



# THE YOLO GARDENER

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

## Harvesting Winter Rains

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

Winter rains are wonderful. Cozying up under a blanket with a good book and hot chocolate during a daylong downpour is just luscious. Even a fine mist lasting for hours is beautiful to see. Rain at this point is just a delight. Our plants drink it up, reservoirs fill, groundwater is restored, and life is good.

Preserving this winter rainwater to use in the spring and into summer can save money, and it reduces demand on public systems. And rainwater is rich in nutrients, which helps reduce fertilizer use.

An average roof can collect six hundred gallons of water for every inch of rainfall. If you like formulas, 1" of rain x 1 sq. ft. = 0.623 gallons of water; 1" of rain from 1,000 sq. ft. yields 623 gallons of water. Collecting winter rain can range from easy and inexpensive to pricey.

There are active and passive rainwater collection systems; how much time, land, use, and need you have will determine what system works best. Active rainwater systems are those that actively collect, filter, store, and reuse water. Passive harvesting systems use no mechanical methods of collecting, cleaning and storing rainwater.

Some benefits and uses of harvested rainwater include:

- Cost savings
- Reduced demand on public systems
- Environmental responsibility
- Flushing toilets
- Washing cars
- Watering indoor plants



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- Watering garden beds
- Watering outdoor potted plants
- Backup source of water for emergencies (e.g., if water is shut off due to earthquake)
- Washing pets
- Using as fountain and pond water source
- Cleaning outdoor furniture
- Bird/bee/butterfly baths

### **HOW IT WORKS:**

Minor or major changes to the front or back yard can keep runoff in the garden.

- Incorporate berms or swales
- Channel rainwater to allow infiltration
- Use native plants: they absorb and hold water or send roots down to the water table
- Reduce or eliminate runoff

Use one-gallon lidded garbage cans on rollers to capture rainwater.

- Place under down spout
- Collect until full
- Put the lid on and roll away
- Place another can under downspout



Rain barrels can come with spigots.

- Same concept with spigot for attaching hose
- Permanent placement
- Purchase diverter so water drains into successive barrels
- Barrels come in all sizes and shapes, from basic recycled plastic to terra cotta to fake rock

Underground storage systems with filters and pumps.

- Can be moderate to pricey in cost
- No visual blight

Modular slim-line storage systems.

- Space-saving
- Can use along house or fence on side yards
- Can place and develop a hidden garden or patio area
- Some designs have indents for potted plants or catch-alls
- Gang together and use diverters so water drains into successive tanks

Rain saucer.

- Think umbrella with the handle portion going into a storage tank
- Straight from the sky, not bringing any roof debris into the tank

When harvesting from the roof you will want to wait until after the first rain flushes or cleans the roof and drains. There will be less debris in your barrels and thus it will be less likely to have plugged any drain holes. It reduces contamination as well. Many of the barrels or systems are made with food-grade plastic. Using any of the many filtration systems available can mean potable water.

There are many websites and books available on the subject of rainwater harvesting. (For example, see the following two Master Gardener publications: <http://ncmg.ucanr.org/files/183418.pdf>). There are projects functioning around the world, many helping areas with no public water systems, that collect and save water,

annually saving hundreds of hours that had been used to transport water to homes. Instead of spending four hours a day collecting water, those hours can be spent learning, creating businesses, and pursuing a different way of living.

Harvesting rainwater can be as simple as you want it to be. Our plants love rainwater, and with drought at hand, anything we can do to conserve and keep green (no pun intended) in our lives is a good thing.

