



THE YOLO GARDENER

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Care and Maintenance of Citrus

David Studer, Yolo County U.C.C.E. Master Gardener

In this, the second of a multi-part series on citrus and avocados, we focus on the care and maintenance of citrus.

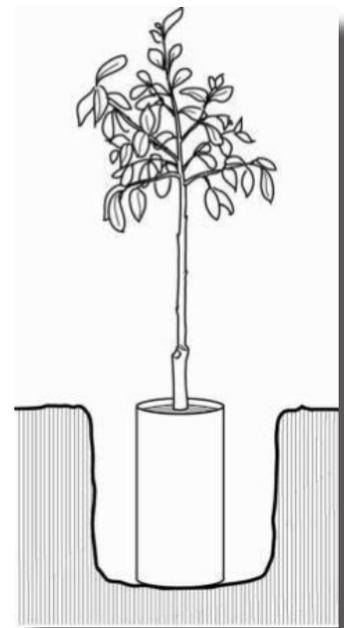
Part I of this discussion provided advice on which citrus varieties do well in Yolo County, and some guidance on the best location in your yard to plant a citrus tree. As a refresher, choose a sunny location—against a south-facing wall works well—and plant on a slope if possible, or in a raised mound to help drain water away from the roots of your tree. Some citrus trees work well in containers—big containers. Again, drainage is the goal here, so be sure the container has enough drainage to shed extra water away from your tree’s roots.

When Should I Plant Citrus? When to plant depends on where you live. The rule of thumb is to give the new tree the longest time for its roots to get established before a period of stress. Spring is best for most areas because frost is the big stressor in many areas, including Yolo County; but in the desert or areas that are frost-free, fall provides a better option because high heat is the bigger stressor there.

How Should I Plant Citrus? A well-planted

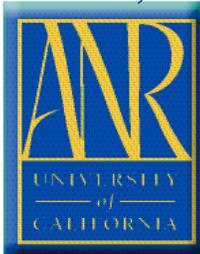
tree is a happy tree. Once you have chosen your ideal location, dig the hole roughly one-and-a-half feet deep and twice the diameter of the plant’s original container. Adjust the depth of the hole until the root ball of the tree is about one inch above the soil line. The idea here is to keep the root crown up at the top of the soil.

Be gentle with the tender roots when lowering the tree into the hole. Now stand back and look at the tree and adjust it to face the desired direction, or identify which branches will be used for creating a beautiful espalier against the back wall of the house. Then situate the tree in the hole accordingly. Once satisfied, you can fill the hole, tamp the dirt down gently, and water the tree into place. Voila!



Proper Planting of Citrus

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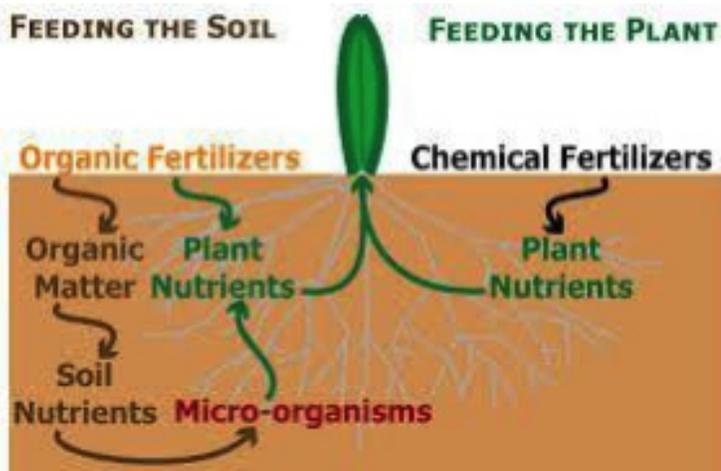
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How Should Citrus be Watered? Water the new tree immediately. New trees should get about two to five gallons each time they are watered—once every five to ten days. The amount of water and the frequency depends the soil type and air temperatures. While citrus trees are prone to being over-watered, it is also important not to let the roots dry out. It's best to use drip irrigation to avoid water spraying the trunk as excessive moisture on the trunk can promote funguses and root rot. Established citrus can use more water during spring flush. If the weather isn't cooperating, increase the water to the trees. As with most trees, deep irrigation is best. Check the soil around mature trees and water when the top two inches seem dry.

How Should I Feed Citrus? Citrus trees need nitrogen. Organic sources of nitrogen include blood meal, bone meal, feather meal and fish meal. You can also use manures, bat guano, alfalfa/cottonseed meal and/or composts. If you aren't inclined to be "organic," chemical sources include ammonia sulfate, urea, ammonia nitrate, and others. Besides a general preference for "organic," the difference is that organic fertilizers feed the soil (which adds micro-organisms to the soil, thereby feeding the tree), while chemical fertilizers go directly to the tree—without feeding the soil. One- to two-year-old trees should get one-tenth of a pound of nitrogen annually; in year three, increase the amount to one quarter of a pound; one-half of a pound in year four; and in years five and older, apply one pound of nitrogen annually. Reduce these amounts for trees in containers and dwarf trees. Apply fertilizer once during flowering, again at fruit set, and once more before the end of June. Some gardeners provide a modest application of fertilizer to mature trees in the fall, but avoid encouraging too much new growth just before winter because it will be vulnerable to frost.



