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Coordinator Corner

Marcy Sousa, Master Gardener Coordinator

The days are shorter, the evenings are chilly, and there's that feeling that fall is in the air! Soon we'll be raking the fallen leaves and listening to their crispy crunch. Fall is a great time to be out in the garden planting and getting gardens bed ready for winter.

Things may be slowing down in the garden but our Master Gardener Program is as busy as always. We are still accepting applications for our next Master Gardener Training which will begin in January 2019. The application deadline is 5:00 pm on October 8th. The next training won't be until 2021, so don't miss out on your chance to become a Master Gardener! Find our application and more info about the training on our [website](#).

Save the date for our [Fall Open Garden Day](#) that will be on October 13 from 9-noon. Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions and there will be information booths on pest management, CA Native plants, landscape trees, composting, vegetable gardening and more. We will also have UC gardening publications for sale (cash or check only). Have tools that need sharpening? Bring them to the tool booth for a free tune-up (limit 3 please).

We hope you are enjoying this cooler weather and this issue of Garden Notes!



Seeds: A Gift that Keeps on Giving

Norena Norton Badway, Master Gardener

This is the story of how one man's idea has led to an international effort to connect abundance in the United States with need in mostly rural areas across the world. At its core, Seeds to the World (SEEDS) is a non-profit system for gathering and distributing surplus seeds to impoverished farmers around the world. Like many grassroots endeavors, SEEDS has relied on old-fashioned values, determined leadership, and networks of executives from a variety of businesses. While there are many seed donation programs around the world, this one originated and has prospered in San Joaquin County.



The Evolution of SEEDS

The founder of SEEDS is Ray Baglietto of Baglietto Seeds, who for sixty years has supplied farmers with high quality seeds and custom blends for forage and cover crop applications. Established in 1958, the company has evolved to include custom harvesting, custom cleaning, and trucking options for its customers. With annual revenues over two million dollars, Baglietto Seeds holds a strong position in developing and distributing high quality grains. From this long history, Baglietto Seeds has been a leader in trade associations where [Continued on pg. 15](#)

Fall Garden Chores

Sue Davis, Master Gardener

October, November, and December

Despite approaching winter, the soil remains warm for planting trees, shrubs, most ornamentals, and cool season edibles. If we are fortunate, rain will provide all the water gardens need over the next few months.

October Ideas

Plant -

Trees planted in fall adapt to your garden over winter. For autumn colors of red, gold, or yellow choose Chinese pistache, Ginkgo, Tupelo, scarlet oak, red oak, Japanese maple, red maple, crepe myrtle or redbud. Be sure to check the mature height and width of the trees so they will have room to grow in your landscape.

Dianthus, Iceland poppy, pansy, primrose, snapdragon, stock, viola and violets do well in cooler weather.

Perennials and shrubs planted in fall are easily established with the help of winter rain. Enrich your landscape with plants that attract pollinators such as hummingbirds and bees.

Bulbs planted now will provide a colorful spring display. Plant bulbs when the temperature of the soil falls to 55° (when average night time temps are 50° or cooler for at least 2 weeks). Nursery selections should include anemone, calla, Narcissus, freesia, Hyacinth, and Dutch iris.

Winter vegetable transplants that do well now include Bok Choy, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celery, onions, chard, kale, and kohlrabi. Lettuce, spinach, fava beans, and peas are easy to start from seed, but remember to soak the bean and pea seeds for a few hours before planting. Garlic cloves planted now produce an early summer harvest.

Sow wildflower seeds for flowers that attract butterflies and beneficial insects. California poppies are always cheerful when they bloom.

Maintenance -

Trees add value, both aesthetic and monetary, to our homes. They provide shade, oxygen, and a place to sit near and relax. Established trees need a good soak this month. If we haven't had a good rain by mid-month, just wrap a soaker hose under your tree at least three feet from the trunk and within the drip line. Soak the soil for several hours to keep your tree happy over the winter.

Knock down water basins around trees and shrubs to avoid standing water around the root crowns which encourages crown

rot.

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



Plant Freesia in October

Cut spent blooms to extend the flowering period of your plants. Begin pruning back old growth and feed roses one more time to keep the blooms coming through the fall.

