, bears large bracts of bright orange fruit and has a pin-

nate leaf, instead of a fan leaf, which gives it a more tropical look. It grows slowly to 15-20 ft and has a thick single trunk. The Mexican Blue Palm (*Brahea armata*) is hardy to 18° F, has fan-shaped silver-gray leaves and a single furry trunk. It will also take heat and wind. The Guadalupe Island Palm (*Brahea edulis*) is hardy to below 20° F, grows slowly to 30 ft and drops its own leaves.

Another species to consider growing is the Lady Palm (*Rhapis*) in its many varieties. Accustomed to black lava rock in its native habitat of Hawaii, it grows rapidly in our hot and dry soil, but requires some water and shade or the fronds will burn. The *Rhapis* is cold hardy down to the low 20's with some overhead protection. Once established the *Rhapis* is easily propagated by dividing new shoots from emerging rhizomes on old canes that run underground.

Potted Palms

Palms make good container plants so they can be moved around to the most ideal lighting situation in the summer, covered in the cold of winter and fertilized and watered on a controlled schedule year around. A good potting mixture, which allows good aeration of the roots, consists of red lava rock, perlite, ground peat moss, coarse sand and chicken manure. Fish emulsion applied three to four times a year is an excellent fertilizer. Planting palms in pots or tubs may be the best solution for local palm *aficionados* because it's not worth the time and effort to grow a palm for several years just to see it "bite the dust" after one or two cold nights. Another consideration is to grow palms as houseplants.

More Information

New cocosoid hybrids that are hardy to cold are being bred by palm experts affiliated with the Northern California Chapter of the International Palm Society. Established in 1982, its headquarters is the Lakeside Palmetum in Oakland's Lakeside Park. Free guided tours are available the third Saturday of each month at 11:30 a.m., and advice on growing palms in Northern California can be obtained by calling 510-678-3569 or by email: PalmSociety@aol.com.



Fall Gardening Tips

Linda Parsons, Yolo County Gardener

As fall approaches, your garden has probably gone the way of summer vacation: over for another year. You may be thinking that it's time to take that much-deserved break from gardening chores. However, this season presents gardeners with some of the most important tasks of the year.

Tidying Up

Take time to clean up the garden and feed your soil. Remove fallen fruits, vegetables, diseased leaves, spent flowers and weeds from your garden. This is the best way to easily reduce next year's garden pest and disease problems. Now is the time to be realistic about which plants have time to ripen their fruits before frost. To encourage plants to devote their energy to the melons, squash and tomatoes currently growing, pinch off the ends of the vines and any excess flowers that don't have a chance of maturing.



As your vegetables and annual plants decline, begin removing them from your garden. This is often called *shovel pruning*. Take down pea trellises, beanpoles and tomato supports. When daytime temperatures no longer rise above 65°(F), it's time to pick the tomatoes. Wrap them in newspaper and let them ripen indoors.

If you plan to reuse this year's garden stakes and supports, be sure to clean them in a diluted solution of bleach before storing. I lean mine against a fence and spritz them with a solution of 1 part bleach to 10 parts water. Also, to prevent over-wintering of pests and diseases, be selective about what you put in your compost pile.

Soil Care

Once you have removed all the plants and vines that have stopped producing, it is time to feed and amend your garden soil. Till the ground to incorporate any remaining roots and plant residue, thus speeding their decomposition. Depending on the size of your garden, plant a cover crop, such as clover or add manure and compost to improve soil structure and fertility. Applying a layer of leaves, straw or newspaper will greatly reduce weeds next spring, as well as adding to the soil structure. And, if you plan to plant winter crops, flowers or bulbs, you might want to add a complete fertilizer after you have amended the soil and before you plant or sow your seeds.

Lawns

Fall is the best time to over seed or put in new lawn. For new lawns, a seed mix containing turf type fescue is ideal. Renovate a poorly performing lawn by dethatching, aerating, fertilizing, and over seeding it with either an annual or perennial rye mix to keep your lawn green through the winter. Feed cool season lawns in early fall with a complete fertilizer, one that contains nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. In late fall, feed again with a complete fertilizer with a slow-release nitrogen formula, such as one labeled "winterizer."



By now your lawn's water requirements are ebbing, so adjust your watering cycle accordingly. Continue to mow weekly and check your sprinkler system to be sure it is properly adjusted and all the nozzles are still working. Also, as leaves begin to litter your lawn, be sure to rake them up regularly so the lawn will continue to get adequate sunlight and be less likely to contract fungal infections, such as rust.