A citrus tree's growth occurs in several flushes each year, depending on climate. The first flush of the year sends up shoots that lack side branches. After a period of resting, the second growth flush produces side branches on the shoots that fill and round out the canopy.

When and How Should I Prune? Prune your citrus tree to maintain good shape, size and to improve air circulation and light in the canopy. It's best to prune in spring between the last frost and the beginning of new growth. This is not a very big window of opportunity in Yolo County. The good news is that timing is not critical, but you should avoid late fall pruning to prevent frost damage to new growth. Be aware that citrus trees bloom and bear on new growth.

When pruning, also look to eliminate sprouts—those pesky branches that often shoot up from the base of the trunk—and remove weak, crossing, and dead branches. Mature citrus do not require the same intensity of pruning that other trees and ornamentals do.

Have fun with your citrus. Espaliers against a south-facing wall provide good fruit, shade for that wall, and don't take up a lot of room. They also look pretty cool! Some citrus can be planted into a hedge and trimmed

accordingly, providing fruit and a little privacy at the same time.

Finally, if the trunk of the tree is exposed to a lot of direct sunlight it can get sunburned. To avoid this, paint the trunk with a fifty-fifty solution of water and latex paint. White is best, but a little color might not be so bad. Avoid darker colors because these absorb heat and could make the situation worse. Happy Gardening. 🍅

The Horse-Owning Gardener's Dilemma: Is Compost from the Manure Pile Safe for Vegetables?

Fran Jurga

Editor's Note. In recent months questions have been raised about the use of horse manure on vegetable gardens. This article is reprinted from The Jurga Report for EQUUS Magazine, via equisearch.com and AIM Equine Network, published April 3, 2013. (Superficial formatting changes only.)

When you leave a horse event, where does all the manure in those big bunkers end up?

It's spring and a gardener's thoughts turn to ... compost. And if you're a gardener who's also a horse owner, you're glancing at the manure pile with some pretty big questions on your mind. Many of us get around the questionable use of horse manure on gardens by using it on flowers. Many ornamentals seem to love nothing more than horse manure. But what about my tomatoes?

I've queried my Facebook friends annually for their ideas on whether they are using composted horse manure on their vegetables. The reaction is mixed; many who keep their horses at home and know exactly how healthy their horses have been say that they feel safe in using well-composted horse manure. Others explain that it costs them nothing, so it's their choice, in spite of possible risks. Still others warn not to use it at all.

Should farm and showgrounds biosecurity precautions be extended to the manure pile? Maybe one day they will. And maybe stallmuckers will be wearing plastic suits ... or at least surgical gloves. I've even wondered about what chemicals might be in the bedding or sawdust that are available to use at some fairgrounds.

Today, the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine checked into the discussion, before the last snowbanks have even melted here in Massachusetts.

Michele Jay-Russell, a veterinarian and research microbiologist at the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (<http://wifss.ucdavis.edu/>) and program manager of the Western Center for Food Safety (<http://wcfs.ucdavis.edu/>), recently co-authored a study that highlights the need to be aware of the hazards associated with using raw animal manure to fertilize home gardens. (Read full article here - <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/zph.12043/pdf>)

The basis for the study began in July of 2010 when a Shire mare from a rural Northern California farm was



brought to UC Davis's William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital for treatment of colic. Following protocol, the veterinarians on call screened the horse for *Salmonella* to avoid infecting other horses during hospitalization. The mare tested positive and, after successful treatment for colic, went home. Her owners then notified the veterinarians that some of their other draft horses were sick as well—all eight were tested and six came back positive for the same *Salmonella oranienburg* strain including the mare that still had the infection.



Salmonella Bacteria

Jay-Russell heard about the case from her colleague John Madigan, professor of medicine and epidemiology at the school. The farm's owners invited Jay-Russell and Madigan to the farm to see if they could uncover the source of the *Salmonella* infection. At the farm, they sampled water from horse troughs, manure storage piles, wild turkey feces, and soil from the family's edible home garden where raw horse manure had been used as fertilizer. Each of those locations had a percentage of positive samples over the sampling period from August 2010 to March 2011.

"We showed the owners how to continue collecting samples and provided them with a Fed Ex number to ship them to UC Davis," Jay-Russell said. "During that whole time, the garden soil kept coming back positive, which showed that this strain of *Salmonella* could persist for months."

While the researchers couldn't be completely certain about the original source of *Salmonella* on the farm, they suspect that a recent surge in the wild turkey population on the property introduced the bacteria to the horses; the turkeys were pooping in the horse corrals and in the water troughs. They speculated that the wild turkeys brought the *Salmonella* onto the property, although they couldn't rule out the possibility that the birds were exposed on the farm or to other potential sources of *Salmonella*.