Additional references:

- ***Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, : Guiding Principles to Welcome Rain into Your Life and Landscape, Volume 1, 2nd Edition*** by Brad Lancaster.
- **California's Rainwater Recapture Act Lets State Residents Capture, Use Harvested Rainwater**, by Courtney Davis, Scott Slater, JdSupra Business Advisor, February 11, 2013.  
<http://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/californias-rainwater-recapture-act-let-66504/>.
- **Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use**, by Patricia H. Waterfall, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Agent.  
<http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1052/harvest.html>.
- **Rainwater Harvesting 101**, by Julia Leung, Summer Intern, GrowNYC, August 2008.  
<http://www.grownyc.org/files/osg/RWH.how.to.pdf>.
- **Saving Water and Money with Rain Barrels**. Julia Fiala, World Wildlife Fund, December 16, 2013.  
<http://www.worldwildlife.org/blogs/on-balance/posts/saving-water-and-money-with-rain-barrels>.
- **Traditional Water Harvesting**, by John Palmbach, Water is Life, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, USA, Spring 2004.  
<http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz/PALMBAJP/>.
- **Types of Rainwater Harvesting Systems**.  
<http://www.dundeecollege.ac.uk/Microgeneration/Assets/Uploads/04%20Types%20of%20Rainwater%20Harvesting%20System.pdf>.
- **Water Wise**. University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Cochise County.  
<http://cals.arizona.edu/cochise/waterwise/waterharvest.html>.
- **What is a Rain Barrel?** EPA Region 3, Philadelphia, PA, August, 2009.  
<http://www.epa.gov/region03/p2/what-is-rainbarrel.pdf> 🍅





## *Grace Garden: The Beginnings to Today*

*Cid Barcellos, Yolo County U.C.C.E. Master Gardener  
zucchini.*

Grace Garden started as an idea, a seed planted that has come to bear much fruit. It began in the spring of 2009. A friend took Gwen Oliver and me to Santa Rosa to see a wonderful garden. The goal was to feed the hungry of the community. Upon returning, we looked at the weedy 5/8 acre behind the Davis United Methodist Church. As Master Gardeners, Gwen and I knew we could make something productive



*Before*

out of this weedy space. That summer we planted a few vegetables to see how they would grow. By late summer we were committed to the garden.

In 2010 we built four fifty-foot beds and four raised beds and planted summer vegetables. That was nice, but it wasn't enough. In 2011 we added four more fifty-foot beds plus a thirty-foot bed. That seemed like enough vegetable space. In 2012, two more raised beds were added, along with an orchard with ten fruit trees. Since then, five more fruit trees have been added.

The harvest numbers have amazed us. In the first year (2010), we harvested 2,916 vegetables. That count is of individual vegetables because we didn't have a scale to weigh them. You bet a scale was used the next year! In 2011 we harvested 946 pounds; in 2012 the total was 1,355 pounds; and in 2013 the total was 1,656 pounds. The total for 2014 is 1,285 pounds. The drought has played a major role in this year's lackluster production. There are very few tomatoes and almost no

Who receives our harvest? The Korean Christian Church's Friday's Harvest has welcomed Grace Garden's produce since 2010. The program has helped to feed sixty to one-hundred families a week. Grace Garden also donates to Davis Community Meals.

The garden has been blessed with many donations. In 2011 Northern California Construction Training (NCCT) built a small shed in which to keep our tools and supplies. Later, NCCT also donated a picnic table, an eight-foot working table with a sink, and a potting table. A hoop house was built to protect newly planted seeds. A local arborist has donated chips from his business to spread along the paths and beds. Volunteers have put in the irrigation system, trenched for the irrigation pipes, and laid out the drip system. Numerous people have donated supplies, equipment and plants.

The annual plant sale is held in April. The



*After*

vegetables are started in the hoop house early in the year. We also start a few flowers, bulbs, and perennials. With the goal of adding more flowers, perennials, and drought-tolerant plants to our plant sale in the future.

Master Gardener conduct classes for the

community on a variety of gardening topics in the fall, winter, and spring.

The past five years have flown by. We've had fun, made new friends, experimented, and learned so much. There is rarely a dull moment. The birds and bees love our sunflowers, and the squirrels watch us from the tree branches. We laugh and enjoy our treasure, Grace Garden. 