Dig clumps of crowded daylilies, iris, Shasta daisies, and agapanthus with a spading fork so the root-ball comes up intact, then use a spade or sharp knife to divide them (each division should have plenty of leaves and roots). Re-plant the divisions or gift them to friends immediately.

Add a layer of mulch around your plants for added protection this winter.

Lawns - Be sure to fertilize. Dethatching could help control both Bermuda and bent grass, especially if you over-seed with a perennial rye and fescue mix to keep your lawn green through the winter. Cool season lawns, such as the popular fescue blends, are putting on a spurt of growth now. Mow often so that you are never removing more than a third of the total height of the grass blade. Reduce the frequency of watering by 50% to 75% as the weather cools.



Iceland Poppies can be planted in November

In November

Plant -

Put in transplants after a light rain during calm conditions to make digging easier and help roots with hydration. Plant seeds just before a light rain on a calm day.

Cool season annuals like calendula (it's edible), Iceland poppy, snapdragon and viola can still be planted.

Bulbs can still be planted. Choose those bulbs that are plump and firm, and rhizomes or corms that feel heavy. Avoid soft or shriveled

bulbs. Plant bulbs at least twice as deep as their height.

Plant blueberries in acidic soil, preferably on the east side of a building for afternoon shade. They will succeed wherever you have azaleas that are doing well.

Maintenance -

Leave dahlia stems in place until spring. Some recommend cutting stems to about 3 inches and then covering them during the rainy season

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Community Connections—El Dorado School Garden

Patty A. Gray, Master Gardener

"People change through relationships - lasting and vulnerable and powerful relationships." This is the philosophy that drives Emma Schyberg's passion for working to support the students, teachers, and parents of El Dorado Elementary School in their school garden.

The El Dorado school garden was created about 20 years ago, but as so often happens with school and community gardens, it proved difficult to maintain and fell into disuse over time. There was no activities budget to support the garden, teachers had no capacity to keep up with it, and no ready pool of volunteers materialized to maintain it.

Through Restore Stockton, a local non-profit organization, Emma Schyberg and her colleague Kent Horner started working with El Dorado school officials about six years ago to revive the garden. The garden has good infrastructure - ten raised beds surrounded by a fence, with drip irrigation installed. But the challenge came in setting up a stable program that will continue from year to year. For Emma, the key is in making a commitment to "transformative and meaningful relationships" in a community context.



El Dorado School children planting potatoes as Master Gardener Debi Howell looks on.

"If we catch kids early in their curiosity and their development and their growth, and we can foster that, it transcends the garden to all parts of life," she said. "That desire to slow down, to look at the world around them, to engage with the details of life, to be a good steward, to care for the things around them, to cultivate their environment in any aspect, those are things that go beyond the garden."

The garden is available to all El Dorado teachers and their students, but it was a core of older kids who kept coming back, so Emma and Kent formed a weekly after-school garden club for them. They find it especially therapeutic for the middle-school-aged students. "They're at a tender age where they need to belong," says Emma "and they found a place to belong in garden club."

Through the club, El Dorado students are mentored by older students from surrounding high schools, many of them El Dorado alumni who came through the garden club themselves. The kids learn all aspects of gardening maintenance, and they can take produce home to share with their families. Parents are drawn into garden club, too. When they come to pick up their children afterwards, the kids are often elbow-deep in gardening tasks, and are excited to show their parents what they've been up to.



The El Dorado School Garden consists of 10 beds at the corner of N. Lincoln Street and W. Harding Way in Stockton.

One San Joaquin Master Gardener has played a pivotal role in the weekly garden club: Debi Howell (class of 2016). Emma says Debi has a knack for communicating with the kids, and for getting them to taste garden produce by baking them - as surprise ingredients - into tasty treats. She also brings valuable gardening expertise in support of the garden.

In addition to the weekly after school garden club, there are also Family Garden Workdays, which typically happen once a month on a Saturday. Participants are mainly family members of El Dorado students, but teachers and staff also turn out, and these lively garden days are open to the whole community. In this sense, says Emma, the garden really is a community garden and not just a school garden. Regular volunteers are always welcome, although this requires going through the Stockton Unified School District volunteer certification process. Those interested can contact Emma@RestoreStockton.com for more information.