"What is clearer is that the raw horse manure applied as fertilizer was the most likely source of garden soil contamination," Jay-Russell explained. "We suspect that the damp climate in Mendocino County may have contributed to the longevity of this bacterium in the soil long after the owners stopped applying the horse manure to the garden. Fortunately, the owners didn't get sick, but our investigation showed the potential for widespread dissemination of *Salmonella* in a farm environment following equine infection."

To promote safe gardening practices, Jay-Russell has teamed with Trevor Suslow, a Cooperative Extension food safety specialist in the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences, to speak to groups of small farmers around California about best practices. They also use a brochure in English and Spanish, "Food Safety Tips for Your Edible Home Garden," (wifss.ucdavis.edu/amass/library/26/docs/homegardenbrochure.pdf) that includes information about safe uses of animal manure and ways to minimize animal fecal contamination. One of the compelling arguments for the horse's place in a sustainable landscape has been the value of horse manure as a byproduct. Is that still true?

"It's good to let people know about the risks and to correct misinformation about ways to treat the compost pile before using it in the garden," Jay-Russell said. "The biggest take home message from this experience is to be very careful about using manure from sick horses—and to be cautious about offers of free manure. You don't

know what's in there. Commercial compost should be bought from a reputable source." She urges gardeners to take a class and learn how to compost correctly and safely. Each county in California has a farm advisor and many have University of California Extension specialists on hand as well.

It's funny, but the experts at UC Davis confirmed what my sage Facebook friends had been saying all along. They'll be happy to hear that their manure may be safe to use, with caution, if they are absolutely certain their horses have been healthy. Even then, you have to wonder about the local wildlife (wild turkeys are increasing around here, too) and the time or two you had horses visiting, or you cleaned out your friend's horse trailer. Safe composting should result in aged manure that will be perfect for a garden; fresh manure still doesn't belong on anything but ornamentals!

Additional resources:

UC Davis [Center for Produce Safety](#)

[UC Food Safety](#)

Portions of this article were supplied by the University of California at Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.



Reading the Fine Print on Seed Packets and Catalogs

Willa Bowman Pettygrove, Yolo County U.C.C.E. Master Gardener

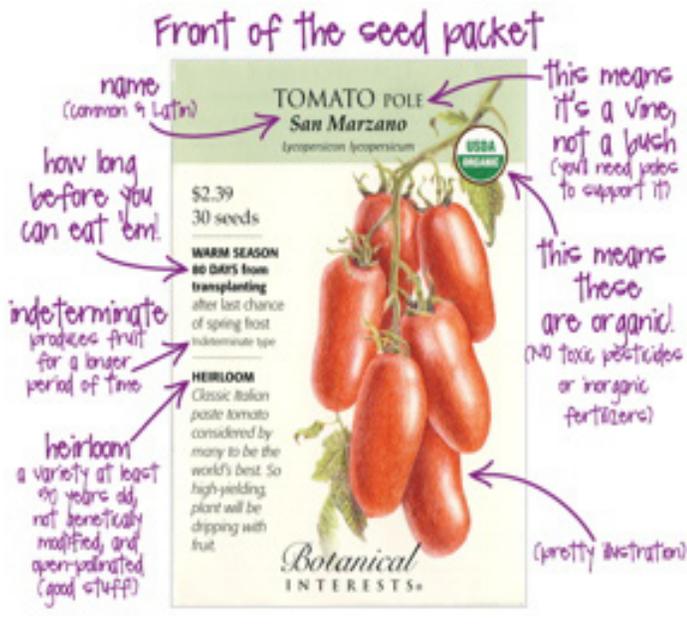
The terms used to describe seeds aren't self-explanatory. This article is timed to catch your attention before the seed catalogs arrive this winter (in your mailbox or online), and before you are tempted by the racks of pretty seed packets in your local garden center. My hope is that you will avoid some of the costly, frustrating, and sometimes funny mistakes that I still make after years of gardening.

Start with a plan. The plan will remind you to rotate troublesome plantings, such as heirloom tomatoes, that may fail if replanted where disease organisms survive from the previous crop. Sun protection for tender plants, such as peppers, can be noted on the plan, as can the location of permanent plantings, such as asparagus and rhubarb.

Keep a notebook. Briefly note what works and what fails from one season to the next. What varieties does your family enjoy? My notebook is where I draw the plan, so I can review from one season to the next what was planted where, what failed, and what overproduced. I also note plants I want to try next season; sometimes I even read my notes! My most recent goof was an herb garden, where I planted about twenty dollars' worth of saffron crocus and now don't remember where. Notebooks and plans help a lot.