## How to Find Funding for Gardening Projects

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

Almost every organization faces the problem of how to get funding for their projects, programs, and special needs. For example, Central Park Gardens (CPG) just completed a project in its Waterwise Garden that would have been impossible without some outside funding beyond the money that is raised at its annual plant sale. In this case, it was a gift from the Yolo County Association of Realtors® that allowed CPG to hire an outstanding landscape contractor, Steve Stomblor, to build a stone seat bench for the garden. In obtaining funding for the stone bench, CPG was turned down twice before having success with the realtors' association. Since my longtime career includes several positions in fundraising and development, this experience with CPG made me think it might be useful to share my expertise in an article about funding.

### *The Funding Process*

Finding funding is a process that includes planning, writing, and managing.

- In the planning stage, you will develop the project idea, define its goals and objectives, create a plan of action, and research the funding sources. Once potential sponsors are identified, contact the sources for guidelines, application forms, and deadlines. In some cases, it may be advisable to discuss the project with a program officer or director prior to submitting an application.
- In the writing stage, follow the application format and guidelines closely and answer all of the questions, even those that are non-applicable. Write a proposal narrative, prepare a budget and budget justification, obtain support materials, and get institutional and/or member approval.
- In the managing stage, wait for an official notification of funding before starting the project. If funded, celebrate, but also write a thank-you note to the sponsor when appropriate, and submit progress and final reports as required. If not funded, get some feedback and comments on the project and resubmit, or keep trying other potential sources.



### *Funding Sources*

There are two major categories of funding sources: public and private.

- Public sources include federal, state, regional, and local governments.
- Private sources are foundations, corporations, business and industrial organizations, associations, community trusts, and individuals.

Each type of source uses different mechanisms for making awards, i.e., gifts, grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, training awards, and in-kind contributions. Thus, each source is approached a little differently.

For example, government sources generally have an elaborate formal application process that requires a full proposal, peer review, and a long waiting process. For foundations, corporations, and associations, the process is usually simpler and requires only a pre-proposal or letter of inquiry, followed sometimes by a short application or proposal and a four- to six-week response. Gifts from businesses and individuals are often done through personal, telephone, and e-mail contact. They tend to make donations in cities where they are located so that their charitable acts are visible.

### ***Resources for Finding Funding***

The process for finding funding typically starts with prospect research, using some basic resources to identify grantmakers or potential donors in an area of interest.

- Electronic databases, search engines, and websites
- Print and online directories
- Seminars, workshops, and conferences
- News media
- Word of mouth
- Scholarly and professional journals

According to the Foundation Center, there are 1.5 million private foundations; however, not all of them provide funding. Foundation annual reports and 990 PFs can be accessed through the Center and are an excellent source of information for private funding. *Sacramento Business Journal* publishes an annual “Partners in Philanthropy” directory that is also useful. Most libraries and universities have sections devoted to funding resource materials and information (for example, the Sacramento Public Library has a Nonprofit Resource Center at 828 I Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor). However, I was told at the Mary L. Stephens Branch Library in Davis that new print directories are not being ordered anymore because funding information can now be readily retrieved online through Google, GuideStar, FC Search, grants.gov, and other sites.

### ***Pre-Proposal Preparation***

A good way to make first contact with a potential grantor is to submit a pre-proposal or letter of inquiry. It is structured very much like a full proposal, but is much shorter in length (one to three pages without attachments). These are its key components:

- Introduction of applicant organization
- Statement of need that describes a problem
- Project objectives
- Proposed work plan, including time frame and personnel in charge of various activities
- Approximate dollar support needed, including an indication of support from other sources
- Evaluation plan and future commitments to the project

Including a cover letter and the signature of the applicant organization’s executive officer or administrator may help to ensure credibility. Also, nonprofits should include a 501(c)3 tax-exempt letter from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

### ***Some Grant Opportunities***

Annie’s Grants for Gardens makes donations to community and school garden programs. Applications due December 2.

California Wildlands Grassroots Fund supports the protection of California wilderness. Deadline: November 15.

Chapman Forestry Foundation at 200 B Street, Suite F, Davis, is interested in education and the environment. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Giving totaled \$66,721 in 2012.

EPA Environmental Education Grant Program awards grants between \$15,000 and \$100,000 to increase awareness about environmental issues and to provide skills to protect the environment.





Home Depot Garden Club gives youth garden grants in the form of \$1,000 and \$500 gift certificates.