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Perennial Care

Perennials are the mainstay of most gardens. To keep them looking nice, continue dead-heading and removing unsightly leaves. This is a good time to divide and transplant oriental poppies, bearded iris and peonies. Don't wait too long because the plants need to become established and well-rooted before the winter. Some perennials have nice fall and winter effect or provide seeds or habitats for wildlife, so you can wait until early spring to trim or cut back these perennials. Some perennials are considered evergreen and should not be cut back in the fall. These include rock cress, creeping sedum, creeping phlox, hens and chicks and thyme. Roses should keep producing flowers into December, but don't fertilize them after September. Allowing rose hips to develop will help your roses go dormant and produce colorful hips for winter color.



Planning for Next Year

Take a walk in your garden and write down ideas for next year. Consider planting fall flowers, such as calendula, chrysanthemums, bachelor's buttons, dianthus, forget-me-nots, sweet peas, primroses and violas. Planting these annuals before winter will help them establish excellent root systems, and they will have a better spring blooms. Spring blooming perennials, such as foxglove, columbine, salvia and daylilies, can be planted now. Many of these can be combined with daffodil, freesia, ranunculus and crocus bulbs. Winter vegetables, such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, lettuce, endive, parsley, garlic, and onion sets, can be planted.

Fall is a good time to take cuttings of your favorite annual flowers, such as geraniums, coleus, begonias, impatiens and other annual flowers that you want to over winter for next year. Gradually move plants to shadier locations so they are better adjusted to reduced light levels when you move them indoors.

Planting Trees

If you want to add a tree or provide more privacy to your garden, fall is the best time of year for planting trees and shrubs. The air temperature is cooler yet the soil is still warm, ideal conditions for roots of new plants to take hold. For autumn shows of red, gold or yellow choose these trees: Chinese pistache (*pistacia chinensis*), ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), Chanticleer pear (*Pyrus calleryana* "Chanticleer") or red maple (*Acer rubrum*). Trees that are more drought tolerant, once they are established, include the valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), Japanese pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica*), western redbud (*Celtis occidentalis*) or Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*).



Winterizing Tools

With winter pruning just around the corner, this is a good time to sharpen spades, loppers, pruners and your lawn mower blade. You can use a file or take your tools to a professional sharpener. Usually tools can be sharpened at your lawn mower repair store. Clean, disinfect and oil your tools, so they will be ready for pruning roses, trees and shrubs during the winter.

Sit Back and Enjoy the Season

Check out your local farmers market or pumpkin patch for a wonderful selection of fall decorations. The fall is always more festive if you have a porch or table decorated with pumpkins, gourds and dried corn.

Lastly, collect your favorite garden catalogs. It's time to think about ordering next spring's seeds, bare root roses or the perfect garden tool. Now you are ready to ease on into winter and contemplate next year in your garden.

Composting: *Pile it Up and Let it Rot!*

Steve Radosevich, Yolo County Master Gardener

If you want to turn your yard waste and kitchen scraps into a valuable soil amendment, you don't need to know much more than that. Left alone, organic matter will eventually decompose into a material that helps plants grow and improves soil structure.

Anybody who has taken a walk in the woods has witnessed this recycling process, as leaves and sticks rot away on the forest floor. At work are insects and microorganisms that munch it up and incorporate it back into the soil – nourishing the forest and completing the cycle.

Not only can you replicate this natural rotting process in your own backyard, with some simple composting practices, but you can speed it up and give your garden a healthy and free boost.

And, even better, you can select a composting process that fits your level of interest and involvement. The simplest “pile it up and let it rot” method requires minimal involvement. Just pile up and wet down your leaves, yard waste, and kitchen vegetable scraps - and you will have some usable finished material in 6 to 12 months. If you want to spend a little more time and turn the pile occasionally, you will speed up the process and have a better and more uniform product.

If you are on the other end of the interest and involvement spectrum, you can try setting up a three bin rapid composting system that can actually produce finished compost in as little as 2 to 4 weeks. It may also produce some larger biceps and a smaller waistline because you will need to first chop up your material into 1/2 to 1 1/2 inch pieces and then turn the pile every 2 or 3 days. Most composters, however, choose a method somewhere in between. If you chop up the big stuff and turn the pile every week or two, you are likely to have high quality finished compost in 2 to 3 months.

For most organic gardeners composting is a must, with finished compost providing most of the needed nutrients for their plants. But even gardeners who use chemical fertilizers can benefit from compost, as it provides a longer-lasting, steady stream of nutrients while improving soil structure.