Determinate versus indeterminate: This distinction is most commonly applied to tomatoes. Fruit on determinate varieties ripens pretty much all at the same time, whereas fruit on indeterminate varieties develops and ripens throughout the season. Folks up north and in cooler areas need to be sure they will have tomatoes (even if slightly green) before the first frost, so they may prefer a determinate type of tomato. Commercial tomato growers, who need to harvest the entire crop at one time, tend to grow determinate varieties. Residents of sunny California, however, might like to harvest tomatoes throughout the season, and prefer indeterminate varieties, unless they are canning and want a large quantity of tomatoes all at once.

Days to maturity ("early" versus "late"): My family is planning a major trip this fall, so I wanted to be sure any beans I harvested would be ready before departure. There are other reasons for being concerned about days to maturity, even if you live in a relatively frost-free area like Yolo County. Early varieties, or a combination



From raisingtheroot.com

by V, F, or N in their description. In Yolo County, some home gardeners feel hybrid varieties are a necessity, to overcome endemic diseases from commercial tomato cropping, but heirloom varieties are worth trying and some may have ingrown resistance to disease.

Open pollinated: Open pollinated seeds are produced in places where pollination is accomplished by natural pollinators such as bees. Be aware seed produced from these plants may not breed true. Additionally Master Gardeners recently had an interesting field trip to the local sunflower breeder, Sunflower Selections (<http://www.sunflowerselections.com>), which produces seed for home gardeners and flowers for the horticultural trade. Many of their varieties are patented and designed to produce neither pollen nor viable seed. So the seed saved from these flowers will not breed. A grower who claims to offer such seeds cannot guarantee results.

of early and late, would permit planting multiple crops of vegetables, like sweet corn, so the yield can extend over more of the summer.

Bush versus pole: The obvious distinction here is for beans, but other vegetables are offering bush varieties now, too. Although most of these are offered for their compact growing habit, for beans there is another consideration. My experience with green beans is that the bush varieties are more of a gamble with our variable hot and not-so-hot summer climate. If bush beans are planted during a time of extreme heat, and they manage to germinate, they may still fail to be pollinated during bloom. With pole beans, there is more time because the beans will flower repeatedly—and maybe the bees will figure out they are there. I do have good luck with bush beans for dried or field varieties; in fact, it's an advantage to have the shorter plants that can be quickly harvested before the mature beans shatter. For dried beans, I choose bush type so I won't have to provide supports, either.

Heirloom versus hybrid: This distinction generates a lot of buzz, especially among tomato growers and some other vegetable types. If you have had problems with *Nematodes*, *Fusarium*, or *Verticillium* wilt in tomatoes, you might want to try hybrid varieties that have been bred for resistance to these pests, indicated



From raisingtheroot.com

If you are interested in learning more great garden terms, a good website to check out is <http://davesgarden.com/>. This site is social media for gardening buffs, with a huge database and contributors from all over the world. By subscribing to the site, you will be exposed to new terms (such as *Equisetum*, from the Latin term for "horse") on a regular basis. 🍅

Coffee Grounds: Good for Your Plants

Jan Bower, Yolo County U.C.C.E. Master Gardener

Every morning I grind Colombian coffee beans to make a fresh pot of coffee. I used to throw the grounds into the garbage, but about a year ago, a fellow Master Gardener told me that she always tosses her used grounds on her roses. I followed this suggestion, broadening my daily coffee sprinkling to other perennial plants. This spring I noticed that my hydrangea bushes had unusually beautiful big blooms and healthy leaves, and that my roses were more colorful and larger than normal. So I propose this question: “Are coffee grounds good for plants?”

Virtues of coffee grounds

According to test results from the Wood’s End Research Laboratory in Maine, coffee grounds are high in nitrogen and therefore highly acidic. If used alone, they work best with acid-loving plants, such as azaleas, rhododendrons, blueberries, and tomatoes. However, coffee grounds also contain calcium, magnesium, potassium, phosphorus, and traces of minerals, including copper. Thus, when mixed with lime, wood ash, shredded leaves, grass clippings, or other good composting materials, they become more neutral on a pH scale. They can then be used to fertilize other, non-acid-loving flowers, fruits, and vegetables, and to improve soil structure.

In addition to acting as a fertilizing agent, coffee grounds make good mulch. For best results, they should be mixed with other forms of organic mulch so they do not create a sludge that is impenetrable to air and water. If you add coffee grounds to the compost pile, the internal temperature of the pile will increase. The additional heat helps to speed up the decomposition of the other components, and the end product is a nutrient-rich “black gold” compost. Aesthetically, the rich blackness of the mulch offers a beautiful contrast to colored flowers and green herbs in a garden.

Earthworms and worms of all types love coffee grounds, which provide them with food and nutrition. This increases worm production in the soil, which in turn improves soil aeration, soil structure, water movement, nutrients in the soil, and, ultimately, plant growth.