Kitchen Gardeners International Sow It Forward Grants Program expects to fund 100 full grants of \$500 each and sixty partial grants of \$300 each to nonprofit organizations such as schools, community gardens, and senior programs, for starting or expanding food garden programs. Deadline is January 9, 2015.

Mariani Nut Company in Winters sponsors community activities in Yolo County. Grants range from \$25 to \$10,000.

National Gardening Association gives youth garden grants. Deadline: December 5.

Pacific Gas & Electric provides educational and environmental grants in northern and central California, ranging from \$250 to \$7,500. Submit applications before October 1 of each year.

Sacramento Region Community Foundation administers competitive grant programs that benefit people in Sacramento, Yolo, and other surrounding counties. Grants have ranged from \$100 to \$67,000.

Teichert Foundation in Sacramento provides funding to enhance the quality of life in the Central Valley. Interests include creating beauty and preserving nature. Most recently gave seventy grants, ranging from \$50 to \$10,000. Two grant deadlines annually: March 31 and September 30. 

## *Where's the RED?*

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

It started with a personal interest in all things fiber, especially color. Then the interest was piqued by “plant talks” given by fellow UCD Arboretum volunteers on diverse uses of native plants for food, medicine, fiber, and dyes. A timely visit to the Boerner Botanical Garden in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, contributed the photos for the article, more native plant information, and an intriguing possible answer to my question about red.

In Northern California we are blessed to still have access to the very rich, technically advanced tradition of Indian basket weaving, both in museum collections from the past and from the talented hands of local artisans today. Baskets have been made for many specific uses, and they are also beautiful. Certainly a quest for beauty, even when form has to follow function, seems to be a cultural universal.

Color is another dimension of beauty, one that requires a similar level of expertise to produce beautiful fiber for cloth. Making dye from any plant source is not for amateurs. If you want to sample it, check out this reference from (of all places) the US Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/ethnobotany/dyes.shtml>. Their page includes “fun facts” that give dyeing its place in ancient history, and valuable links to “Native American Ethnobotany Database” and “Making Natural Dyes from Plants.”

From these beginnings I hope will begin a lifetime hobby, which for me will never produce anything close to “fine” art, but will teach me many things. Like the authors cited at the end of this article, I will be happy to begin with onion skins, coffee, acorns, and other plant materials before moving on to native plants. The basic techniques are the same; only the plant material varies. The steps to create dyes from plant material include:

- Identifying and collecting sufficient plant material of the right kind for a desired color
- Finding the chemicals needed to produce the desired color (some plant materials produce different colors depending on the chemical “mordant” that is added to the dye bath)
- Processing the raw plant material into something that will yield dyestuff
- Combining the dyestuff with clean fiber of the right kind: wool, linen, or cotton, (not synthetic)

Each of these steps requires considerable research and experimentation. In addition to flowering plants

(which might require roots, leaves, or flowering parts to produce the dyestuff), dyes have been made from lichens, mushrooms, and other plants.

Where's the red? This question tantalized me as I saw plants in the Wisconsin garden that promised to give a red dye. Red is the most difficult color to achieve from nature, and most dyers use Cochineal (*Dactylopius coccus*), a small scale insect that inhabits prickly pear cactus, to produce it. I have had pink yarn from Finland (the Finnish source for a beautiful green dye was a lichen), and red thread from Guatemala, both dyed with Cochineal. So I was very interested in an alternative source.

The two possibilities I saw in that garden were *Lobelia cardinalis*, which is native across a large part of the lower forty-eight states, including California, and *Gallium tinctorium*, which is a native of eastern and Midwestern states. (The term *tinctorium* refers to a likely dye plant.) I hope to be able to experiment



*Lobelia cardinalis*: The main challenge to growing this plant in any quantity in California is that it is essentially a bog or wetland plant. The use of "rustic" here may be intended to be a quaint reference, such as "back in the day" or "country" people.

with one or both of these, probably from plants I will grow myself. Native plants have enough challenges, without greedy plant gatherers descending on them.