Master Gardener Albert Crepeau turns compost in the three bin system at Woodland community College
Photo by Steve Radosevich

Compost and Worm Composting Demonstrations

**Saturday, October 6th,
2007 9-11 AM
Woodland Community
College.**

Learn how to turn your garden, lawn, and kitchen waste into a valuable soil amendment and how to build your own compost bins. Also discover how red wiggler worms can munch up all your kitchen vegetable scraps - and take home a free glob of worms to start your own home worm composting.

For more information on these and other Master Gardener activities please call the Yolo County UC Cooperative Extension at 666-8143.

Before starting your first compost pile you might want to take a look at some guidelines that will help you be more successful and avoid some common problems. Two free University of California Cooperative Extension publications can be found on the web: *Composting in a Hurry* at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8037.pdf>, and at <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/files/filelibrary/2557/8208.pdf>. There are also numerous web sites with illustrations of compost bins and enclosures.

To further hone your composting skills, consider attending one of the composting or worm-composting workshops at Woodland Community College taught by Yolo County Master Gardeners.



DRYING HERBS

Diane Rake, Yolo County Master Gardener



*from <http://www.hort.wisc.edu>
Basil washed and bunched,
ready to be hung to dry.*

Having an herb garden is one of life's simple pleasures. There is nothing like walking out to the yard, snapping off a handful of basil or parsley, rinsing and tossing them into whatever is simmering on the stove.

Some herbs, like basil, are seasonal. Drying herbs is the easiest method of preserving them, and can allow you the pleasure of having delicious season-

ings for your meals all year long. Just expose the leaves, flowers, or seeds to warm, dry air until the moisture evaporates. Using the sun, oven, or a dehydrator to dry most herbs is not recommended due to loss of flavor and color.

Gather herbs in the early morning after the dew has evaporated to minimize wilting. Rinse in cool water, and gently shake to remove excess moisture. During drying, each bunch should be labeled, since dried herbs look similar.

Herbs such as sage, thyme, summer savory, and parsley are the easiest to dry. They can be tied into small bundles and air-dried. Air-drying outdoors is possible; however, better color and flavor retention usually results from drying indoors. Placing an extra compression shower curtain rod over the tub in a spare bathroom works well and minimizes mess.

Basil, tarragon, lemon balm, and the mints have high moisture content and are more tender-leaf herbs. They will mold if not dried quickly. Try hanging the tender-leaf herbs or those with seeds inside paper bags to dry. Tear holes in the sides of the bag. Suspend a small bunch (large amounts will mold) of herbs in a bag and

close the top with a rubber band. Place where air currents will circulate through the bag. Any leaves and seeds that fall off will be caught in the bottom of the bag.

Another method which works well for mint, sage or bay leaf, is to dry the leaves separately. Remove the best leaves from the stems. Lay the leaves on a paper towel on a cookie sheet, without allowing leaves to touch. Cover with another towel and layer of leaves. Five layers may be dried at one time using this method. Dry in a very cool oven. The oven light of an electric range or the pilot light of a gas range furnishes enough heat for overnight drying. Leaves dry flat and retain good color.

When the drying process seems complete, remove the leaves from the stems or trays and place in sealed glass jars in a warm place for a week. At the end of that time, examine the jars to determine if any moisture has condensed on the inside of the glass. If it has, remove the contents and spread out to further dry.

Herbes de Provence

1 part marjoram
1 part basil
2 parts thyme
1 part summer savory
1/2 part lavender
1 part rosemary
1/2 part fennel
1 part oregano

Store in spice/herb jars or clay pots. You can mix ingredients in a food processor to obtain a finer mixture if desired. The blend can be used to season dishes of soups, meat, poultry

Herb leaves are dry when they become brittle and will crumble into powder when rubbed between your hands. If you prefer to use herbs in powdered or ground form, crush the leaves with a rolling pin, pass them through a fine sieve, or grind them in a blender or with a mortar and pestle.

Adapted from:

- <http://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheets/hgic3086.htm>
- <http://vric.ucdavis.edu/veginfo/commodity/garden/herbs.htm>

Water Conservation in Vegetable Gardens

Vegetables are not drought resistant plants! Still, it is possible to conserve water as you grow beautiful melons, herbs, and vegetables. This is especially important in a community garden plot, where watering takes time and can become a problem, flooding neighboring plots.