How to get started

You can start your use of coffee grounds by mixing a small amount into the soil around the base of your plants. Then wait a week and try it again. After a couple of weeks, increase or decrease the amount, depending upon how your plants are responding to it. If the plants are not thriving, you may want to stop the process altogether. It is best to use organic coffee for plants that you will eat because sixty percent of the world’s coffee beans are sprayed with potentially harmful pesticides. Before you start fertilizing, you might also want to know the pH level of your soil and the pH requirement of your plants so you don’t overdose.

Although using coffee grounds to benefit plant growth is a little extra work, it is free. So I will continue to use them in my garden instead of discarding them in the garbage. Are you convinced? 🍅



Coffee Grounds

The Lazy Gardener

Laura Cameron, Yolo County U.C.C.E. Master Gardener

Each and every gardener has a unique and definitive style. My style is “The Lazy Gardener.” I have beautiful perennial plants, with a good mix of drought-tolerant ones that generally take care of themselves and attract bees and butterflies. I want to plant my garden, enjoy watching the bees buzz, have a friendly game of Rummikub over breakfast on the patio, or take a nap reading a good book in the sun and not be constantly getting my hands dirty. Is that lazy? That’s me, my gardening choice. (I also fall into the same bad habits every time I go to a nursery, even when I have a plan in hand. I am a sucker for a pretty plant with grey tones, a bit of purple and soft textures.) I have no lawn, and have worked to get my yard to the point where it needs little attention and looks good, where I can find peace looking out the kitchen window. Now, I enjoy the garden with the occasional bursts of weeding, the annual cutback, and all-day nursery trips with a friend.

Laziness is defined as “disinclined to activity or exertion: not energetic or vigorous.” Working in the garden eases stress and adds relaxation to the day for many people. Gardening can also be considered a working meditation. When I am weeding or dead-

heading, total focus is on the task at hand, and the rest of the world evaporates away. I kneel on a pillow while weeding and my heart rate does not go up (exception: Bermuda grass); often it is not a vigorous activity, though I will grant you that weeding can be vigorous.

As I was contemplating gardening styles, I was thinking about a few other kinds of gardening that might be considered “lazy,” but I really don’t think they fit me:

- Hiring a lawn maintenance service;
- Hiring a landscape designer and installer;
- Having lawn only, or lawn and a token green shrub that is hardly ever pruned;
- Creating a rock and drought-tolerant garden;
- Not ever watering;
- Not doing anything at all.

Each style has merit; for instance, hiring a lawn maintenance service leaves more time to spend elsewhere or just time for the enjoyable aspects of gardening. A landscape designer can bring to life a vision for a yard for someone who doesn’t have the time or desire to garden, yet wants to enjoy their outdoor space. A lawn can mean kids and play time. A back yard that is literally three to four inches deep in wood chips with one fun swing-set says lots of kids closely spaced. They are just not my style.

Other styles include gardeners who tour their garden daily, picking up any leaf that has fallen, or plucking the weed that is just poking its head up. Or others who are manic about plants and will buy exotics and hard-to-find plants, regardless of rhyme or reason just to have them growing in their garden. Walking down any street, every yard shows a different style, all good, all appropriate for that household.

What is your style?



Fall Gardening Tips

Linda Parsons, Yolo County U.C.C.E. Master Gardener

The shorter and cooler days of autumn signal a change. It is a time to harvest summer's bounty and make your garden ready for rest, or possibly for a winter garden. We are fortunate to live in an agreeable climate that allows us to continue gardening through the winter months, or put our garden to rest until spring arrives.

I am no longer a May-to-September vegetable gardener. In recent years, I have begun to transplant winter seedlings and sow winter seeds. The largely green and leafy palette of my winter garden is lovely and provides fresh and unusual treats well into the new year.

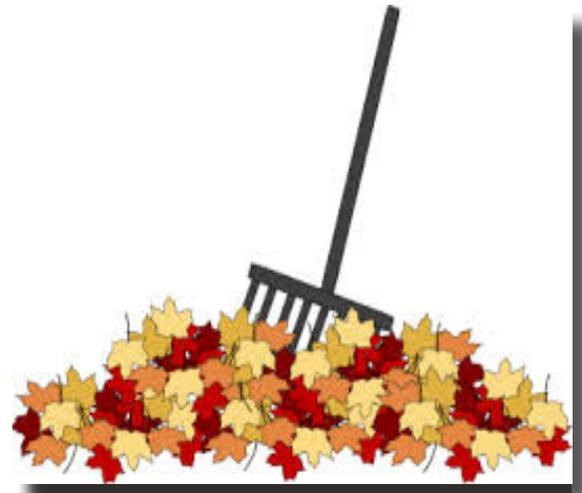
If you need some help with choosing vegetable varieties or with planting schedules, you will find excellent information by checking out two of our most popular Master Gardener Handouts: Vegetable Varieties at <http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/files/90555.pdf>, and Vegetable Planting Guide at <http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/files/53274.pdf>.