I hope this article piques the interest of at least some Yolo Gardener readers. Please do some homework before you start, to educate yourself about basic safety in handling dyestuffs (even those from nature may contain potent chemicals), as well as appreciation for the traditions and wisdom handed down by others.



*Gallium tinctorium*: This looks too much like the bedstraw that plagues many Yolo gardens, and I would be very cautious about cultivating it even for a beautiful red color.

Additional Sources of Information:

Rebecca Burgess. *Harvesting Color: How to Find Plants and Make Natural Dyes*. New York, NY: Workman Publishing 2011.

Sasha Duerr, "A Seasonal Palette: Where Color Grows." *Pacific Horticulture*, Fall 2014.

Sasha Duerr, *The Handbook of Natural Plant Dyes*. Portland, OR: Timber Press 2010. 

## *Amaranth:* *The Jewel of the Fall Garden*

*Michelle Haunold, Yolo County U.C.C.E. Master Gardener*

By November, most of the country has already seen the annual blast of brilliant fall color come and go, but we lucky Northern Californians are just starting to see trees blaze with the brilliant orange, scarlet, and russet of fall.

However, the flower gardens are looking scraggly and brown, with little color to draw our eyes in. But wait! What is that deep magenta giant looming out of the beds in Davis Central Park Gardens? That vivid hue was enough to set my mouth watering, and I scrambled to figure out what that amazing plant was.



*Amaranthus cruentus*, (family: **Amaranthaceae**) or Amaranth (also known as Pigweed), is a flowering annual plant native to Central America, with distribution now in almost all fifty states. Traditionally used as an edible, high-protein food source (sometimes called a grain in the food trade, it is actually a seed), the plant also has become a sought-after ornamental.

From its dramatic spikes of magenta-red flowers, to its towering height (it can easily top six feet), this breathtaking plant is also extremely drought-tolerant. Planted in full sun with plenty of space to spread out, I watered the plants in my garden once every couple of weeks, and this hardy plant never showed signs of drooping from heat stress. Well-drained soil is recommended; however, it will grow well in the clay soils of our region, provided it is not overwatered.

The plant emerged with reddish-green leaves late in the summer from the seeds I'd scattered last year around mid-November. Over the course of about a month, it grew rapidly, and by late August, it had grown to its present height of about six feet. The leaves spread out in attractive whirls around the thick stem, and dramatic dark red flower spikes appeared shortly after. The flower spikes have persisted for months. At the time of publication, the color is going strong: a brilliant burst of cranberry against the browns of the rest of the garden.

As the seeds develop, they turn a golden brown and stay clustered in tight spikes, creating an attractive food source for wild birds as well as continued ornamental appeal for the winter garden. The plants will moderately self-sow if you leave the seed-heads alone, or you can harvest the ripe seeds and scatter them late fall or early winter where you want more plants to bloom.



Several other species of ornamental Amaranth are similarly attractive and easy to grow from seed, most notably *Amaranthus caudatus* (common name Love-Lies-Bleeding) which has long, scarlet clusters instead of the upright spikes of its cousin discussed above.

The ease of growth from seeds, the low-water tolerance, and the non-fussy nature of this plant, not to mention the amazing burst of color it provides, make this a must-have addition to the winter garden in our area.



## Winter Gardening Tips

Mary Yaussy, Yolo County U.C.C.E. Master Gardener

Enjoy winter gardening in Yolo County. The days are cooler and insect free to work outside mulching, pruning roses and trees, and planting colorful pansies. Hopefully, the winter will bring rain and snow to California to limit outdoor work days. This is a good time to browse the seed catalogs, start seedlings for the spring garden or just enjoy reading a good gardening book. A plus living in this area is the wonderful winter foods available from the local farmers' markets: fresh Dungeness crab, vitamin filled greens, and sweet fragrant citrus. Take time to appreciate Yolo County winter landscape.