Emma Schyberg (second from left) and Kent Horner (top right) at an El Dorado Garden Club meeting with students and mentors.



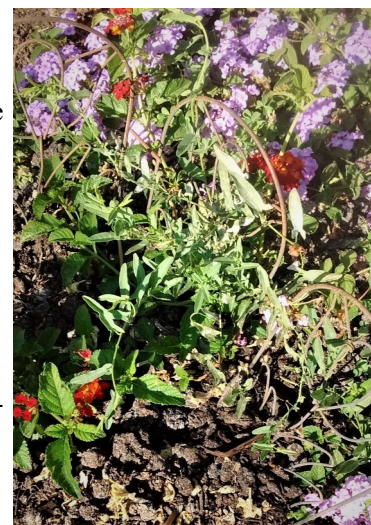
A bumper crop of root vegetables from the El Dorado School Garden

Pests of the Season

Regina Brennan, Master Gardener

Weeds: *Management*

According to experts in weed management, there are two types of weeds: Dry season and wet season weeds. What gardener hasn't been startled by the sudden emergence of weeds everywhere after the first good rain? Having a plan to keep on top of weeding is a must. Hand weeding and hoeing done on a regular basis saves time as well as stress on your body. As we grow older, we are less inclined to bend over at the waist to pull newly emerged weeds, as we know we will pay a price in back pain and stiffness. There are a number of tools available that have sharp blades that are excellent at cutting weeds below the surface. There are other times when nothing but getting down on your knees and hand pulling a perennial weed like bindweed out of the middle of an established plant will do. (See picture) For these moments, use a garden kneeler with handles to help you get back up. Don't let the weeds win. Persistence is the foundation of weed management. [UC IPM Pest Notes Publication 7441](#), Weed Management in Landscapes is an excellent resource.



Weeds in Lantana

Pest: *Ants*



Ants play a dual role in the garden. It is important to be aware of where ants are and what they are doing to determine what action, if any, needs to be taken. On the plus side, ants feed on fleas, caterpillars and termites. They are busy workers eliminating trash such as dead insects and decomposing tissue from dead organisms. On the downside, ants protect and care for honeydew-producing insects such as aphids, soft scales, white flies, and mealybugs, increasing damage from these pests. Honeydew is a sweet, sticky liquid that plant-sucking insects secrete as they ingest large quantities of sap from a plant. When the insects have taken all the nutrients they need, they excrete the rest as "honeydew." Ants are attracted to honeydew as a source of food. They will fight any intruders that threaten the sucking insect producers of this prize. Eliminating ants can allow the return of

predators and parasites to begin feeding on the damage-inflicting population. Ants can be kept away by applying a sticky compound around the trunk of the affected plant. If the populations of honeydew-producing insects fails to decline, apply horticultural oils, neem oil, or insecticidal soap to suppress the problem insects. Honeydew attracts not only ants, but several species of fungi, such as *Ants play a dual role in the garden* sooty mold. [UCANR Pest Note 7411](#)

Disease: *Sooty Mold*

Sooty mold can be seen throughout the garden wherever honeydew from sucking insects exists. Sooty mold is the common name applied to several species of fungi that grow on honeydew secretions on plant parts and other surfaces. A careful review of garden plants can reveal the presence of sooty mold, which is a dark thread-like growth that gives the appearance of being covered with a layer of soot. Sooty mold doesn't infect plants, but can indirectly damage the plant by coating the leaves to the point that it reduces or inhibits sunlight penetration. This condition, in turn, can lead to plant growth being stunted. Coated leaves also might prematurely age and die, causing premature leaf drop. Control of sooty molds begins with managing the insect creating the honeydew. Ant management is required if they are present, in order to enable the natural beneficial insects to eradicate the honeydew producing insects. In some instances, if necessary, sooty molds can be washed off with a strong stream of water or soap and water. [UNANR Pest Note 74108](#)



Sooty Mold

Plants of the Season

Lee Miller, Master Gardener

TREE: The Autumn Blaze Maple is a popular new tree introduction and was the winner of the 2003 and 2004 Urban Tree of the Year award, primarily for its tough disease-and-insect resistant characteristics. It has brilliant fall foliage with low maintenance and high disease resistance. They don't drop seed pods and they resist high winds and tolerate a wide range of soil conditions and climates. It is a hybrid of red and silver maples, but surpasses both of them in looks with great characteristics such as brilliant red color, dense branching, and rapid growth, averaging 3 feet per year.