- Use soaker hoses and drip systems where possible. Soaker hoses can easily be moved where needed and disconnected when not in use.
- Cover them with mulch! Mulch, mulch, mulch: use straw, leaves, compost.
- Weed, weed, weed: don't waste water on unwanted plants.
- Group planting areas for more efficient water use. I have perennial flowers and berries at the edge of the plot, heavy drinkers such as melons in the middle.
- Never leave hoses running. My whole tomato crop was lost one year because a neighbor forgot and left a hose running over night.
- Try to water less frequently and for longer periods at each watering. This encourages root development, so plants can survive if you miss a watering.
- Use shade cloth or floating row cover for new transplants. My neighbor protected his fall transplants with huge leaves he collected from his summer eggplant crop: one leaf per tiny plant.

Gardening for the Common Good

Willa Pettygrove, Yolo County Master Gardener

I first joined a community garden after frustration at trying to grow vegetables with the big trees and challenging soil of my back yard. This is a common problem even in suburbs as cities grow into urban forests and as housing patterns change. Community gardens provide breathing space in these very urban settings. The gardens are usually an afterthought, planted where no other use has been found or on land that has been abandoned for other uses.

Space

Talking with visitors and plot "neighbors" is one of the special pleasures of this brand of gardening. It is a social as well as a physical space. Secure fencing around a garden may be needed to prevent vandalism, but it also limits the public's enjoyment of the garden as well. Davis community gardeners are often joined by people walking dogs, joggers, and even people riding bikes on paths through the plots.



*Part of the author's plot at the Davis Community Garden
Photo by Willa Pettygrove.*

Learning and Recreation

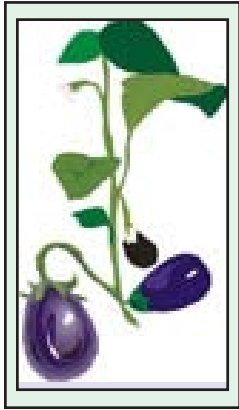
This spring, a boy and his grandmother, neighbors to my plot, shared my excitement at the birth of hundreds of tiny praying mantises. Through such family activities, younger children have their first experiences, and older ones can demonstrate what they've learned at school. The garden also serves as a venue for Girl Scouts and others to develop service learning.

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The Spice of Life

Variety abounds in the community garden. One of my neighbors covers nearly half a plot with eggplant, all for his family's use. Some gardeners plant huge crops of garlic or fiery hot peppers. At least one Davis community gardener has planted Nopales (edible cactus). My contribution to multicultural cultivation is planting Elderberries, not for wine (as Great Grandma would have done), but for jelly. This year I'm also trying sesame!



Although the image of a community garden may take you back to the forties ("Victory Garden"), the sixties ("Hippie Garden") or some other era, in my view, these gardens are here to stay and are an increasingly important part of urban communities. If there is a community garden where you live, enjoy it. If not, you might consider helping to start one. Community gardens

Gardeners need to become advocates who promote the recreational, educational, and environmental benefits of these special places.

need all the friends they can get, not just the gardeners who tend them, or the staff and decision makers in City Hall. Gardeners need to become advocates who promote the recreational, educational, and environmental benefits of these special places.

Some organizations and web sites of interest:

Davis Community Garden
www.city.davis.ca.us/pcs/garden

Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition:
www.saccommunitygardens.org/

American Community Garden Coalition:
www.communitygarden.org/

Soil Born Farm: www.soilborn.org



Questions about your garden? We'd love to help!
Just phone, send an e-mail, or drop on by...



Master Gardener Hotline..... (530) 666-8737

Our message centers will take your questions and information. Please leave your name, address, phone number and a description of your problem. A Master Gardener will research your problem and return your call.

E-Mail..... mgolo@ucdavis.edu

Drop In..... Tuesday & Friday, 9-11 a.m.
 70 Cottonwood St.
 Woodland, CA 95695

ASK URSULA

Dear Ursula:

I always have plenty of color in my spring and summer garden, but fall is rather dreary. Can you help?

Dear Gardener:

With a little planning, a colorful flower garden can be had into winter and early spring. For flower borders I like **stock, snapdragons, and pansies**. These are actually perennials but are treated as annuals in most gardens. These should be planted in the late summer and early fall as plants become available. All will bloom until the first frost. As soon as winter is over and the



temperature starts to rise, give complete fertilizer and watch them bloom again! Pansies need removal of spent flowers regularly to provide continuous bloom but will reward the patient "dead-header" with those cheery flower faces that now come in so many colors and patterns.

Salvia splendens, also called **scarlet sage**, is usually grown as an annual. Although it is available all summer, it will not look its best until the weather turns cool. Give some afternoon shade and enjoy its blooms until it is killed by the first frost. It is stunning in a narrow border with **sweet alyssum** by its side. And don't forget **calendulas** in bright orange to yellow hues.