To improve your garden soil, consider planting a cover crop instead of leaving your vegetable garden vacant. The following article will help you determine how to select crimson clover, fava beans, or a mixture of nitrogen-fixing plants in your vegetable garden: http://www.igrowsonoma.org/sites/default/files/u70/Feed_the_Soil.pdf

Consider keeping a garden journal. It is immensely helpful in keeping routine records for water, fertilizer, pest and weed management, and planting cycles and schedules. In addition, it can help you plan your garden through the seasons. What would you like to add or delete from your garden? Each season requires us to take stock of what is working well and to think about what might work better in the next season. What new plans are in store for your garden this fall and into the new year?

Fall Cleanup

- * Remove fallen fruits, vegetables, leaves, spent flowers and weeds.
- * Pinch back plants to allow tomatoes, melons and squash enough time to mature before frost sets in.
- * Remove unproductive plants.
- * Take down pea trellises, beanpoles and tomato supports.
- * Clean garden supports and stakes with a diluted solution of bleach before storing them for future use.
- * Pick tomatoes when daytime temperatures no longer rise above sixty-five degrees Fahrenheit. Wrap them in newspaper and let them ripen indoors.
- * Maintain your compost pile by adding clean garden waste and leaves.
- * Control earwigs, snails and slugs.
- * Apply liquid copper to citrus to prevent brown rot.
- * Apply the first dormant spray to fruit trees in November.
- * Apply liquid copper to nectarines, peaches and apricots in November, and follow up with an application in December and February.



Feed and Amend

- * Feed and amend your garden soil. Add well aged manure and compost to improve soil structure and fertility.
- * Apply a layer of leaves, straw or newspaper to your soil surface to reduce weeds next spring and improve soil structure.
- * Amend your soil and add a complete fertilizer if you plant winter crops, flowers, bulbs or seeds.
- * Apply a final application of fertilizer to citrus plants.

Lawn care

- * Renovate a poorly-performing lawn by de-thatching, aerating, fertilizing and over seeding it with either an annual or perennial rye or fescue mix; this will keep it green through the winter.
- * Feed lawns in early fall with a pre-emergent and a complete fertilizer (one that contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) unless you are over seeding.
- * Feed in late fall with a slow-release complete fertilizer, such as one labeled “winterizer.”
- * Adjust the watering cycle on your lawn. It will require less water in the fall, and little or none in the winter.
- * Continue to mow weekly and check your sprinkler system. Be sure it is properly adjusted and that all the nozzles are working.
- * Lower the height of your mower blade.
- * Remove dead leaves from your lawn regularly to prevent your lawn from expiring from lack of sunlight or from contracting fungus infections.
- * Fall is the best time to put in a new lawn with either seed or sod.

Annuals and Perennials

- * Continue deadheading and removing unsightly leaves.
- * Divide and transplant bulbs, tubers and corms.
- * If your oriental poppies, bearded iris, peonies, agapanthus and daylilies are becoming less vigorous and unattractive, fall is the season to divide and replant them.
- * Share extra bulbs, corms and tubers with a friend.
- * Enjoy the fall color of perennials. Wait until spring to trim or cut them back.
- * Evergreen perennials should not be cut back in the fall. These include rock cress, creeping sedum, creeping phlox, and hens and chickens.
- * Roses should keep producing flowers into December, but don't fertilize after September. Deadhead as needed, unless you prefer colorful rose hips to develop and provide winter interest.
- * Plant fall flowers, such as calendulas, chrysanthemums, bachelor buttons, dianthus, forget-me-knots, sweet peas, primroses and violas. Many of these will over-winter and provide lush color in the spring.
- * Spring-blooming perennials, such as foxglove, columbine, salvia, and daylilies, can be planted now. Combine these with daffodils, freesias, tulips and other spring bulbs, which should be planted no later than the end of October.
- * Fall is the best time to introduce perennials to your garden.



Fall Flowers

- * Plant winter vegetables, such as broccoli, lettuce, endive, parsley, garlic and onion sets now.
- * Take cuttings of your favorite annuals. Favorite choices are geraniums, coleus, and begonias. Gradually move plants to shadier locations so they will adjust to the lower light levels when you move them indoors.
- * Prune cane berries and grapes.

Trees and Shrubs

- * Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs. The cooler air temperature and still-warm soil provide ideal conditions for new plant roots to take hold.
- * For autumn colors 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*).
- * Plant drought-tolerant trees such as valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), or a Japanese pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica*). A new favorite is the Chinese Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus retusus*).
- * Apply aged manure and compost to help your trees emerge from dormancy with lush leaves and flowers.
- * Plant easy-care and drought-tolerant shrubs, such as crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*), California lilac (*Ceanothus* hybrids), heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*), tobira (*Pittosporum tobira*), and western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*).
- * Deep-water trees as they enter dormancy.
- * Prune and shape trees in late fall.