The University of Minnesota Extension indicates the Autumn Blaze Maple produces better and brighter red hues when they have a lot of sunlight; hence if you do plant this tree looking for good fall colors, you should find an area that has plenty of sunshine. There are some complaints about roots lifting hardscape, so avoid planting near sidewalks. It also may require some thinning of branches to let light into the center as it tends to develop dense branchings.



SHRUB: Sunset Manzanita. This description is mostly from Las Pilitas Nursery which grows only native plants. Sunset Manzanita is a sprawling, evergreen shrub that commonly grows three feet high and six feet wide. If you shear the top a few times, the plant can be easily held to two feet high. Sheer the sides and you can make a 5-foot hedge. This hybrid manzanita is a cross of *Arctostaphylos hookeri* and *Arctostaphylos pajaroensis*. Sunset manzanita has dark red bark, white flowers (with a little pink), and bright bronze red new growth. Sunset manzanita has some of the good color of *Arctostaphylos pajaroensis* but is more drought tolerant, better looking the rest of the year, neater, more compact, doesn't need to be pruned, etc. So... if you like the color use *Arctostaphylos pajaroensis* 'Paradise' manzanita, but if you're doing a smaller area, like uniformity, or don't

like the idea of pruning, use 'Sunset' manzanita. This natural hybrid needs good drainage (but tolerates clay well) and is found on sandy hills in Monterey County. It had done well in adobe and many of the San Joaquin Valley soils. It is a good foundation plant and is stunning against a brick wall, redwood fence, or on a slope as a tall, large area ground cover. In coastal plantings, it has looked good and performed well for 20 years with no extra water required. This plant looks nice for decades.

PERENNIAL: Holiday Cactus. There are two species to enjoy this holiday season from the Family Cactaceae. Thanksgiving cactus (*Schlumbergera truncate*; synonym: *Zygocactus truncate*) usually blooms in late November. The Christmas cactus, (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) synonyms are (*Zygocactu x buckleyi* and *Epiphyllum x buckleyi*) blooms in December. The nomenclature is a bit confusing, but most of us have experienced the beautiful blooms of these plants although they don't always bloom at holiday time. The plants are native to Central and South America. They belong to the cactus family, Cactaceae, but fortunately, these plants have no spines. The Cactaceae consists of around 90 genera and some 1,500 to 1,800 species. The tubular flower comes in several colors: purple, fuchsia, salmon, red, pink, or white. The green, flattened, leaf-like structures that are actually modified stem segments, are called cladodes. These plants are long lived, with 100-year-old plants still blooming. They are most easily propagated from a piece of the stem after blooming, but can also be divided, [click here to see how](#).



Top Ten Habits of Happy and Successful Gardeners (Part 2)

Sue Davis, Master Gardener

The top five habits were published in our summer newsletter. If you missed it, you can [find it here](#).

Habit Number 6: Water Intentionally and With Both Hands

Hand water your garden occasionally. It allows you to see the level of moisture in the soil firsthand, so you can adjust watering accordingly.

Water with both hands. Carry a trowel or cultivator in one hand, and the hose in the other. Water the area, and let the water sink in.



Then, with the trowel or cultivator, dig down into the soil in several places. Be sure to check down several inches. Has the water penetrated all the soil? Often, especially when watering soil that has been dry for a while, we grossly underestimate the amount of water needed to really soak the soil.

Visualize the root zone. Your goal with intentional watering is to get the water to penetrate the root zone of the plant.

Watering intentionally means you should pay attention to your sprinkler and drip systems. Reset the timers as appropriate for the season. Maintain them, make sure broken or clogged parts are fixed and

that they work properly.

With containers, often the water simply slides right down between the root-ball and the side of the pot. If the soil is very dry, the root-ball shrinks and repels water. The best solution for watering very dry containers is to put the whole pot into a bucket, fill it with water to the top of the root-ball, and leave it overnight.