Chrysanthemums are great cool weather performers, in their endless colors, sizes, and flower forms. Some will flower in both spring and fall. These perennials will bloom year after year with proper care and are easy to divide. Plants should be cut or pinched back until early August to about 12 inches or taller, depending

on type. At that time, lightly feed with "bloom" fertilizer that is low in nitrogen. They will bud by early September and bloom throughout the fall, some until frost. Do not remove old foliage until you see new growth the following spring. Divide often or they will outgrow their space; spring is a good time to separate and share your favorite chrysanthemums with your gardening friends.



Another plant I really like is the fall-blooming **aster**. Both *Aster novae-angliae* (New England asters) and *Aster novi-belgii* (New York aster, or Michaelmas daisy) are good performers in our area. Plants may not be widely available so you will need to shop around. They come in all heights and in colors ranging from snow white to deep blue-violet, as well as rose and pink. Time of bloom will vary from late summer to fall, depending on the variety.

If you want Christmas color, red **cyclamen** are a must. Smaller species are hardier than their florist cousins, and do well under shrubs and trees, including native oaks. Cyclamen are dormant in the summer. They like fairly rich and porous soil with lots of humus. Give complete fertilizer once a year and watch them bloom from fall until about May.



Happy Gardening!
Ursula

Ask Ursula features gardening advice from our own Ursula Hartmann, Yolo County Lifetime Master Gardener. Send any questions for Ursula that you may have to Thelma Lee Gross at ztleegz@dcn.org

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
YOLO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PRESENT:

Autumn Gardening Festival

Saturday, September 29
Woodland Community College
2300 East Gibson Road
Woodland, California

8:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. workshops

Topics include:

Building and Maintaining Healthy Soil
Planting a Fall Vegetable Garden
Allergy Free Gardening
Installing a New Lawn
Fall Cleanup
Planting a Full Sun Garden
Irrigation Basics
Selecting Landscape Trees
Fruit Tree Variety Selection for Yolo Co.

For further information call the Cooperative Extension office at 666-8143.



Autmum Gardening Festival

September 29, 2007

Registration: 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

<p>9:00 – 9:25</p> <p>Building and Maintaining Healthy Soil</p> <p>Patricia Carpenter</p>	<p>9:00 – 9:25</p> <p>Planting a Winter Vegetable Garden</p> <p>Elizabeth Henderson</p>	<p>9:00 - 9:25</p> <p>Allergy free Gardening</p> <p>Susan Macaulay</p>
<p>9:30 - 9:55</p> <p>Installing a New Lawn</p> <p>Albert Crepeau</p>	<p>9:30 – 9:55</p> <p>Fall Cleanup</p> <p>Anna Marie Tucker-Schwab</p>	<p>9:30 – 9:55</p> <p>Planting a Full Sun Garden</p> <p>Charla Parker</p>
<p>10:00 – 10:25</p> <p>Irrigation Basics</p> <p>Arlen Feldman</p>	<p>10:00 – 10:25</p> <p>Selecting Landscape Trees</p> <p>Nancy Houlding</p>	<p>10:00 - 10:25</p> <p>Fruit Tree Variety Selection for Yolo County</p> <p>Steve Radosevich</p>

Break 10:30-10:45

<p>10:00 - 11:10</p> <p>Building and Maintaining Healthy Soil</p> <p>Patricia Carpenter</p>	<p>10:00 – 11:10</p> <p>Planting a Winter Vegetable Garden</p> <p>Elizabeth Henderson</p>	<p>10:00 - 11:10</p> <p>Allergy free Gardening</p> <p>Susan Macaulay</p>
<p>11:15 - 11:40</p> <p>Installing a New Lawn</p> <p>Albert Crepeau</p>	<p>11:15 - 11:40</p> <p>Fall Cleanup</p> <p>Anna Marie Tucker-Schwab</p>	<p>11:15 – 11:40</p> <p>Planting a Full Sun Garden</p> <p>Charla Parker</p>
<p>11:45 - 12:10</p> <p>Irrigation Basics</p> <p>Arlen Feldman</p>	<p>11:45 - 12:10</p> <p>Selecting Landscape Trees</p> <p>Nancy Houlding</p>	<p>11:45 - 12:10</p> <p>Fruit Tree Variety Selection for Yolo County</p> <p>Steve Radosevich</p>



U.C. Cooperative Extension
 Yolo County Master Gardeners
 70 Cottonwood Street
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The Yolo Gardener

FALL 2007

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Please put: *Yolo Gardener* in the subject line

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