Yolo County Winter Farmscape

## WINTER CLEANUP

- Continue to remove fallen leaves, spent annuals, and vegetable plants.
- Add disease-free plants and leaves to your compost pile.
- Clean garden pots and store for future use. Turn all unused pots on end to prevent water collection and breeding areas for pests and diseases. Treat pots with a dilute solution of bleach.
- Sharpen, clean, and oil garden tools.
- Lawnmowers need a yearly tune-up and blade sharpening. Now is a good time.
- Properly dispose of any old or unneeded pesticides and herbicides.

## WATER

- Turn off the irrigation once the rains begin. Until then, most lawns and plants do well with weekly watering.
- If it is very windy, the temperature drops significantly, or there has been no rain in several weeks, check for signs of dehydration in plants; additional water may be necessary.
- Check potted plants for moisture. Too much water and inadequate drainage can lead to root rot in potted plants
- Consider collecting rainwater during the winter months.

## PROTECTION

- Protect frost-sensitive plants, including citrus. Move potted plants to a more protected part of your garden or patio.
- Cover sensitive, larger plants and small trees with bed sheeting or burlap when temperatures approach freezing at night. Adding a string of old holiday lights can provide additional heat.
- Watering the soil will also help the soil retain heat and can help the plant's roots and lower branches survive.
- Anti-transpiring sprays (such as Cloud Cover) can also be used to reduce frost and freeze damage.
- Cover sensitive ground cover with layers of newsprint at night and remove in the morning.
- Plastic sheeting is not recommended to protect plants because it cannot breathe and it traps moisture.



*Row Covers*

## PLANTING

December is the last month to plant spring-blooming bulbs such as daffodil, tulip, anemone, and crocus.

### *What to plant now:*

Cool season annuals: primroses, pansies, violas, snapdragons, calendulas and poppies.

- Cool season perennials: cyclamen, hellebores, daphne and iberia.
- Herbs: cilantro, flat and curly parsley.
- Bare-root fruits and vegetables: strawberries, berries, rhubarb, grapes, fruit trees, artichokes, asparagus, horseradish, onions, and garlic.
- Use row covers to protect seedlings, if plants are bothered by slugs, snails, or cold nights.
- Extend your harvest time by planting vegetables every two weeks in December.
- Late winter is the best time to plant or transplant most any garden shrub or tree. Both deciduous and evergreen shrubs can be planted or transplanted, including roses. Your local nursery will be stocked with many varieties of potted and bare-root trees and plants.
- After you have discarded your summer vegetable plants, turn the soil over before it becomes too wet. This will help to disturb the over-wintering garden pests, including tomato worm larvae that live in your

soil.

- Sow seeds indoors in early February for your summer garden. Favorite selections include tomatoes, squash, eggplant, peppers and herbs. Seedlings can be transplanted in your garden after the soil temperature reaches 50° F.
- Begin planting spring annuals: alstroemeria, calendulas, larkspur, lobelia, dianthus, and alyssum. Summer bulbs (e.g., callas, dahlias, cannas, tuberous begonias, and lilies) are now available at your local nursery.

### FERTILIZE

- Mid to late February is the time to fertilize trees, shrubs, and evergreens. Use an acid-loving plant fertilizer to feed evergreens like junipers, conifers, broadleaf evergreens, azaleas, and camellias. Use a rose or all-purpose garden-type fertilizer to feed roses and flowering trees, plus other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular fertilizer, keep it off the foliage and water it in thoroughly.
- Extra nutrients for roses can encourage healthier growth. Try using four to six cups of sterilized chicken or steer manure, and eight ounces (one cup) of plain alfalfa pellets for each plant. Sprinkle around the drip line. The manure improves the soil tilt and provides important nutrients. Steer manure contains 1.0-2.5% Nitrogen, 0.9-1.6% Phosphate, and 2.4-3.6% Potassium. Chicken manure contains 2.0-4.5% Nitrogen, 4.5-6.0% Phosphate, and 1.2-2.4% Potassium. Alfalfa yields an alcohol called triacontanol, which encourages basal breaks. Alfalfa pellets are a cheap fertilizer for increased vigor and floriferousness.
- In February or March, apply fertilizer to your lawn with crabgrass preventive and turf builder to encourage healthy roots and prevent weeds.