Garden-Keeping

- * Sharpen spades, loppers, pruners and your lawn mower blade. You can use a file or take your tools to a professional sharpener.
- * Take your lawn mower to a professional for an annual tune-up.
- * Clean, disinfect and oil your tools, so they will be ready for pruning roses, trees and shrubs from late fall to early spring.
- * Keep birdbaths and feeders clean and full for migrating birds.
- * Check out your local farmer’s market or pumpkin patch for a colorful selection of fall decorations, including pumpkins, gourds, dried corn and fall flowers.
- * Keep a journal. Record your watering cycle information, pruning, spraying and planting information. Make a list of garden improvements and fun ideas.
- * Collect seeds from your garden.
- * Check out your favorite garden catalogs. It is time to think about ordering next spring’s seeds, bare root roses and garden tools.
- * For more information on vegetables, ornamentals, fruit trees or lawn care, visit www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.

Garden Fun

Plant an apple tree, make a scarecrow, collect your favorite leaves and flowers to press for an art project or greeting card, or make a collection of fall leaves.

Take a tour or rose propagation class on September 14th at the Old City Cemetery. (Visit oldcitycemetery.com for an extensive list of tours and fun activities in this venerable old garden.) Attend a UC Master Gardener Class. (Visit <http://www.ceyolo.ucdavis.edu>).

Fun things to do--2013

One of our family's favorite fall adventures is spending a day at Apple Hill. My thoughts turn to pies, cookies, muffins and preserves made from apples, pumpkin and many harvest delights. There are many farms that sell apples, pumpkins and other fall fruit, and allow you to pick your own. The local foothill vineyards are another fun excursion and offer picnic areas. In addition, there are many fall activities from September through November. Visit <http://www.applehill.com> for more information.

Try a fall recipe listed on the Davis Farmer's Market website (davisfarmersmarket.org). Pumpkin Soup and Apple Oatmeal Cookies are on my list of new culinary adventures.

Cal State Home and Garden Show: January 13-15.

Davis Central Park Fall Festival: October 26.

UC Davis Arboretum Plant Sale: October 5 and October 20. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Heidrick Ag History Center/Pumpkin Smash and Bash: October 26. 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Fair Oaks Horticultural Center Garden Workshop: September 21. 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

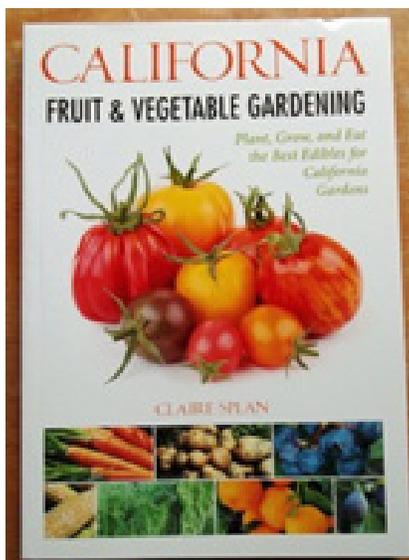
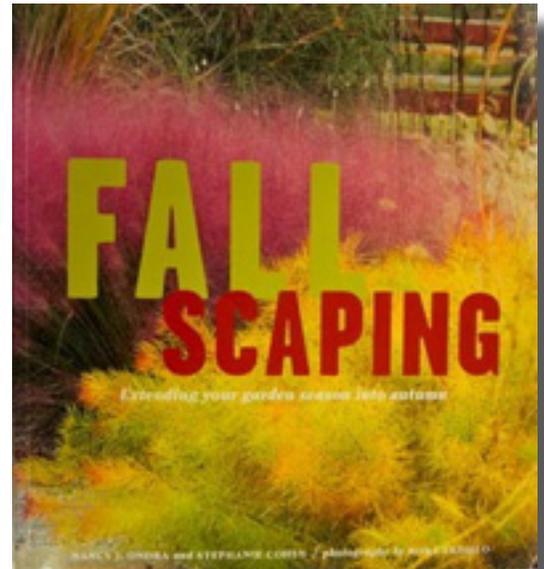
Open Gardens: October 16. 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Old City Cemetery in Sacramento: Rose Pruning Clinic, December 7.

Celebrate the Autumnal Equinox on September 22, or the Winter Solstice on December 21.

Garden Books

If you are looking for ways to extend your gardening pleasure and its beauty, *Fallscaping: Extending your garden season into autumn*, by Stephanie Cohen and Nancy Ondra, is an easy-to-use and richly illustrated book on which plants will provide interesting berries, blossoms, bulbs, seedpods, foliage and bark to your autumn garden. With a few new plants or trees, you can have additional months of color and interest in your garden. I have added asters, Japanese anemones and sages to my fall garden, and love the pleasing cool color contrast and the bonus of additional cut flowers.



I consider *California Fruit and Vegetable Gardening: Plant, Grow and Eat the Best Edibles for California Gardens*, by Claire Splan, a must-have vegetable gardening book. Each vegetable and fruit is listed and discussed separately, with excellent charts and illustrations. Soil, watering, planning, garden design, management and planting zones are included, as well as a list of tasty edible flowers to include in your veggie patch.