Habit Number 7: Control snails and slugs

When you see your plants ravaged with huge raggedy holes in the leaves or silvery traces crisscrossing the driveway in the morning, you have snails.

Many happy and successful gardeners go out in the night to hunt snails. A successful snail hunter says, "If you have insomnia, you can either think about the snails eating your garden, or you can get up and put a stop to it."

- Hunt at night with a flashlight or a headlamp.
- Have a bucket half full of water with a squirt of dish detergent.
- Search your entire yard. Do this often. You will soon discover the snail "hot spots."
- Pick them up and drop in the bucket.
- Night hunting is best after a spring rain when the snails are most active.
- When you are done with the hunt, leave the bucket outside overnight. In the morning dump it in the compost or in the garden. The soap is not harmful.



If you are diligent, after several hunts you will have reduced the population considerably. After a few years, you will have very little snail problem at all, and your hunts will be short and much less disgusting.



Slugs present a slightly different problem. Slugs don't have convenient handles, so picking them up is hard. Beer traps work well for slugs, but be sure to clean them out and fill with new beer after a few days.

What about snail bait? SLUGGO is made of an iron phosphate active ingredient with bait additives. Go ahead and use it if you prefer--it is safe and effective, and non-toxic to wildlife and pets. Avoid using metaldehyde baits (Correy's, Deadline) which are highly toxic to animals.

Habit Number 8: Never Let a Weed Go To Seed

Weeds are survivors. Weeds often have high rates of seed production, hard seed coats, or underground rhizomes or bulbs that allow them to remain viable for years.

There are many types of weeds. Like your garden plants, they can be classified into annuals and perennials, even shrubs and trees. Annual weeds pop up in your garden over and over. When these weeds are little they look just like baby garden seedlings. They compete with garden plants for light, water and nutrition, and they will win the fight if you don't join the battle.

In most soil there is a collection of weed seeds that have accumulated over decades. weed ecologists call this a 'seed bank.' Weed seeds can lie dormant in the soil for years until conditions favor germination. For example, seeds of chickweed and mustards can remain viable for 10 years, purslane up to 40 years and curled dock over 80 years!

Keep the weed seed bank in mind as you garden. Whenever you see a weed about to go to seed, remember that one weed's deposit to the seed bank is thousands of seeds that may last in the soil for many

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Can this be Recycled?

Trish Tremayne, Master Gardener

According to the EPA, we recycle only 30% of eligible materials. Because recycling saves both material and energy, if we increased our national rate to just 60% we could save the energy equivalent of 315 million barrels of oil year.

Where to start? It's important to know what can be recycled and what your local recycler will take. Let's start with what can be recycled.

Grass clippings and garden waste - Most can be composted into food for you soil. Or many communities have green cans that are picked up by the city and composted.

Food Waste - When food decomposes anaerobically, it produces methane, a greenhouse gas which is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Americans generate 96 billion pounds of food waste each year. Food waste and grass clippings decomposing in our landfills are the second largest manmade source of methane in the United States. Start by not purchasing more food that you can consume before it spoils. Freeze or can excess food to preserve it. This saves money and time shopping. Composting or Vermicomposting are the best ways to recycle food waste. And the added benefit is that you end up with valuable fertilizer for you garden.

Glass - There is high demand for recycled glass and it can be recycled an indefinite number of times. It may need to be sorted by color; check with your recycling facility.

Aluminum Cans - Can be recycled and indefinite number of times.

Aluminum Foil, foil pans - They can be recycled, but they must be clean.

Steel Cans - They can be recycled, but they must be clean.

Newspaper and Cardboard Packaging - highly recyclable. Keep clean and dry.

Plastics - Most have an identifying label, but what does it mean?

#1 PET and #2 HDPE - These plastics are recycled the most. Plastic bottles, many yogurt, cottage cheese, and sour cream tubs are made from this plastic.

#3 PVC, #5PP, #6 PS - These can be recycled, but there is little demand. Check with your recycling center to see if they take this type of plastic.

#4 LDPE Most plastic grocery bags are made from this type of plastic. Your market may recycle them for you.