### DISEASE, PEST, AND WEED PREVENTION

- Early winter is a good time to make an application of dormant oil spray on your roses, fruit and deciduous trees and shrubs. It is best to prune these before you apply this spray. Dormant oil spray helps prevent over-wintering of insects and diseases in your garden.
- To prevent peach leaf curl on peaches and nectarines, apply a dormant spray of copper-based fungicide or Bordeaux mixture (copper sulfate—see <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7481.html>) after leaves have fallen. Generally a single early treatment when the tree is dormant is effective, however during a particularly wet winter, it might be advisable to apply a second spray late in the dormant season, preferably as flower buds begin to swell but before green leaf tips are first visible.
- Snails, slugs, and earwigs need periodic checking. Handpick, bait, or trap if they become a nuisance.
- Mulch your garden. This is the easiest way to prevent new weeds. Place several layers of newspaper under a thick layer of mulch to provide superior weed control. Remove weeds while they are small for easiest control.



### PRUNING

- Roses can be pruned in late December through early February. Prune according to the type of rose (e.g. floribunda, hybrid tea, climbing).
- Deciduous fruit trees and ornamental shrubs and trees need pruning. Winter pruning stimulates more growth. Fruit trees pruned in early summer will require less winter pruning.
- Wait until February to prune woody plants, such as buddleia, artemisia, and Mexican sage. Prune ornamental grasses. Cut these fast-growing plants close to the ground.
- Late winter- or early spring-blooming shrubs like quince, forsythia, and spiraea should be pruned after they complete blooming. Prune spring- and summer-blooming vines after they have flowered.
- Garden shrubs and hedges, such as boxwood and viburnum, should be pruned before they put out their



new spring growth.

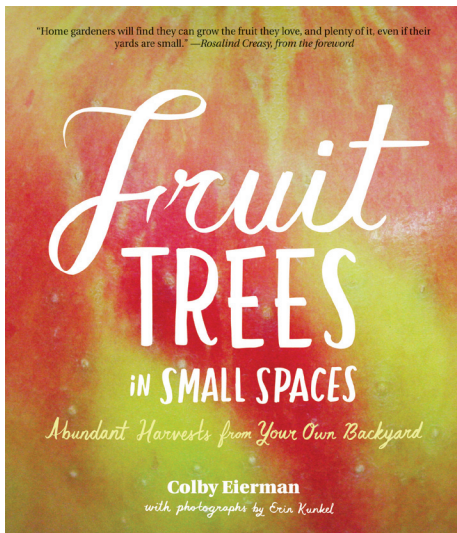
- Basic pruning is done to remove dead, decaying, and dying branches, as well as to remove unwanted growth such as sprouts, suckers, and crossed branches. Pruning can improve the shape, vigor, and appearance of plants and trees.
- Lawns will need little or no mowing until early March. Mowing on soggy soil will ruin your lawn.
- For further information on the above points refer to these websites: [www.ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG](http://www.ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG) and [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu).



## RECOMMEND BOOKS

*Fruit Trees in Small Spaces: Abundant Harvests from Your Own Backyard*, by Colby Eierman. Learn to be creative with fruit trees.

*The Drunken Botanist: The Plants That Create the World's Great Drinks*, by Amy Stewart. Be the hit at the next holiday party with your signature cocktails.



*The Plant Recipe Book: 100 Living Arrangements for Any Home in Any Season*, by Baylor Chapman. Sometimes we forget about indoor gardening. This book offers beautiful photos and good projects for a rainy winter day.