Did you know that birds have favorite plants and trees? *Garden Secrets for Attracting Birds: A Bird-by-Bird Guide to Favored Plants*, by Rachael

Lancini, is a delightful guide to planning and planting your garden for your feathered friends. Pick your favorite birds and just follow the list of planting possibilities that will help insure they are welcomed guests in your garden. This is a delightful book to share with children, with its richly illustrated pages of plants, birds, birdbaths and birdhouses.

In keeping with the season, *Garden Witchery: Magic from the Ground Up* by Ellen Dugan is perfect. Ellen is a Master Gardener and a Witch! She includes lots of practical garden advice, along with some intriguing topics including florigraphy, flower folklore, enchanted gardens and moon gardens. This is for the playful and adventurous gardener, and it will soon be on my bookshelf! 

Advice to Grow By: What Do You Want to Learn?

Ann Daniel, Yolo County U.C.C.E. Master Gardener

Master Gardener classes, workshops and demonstrations are for you.

Yolo County Master Gardeners are trained as volunteers to help extend the University of California's research to the general public. This means we love to help and want to know what interests you!

We are eager to hear from you about workshop and demonstration topics that you would like us to present. We are currently planning for the coming months, and want to make sure that we are providing information on the home gardening topics of interest to the public in Yolo County.

In the past, we have talked with you about topics such as vegetable gardening, landscaping with California natives, growing succulents, and how to compost, but we know that there are diverse gardening interests among the residents of Yolo County, and we would like to expand our offerings to satisfy more of your interests. For instance, would you attend a demonstration or workshop on one or more of the following topics?

- Safe ways to control weeds
- Reducing water use in your yard
- Reimagining your front yard – doing away with a lawn
- Creating a container garden
- It all starts with the soil
- Growing fabulous herbs
- Habitat gardening

Please let us know if these topics are of interest, and/or suggest additional topics to us. We want to have your input as we plan for the future.

Contact us at the ter Gardener Hotline (530-666-8737), via e-mail at mgyolo@ucdavis.edu, or stop by the Master Gardener office, located at 70 Cottonwood Street in Woodland on Tuesdays or Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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OR

contact

*The Yolo Gardener
U.C.C.E. Office
70 Cottonwood
Woodland, CA 95695*

YOLO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER WORKSHOPS
September - December 2013

All Workshops are free of charge.

Dates and times subject to change. Please check for updates at
UCCE (530) 666-8143 and/or centralparkgardens.org

September 7, 2013

At Grace Garden***
9:00 – 10:00 AM Fall Bulb Planting

September 14, 2013

At Central Park Gardens*
9:30 – 10:30 AM The Winter Vegetable Garden
11:00 AM – Noon CA Native Plants for the Garden

September 21, 2013

At Woodland Community College**
9:00 AM - 1 PM Open House and Plant Sale
9:30 - 10:15 AM Winter Vegetables
10:45 - 11:30 AM Compost and Vermiculture
Noon - 12:45 PM Fall Planting Guide

October 5, 2013

At Grace Garden***
9:00 – 10:00 AM Winter Vegetables

October 12, 2013

At Central Park Gardens*
9:30 - 11:00 AM Fall Planting Guide for a Waterwise Garden

October 19, 2013

At Woodland Community College**
9:00 - 9:45 AM Plant Propagation
10:15 - 11:00 AM Plant Identification

November 2, 2013

At Central Park Gardens*
9:30 – 11:00 AM Dormant Pruning and Pest Control

November 9, 2013

At Grace Garden***
9:00 - 10:00 AM Tool Care and Sharpening

November 16, 2013

At Woodland Community College**
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Dormant Pruning and Pest Control

December 14, 2013

At Woodland Community College**
Wreath Making Workshop

* Central Park Gardens - Corner of Third and B Streets, Davis
** Woodland Community College - 2300 East Gibson Road, Woodland
*** Grace Garden - 1620 Anderson Road, Davis
For more Information: UCCE (530) 666-8143
centralparkgardens.org

Questions about your garden?
We'd love to help!

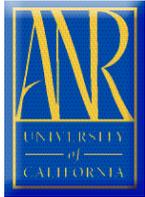
Master Gardener Hotline..... (530) 666-8737

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..... mgyolo@ucdavis.edu

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





U.C. Cooperative Extension
 Yolo County Master Gardeners
 70 Cottonwood Street
 Woodland, CA 95695



*The Yolo
 Gardener
 Fall 2013*

Send a Letter
 to an Editor!

email: mgyolo@ucdavis.edu

Please put: *Yolo Gardener* in the subject line

or

Yolo County UCCE
 70 Cottonwood St.
 Woodland, CA 95695

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This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the University of California Master Gardener Program of Yolo County and is freely distributed to County residents. It is available through the internet for free download:

<http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/newsletter.htm>

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Rachael

Rachael Long, Yolo County Director