Styrofoam (polystyrene) - These food trays, egg cartons, etc., can be recycled, but not many centers except them.

What to do? We are all familiar with the phrase "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" lets change that to: "Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Reclaim"

The EPA estimates that Americans generate 78 million tons of packaging waste a year. Refuse to buy products with excessive packaging. Choose a refillable, stainless steel water bottle over plastic bottles. Avoid single serve disposable containers. Check to see if the packaging can be easily recycled. Many cleaning products come in refillable bottles; refilling from a jug saves packaging and a trip to the store. Buying concentrates where you add water before use saves both packaging and fuel because they weigh less to ship.

Reduce the amount disposable plates and plastic ware you use. Do you really need a straw in you drinking water at a restaurant? Consider using cloth napkins rather than paper. They feel luxurious and many fabrics don't need to be ironed and require minimum care. Reuse plastic bags and other items before recycling them. Freeze soups and stews in recycled jars. Milk cartons can be cut in half and used to start seedlings for the garden.

Reclaim items and use them for secondary purposes. Plastic jars that originally held food are food grade and can be used to package foods that you in buy in bulk. They can also be used as storage containers for nails and other small items in the tool shed. Do you make candy or cookies to give as gifts? Be creative and decorate jars to use as packaging for these gifts. Check out Pinterest for ideas and save money to boot! And of course, recycle everything that you can.

Did you know? Thirty-six recycled plastic water bottles can make 1 square yard of carpet. Clothing can also be made from recycled plastic. At the Grand Canyon this summer I bought a soft comfortable shirt made from 6 ½ recycled water bottles.

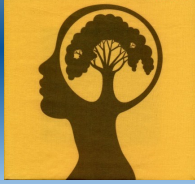
Recycling 1 ton of newspaper saves the equivalent of seventeen 40-foot-tall Douglas fir trees. If we all do our part, we can make Mother Earth much happier!

Links to recycling in San Joaquin County:

[City of Ripon](#) [City of Manteca](#) [City of Stockton](#) - Public Works › Garbage & Recycling

[City of Lathrop](#) [City of Lodi](#) [City of Escalon](#) - [City of Tracy](#)





Growing Knowledge

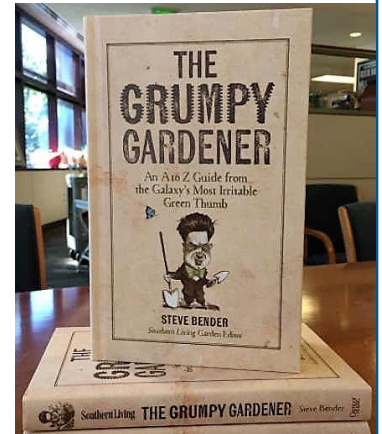
John Giehl, Master Gardener

A Review of The Grumpy Gardener

This handbook, authored by Steve Bender, garden editor at Southern Living Magazine, offers suggestions and recommendations for over two hundred yard- and plant-related issues including climate, soil, hydration, flowers, vegetables, shrubs, trees, diseases, and insects. Novice gardeners will find the content informative and veteran gardeners should find the writing style entertaining. The manual is presented in equal measures of "do" and "don't." Sautéed in folk wisdom, asides and anecdotes, this topical book is a fun read. The comprehensive table of contents and 500+ item index provides multiple points of easy entry.

A sampling from Mr. Bender's alphabetically arranged horticultural potpourri follows:

- A. Awful Plants. This list includes Privet, Bradford Pear, Gold Euonymus, and Red tip Photinia.
- B. Black Gunk. Symptom: found on leaves and stems. Cause: sooty mold fungus. Treatment: Neem Oil.
- C. Crepe Myrtle. Symptom: White fungus on leaves. Cause: powdery mildew. Treatment: Neem Oil.
- D. Daffodils, Dahlias, and Daisies. Good for vase display. Need deadheading, and staking.
- E. Electric bug zappers. They indiscriminately kill all insects - even beneficials.
- F. Fertilizer container code. The first digit = nitrogen, the second = phosphorous, and the third = potassium.
- G. Gardenia leaf disease. Symptom = black sooty mold; treatment = spray with horticultural oil.
- H. Hydrangea. Grows to 6' in height and width. Tolerates heat, drought, pests. Lengthy Bloom.
- I. Impatiens. "One of the greatest garden flowers of all time." Loves shade. Good from spring until frost.
- J. Japanese anemone. A "favorite perennial." Green all summer long with pink blossoms in autumn.
- K. Kale. Underrated yet nutritious. Contains vitamins A, C, K, fiber and minerals. Good fall through winter.
- L. Lantana. Non- stop color. Prospers in heat and drought. Varieties from 12" by 12" to 5' by 5'.
- M. Manure. Cow and/or chicken. Releases microbes and encourages earthworms.
- N. Native plants. Beware. Some touted as native are not and others are quite messy. Do your homework.
- O. Oleander. Likes hot, arid Mediterranean climate. Remain vigilant as this plant can grow to 20' high.
- P. Pet-toxic plants. Produce tasty berries, fruit, nuts, flowers, and seeds like Chinaberry, Castor or Lilly.
- Q. Queen Mum Agapanthus. 3' high drought-tolerant perennial with soft, ball size blooms in violet and white.
- R. Rhododendron. Grows to 8' high and 8' wide. Enjoys loose, acidic, well-drained soil. Heat tolerant varieties available. Needs intermittent shadow and dappled light.
- S. Shade-loving perennials. Included are hosta, heuchera, Lenten rose, hardy begonia, variegated Solomon's Seal, Japanese anemone, toad lily, Lungwort, and ferns.
- T. Ten troublesome plants. These are deemed high maintenance, fussy, and not worth the time, effort, and worry. The author's list includes: African daisy, Drooping Leucothoe, Garden Verbena, hybrid tea rose, Gerbera daisy, Japanese Painted Fern, Plume Cockscomb, and sour weed.
- U. "Ugly Agnes". Nickname for Thorny Elaeagnus which spurts to 20' high and 20' wide. This fast-growing evergreen shrub demands constant pruning and proves almost impossible to kill.
- V. Vegetables for autumn. Salad greens grow quickly, easily and afford a maximum return. In this mix are radicchio, endive, escarole, lettuce, mustard, radishes, arugula, and Bloomsdale long-standing spinach.
- W. Winterize. Anticipate the first frost warning: relocate semi-tropical plants, remove dead summer vegetation, adjust sprinklers, and mulch over marginally hardy plants.
- X. Xeriscape. Use mulch, soaker hoses and drip irrigation to conserve water. The author favors succulents, agave yucca, sedum, and cacti.
- Y. Yucca. There are two types: a stemless large clump and a shrub that has 6' spikes. The latter blooms spring thru summer and has white bell shape blooms. It thrives in full sun with little water.
- Z. Zinnia. Annual that likes heat, sun, and is drought- tolerant. Grows to 4' high with 5" flowers. Good for cutting, attracts butterflies, and resists insects. Avoid wetting leaves – it invites powdery mildew.



**UC Master Gardeners do not endorse all of the authors practices. Please contact the Master Gardener Helpline at 209-953-6100 if you have gardening questions.*

Cover Crops – They Aren’t Just for Farmers Anymore

Susan Mora Loyko, Master Gardener

Cover crops have long been used by farmers in an “off growing season” to improve soil and provide other benefits to the land. Home gardeners are now learning when their soil loses fertility and structure after a healthy growing season, they too can reap the benefits of fall-planted cover crops to improve the soil in their gardens and so much more.

Whether in a large garden, a patch of ground, or a few raised beds, cover crops can revitalize growing areas. Cover crops can increase the soil’s organic matter, water permeability, soil pore spaces, nutrient-holding capacity, and improve soil structure. Not only are cover crops fairly easy to plant and grow, most can be almost ignored after seeding.

Many home gardeners often leave their growing beds dormant during the cold winter months. And that is the perfect time for cover crops because they require very little attention. Once planted, a cover crop will grow and flower through the winter months. When it’s time to begin thinking of spring planting, the grown cover crop plants can easily be cut, mowed or turned over in the beds by forking or spading, and left to decompose like a mulch to help replenish the soil. Remaining roots and stems can be left in the soil to decompose.