Children Books and Projects:

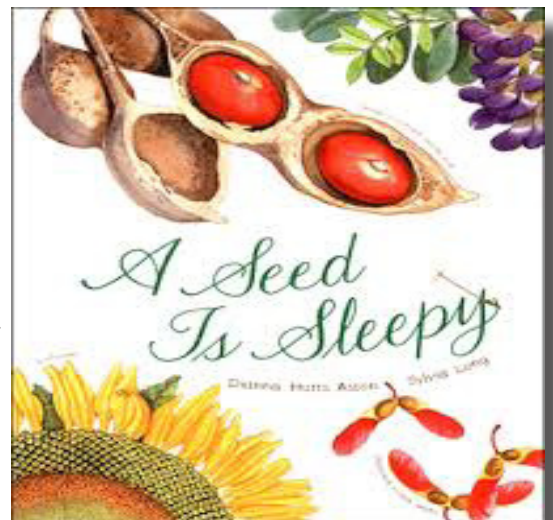
- *A Seed is Sleepy*, by Dianna Aston (author) and Sylvia Long (illustrator). Children ages five to eight will be able to read about the process of turning seeds into plants.
- *The Kid's Guide to Exploring Nature*, by Brooklyn Botanic Garden Educators. Science can be fun for children; perfect for kids aged eight to twelve.

## Beating the Winter Blahs

- Learn more about local gardening and garden events: On Sunday mornings, listen to our local garden gurus: Lifetime Master Gardener

Farmer Fred (Fred Hoffman) hosts KFBK (1530AM; 93.1FM) Garden Show from 8:30a.m.-10:00a.m.; or Get Growing on KSTE (650AM) from 10:00a.m.-noon. You might just recognize a Yolo County gardening expert voice with Farmer Fred. [www.farmerfred.com](http://www.farmerfred.com).

- Walk or bike the UC Arboretum to see what is blooming in winter and the GATEways Project garden art. [www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu).
- A trip to Filoli in Woodside, CA, located thirty miles south of San Francisco is a must. [www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org).
- California Duck Days 2015, Saturday, February 21. [www.yolobasin.org/California-duck-days](http://www.yolobasin.org/California-duck-days).
- Capay Valley Almond Festival 2015, Sunday, February 22.



This festival will be celebrating 100 years touring five towns featuring the blossoming almond trees.

- [www.almondfestival.com](http://www.almondfestival.com).
- Volunteer and meet new garden buddies at Central Park Gardens and Grace Garden in Davis.
- Attend a rose workshop and learn to prune “California Style.”
- Purchase the Sacramento County Master Gardeners 2015 Gardening Guide and Calendar. [www.ucanr.edu/sites/SacMg](http://www.ucanr.edu/sites/SacMg).
- This not a gardening trip but just pure fun: go whale watching!

## GARDEN WEBSITES AND INFORMATION

Please check the Yolo County Master Gardeners website for a list of 2015 winter workshops and helpful gardening information: [www.ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/Public\\_Education](http://www.ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/Public_Education)

### WINTER THOUGHT:

“Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bud opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream.”

-Barbara Winkler



**Visit the Yolo County Master Gardener’s website.  
Read University of California approved horticulture information for  
Yolo County home gardeners.**

**<http://ucanr.edu/yolomg>**

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*Free Master Gardener Classes*

**Central Park Gardens – Third and B Streets, Davis**

- Saturday, December 6 - 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
“Dormant Pruning and Care of Fruit Trees and Vines for a Healthy Spring Bloom and Summer Fruit Production.”
- Saturday, January 10 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
“Getting an Early Start on Summer Vegetables”  
  
11:00 AM - Noon  
“The Care and Pruning of Roses”
- Saturday, February 7 - 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM  
“Drought or No Drought - Sustainable Gardening Practices to Ensure an Attractive Garden and Vegetable Production”  
  
11:00 - Noon  
“Composting and Worm Composting Techniques for the Home Gardener”

**Mary L. Stephens Branch Library – 315 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Davis**

- Sunday January 18 - 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Seasonal topics covered will be Planting Bare Root Trees, Rose Gardening, and Growing Artichokes and Asparagus.

**Woodland Community College – 2300 East Gibson Road, Woodland**

- Saturday, January 17 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM  
Fruit Tree Pruning  
  
11:00 AM - Noon  
“Rose Pruning”

**Classes held rain or shine.**

*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

**Web Site**..... <http://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/>







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

**University of California**  
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## *The Yolo Gardener - Winter 2014*

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to an Editor!

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Please put: *Yolo Gardener* in the subject line

or

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<http://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/YoloGardener/>

*Judy*

Judy McClure, Master Gardener Coordinator