Commonly grown cool-season cover crops, generally planted in the fall after the summer crop is finished, include legumes like clovers (berseem, rose, and crimson), field peas, sweet clover, and the vetches (common, hairy, smooth, Lana are common examples). The familiar fava bean can be used as a cover crop as well. A small-seeded version called the bell bean can also be used. Other non-legume cool-season cover crops are the mustards.

Leguminous cover crops convert nitrogen gas from the atmosphere to organic nitrogen with the help of symbiotic bacteria. This organic nitrogen can then become available for plants after microbial decomposition of cover crop residues, adding nitrogen to the subsequent crop and reducing the need for fertilizer.

The use of cover crops can also limit nitrogen losses by taking up residual soil nitrogen that could otherwise be lost through leaching. Cover crops can increase soil water retention by increasing infiltration capacity and reducing surface runoff.

For organic or organic-leaning gardeners, the nitrogen provided by the legume cover crops promotes improved soil quality with their deeply penetrating roots. In addition, cover crops can successfully reduce runoff of water and nutrients by anchoring the soil during the rainy season. Cover crops can reduce soil compaction and improve soil texture in clay soils for better water retention and more controlled drainage.



Inter-planting with ryegrass, buckwheat or another spreading cover crop is considered a good practice.

Believe it or not, cover crops can help with the air we breathe. The consistent use of cover crops in the gardens over time can increase soil carbon sequestration, a process by which carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere. In addition, cover crops and their flowers will attract beneficial pollinators which will lead to more biological activity.

Another good reason to plant a cover crop is to alternate the type of vegetation grown in the soil. Crop rotation not only allows gardeners to diversify their harvest, important for healthy soil, but it also reduces the possibility of pests or pathogens from gaining a foothold.

A few cover crops, such as peas and fava beans, are even edible.



The familiar fava bean can also be used as a cover crop.

These legumes are also nitrogen fixers, feeding the soil. However, they do not spread much, so inter-planting with ryegrass, buckwheat or another spreading cover crop is considered a good practice.

Cover crops are fairly easy to grow over a winter season and can often help to reduce weeds, reduce soil-borne diseases and nematodes (parasitic worms), control erosion and dust, and reduce muddy areas during wet weather (when planted in walking areas of the yard). Seeds can be raked in, planted in rows or beds, and in some cases, just you can just throw the beans or seeds onto the soil. After planting, water lightly but thoroughly. The top of the soil should be kept moist for up to a week of continual

moisture. Soil should drain well. Lightly cover the area with leaves or straw to keep it moist. Take care to avoid weed seeds. Some cover crops will need occasional attention as they can take over the garden or planted area. For example, mustard can reseed profusely. Then step back and watch the plants grow.

With just a little attention, fall cover crops can help your garden grow, improve soil health, reduce erosion, keep more carbon dioxide out of the air we breathe, and help next spring’s fruits, veggies, and flowers look better than ever and taste delicious.

Top Ten Habits of Happy and Successful Gardeners (Part 2)

(cont. from page 6)

Sue Davis, Master Gardener

years. That thought alone should be enough to get you to pull that weed out of the ground.

Chemicals for weed control should be the last resort. Never use them in a vegetable garden. If you do choose to go that route, follow all label directions. Herbicides should be used only on actively growing weeds. Using an herbicide on a weed that has already gone to seed is a waste of time, money, and chemicals.



Habit Number 9: Attract Beneficial Insects

Among the insects in your garden there are basically two kinds of eaters: vegetarians and carnivores. When we see a bug eating our roses, our first instinct is to kill it, often with some kind of noxious chemical spray.

Nature offers a better route. What we need to do is to invite the carnivorous insects back into the garden. These voracious little creatures will eat the aphids and parasitize the hornworms, mangle the mites, and crunch the caterpillar eggs, killing them so they do less damage to our plants. In gardeners' parlance, you want a balance between the "good bugs" (beneficials), and the "bad bugs" (pests). When balance is achieved, there will be much less damage to plants.

Beneficial insects can be encouraged by providing sources of nectar and pollen--in other words, flowers. Most beneficial insects are very small, they appreciate tiny flowers in their scale.



Many of the "bad bugs" are actually the larval stage of "good bugs." The syrphid fly larvae look like tiny green worms, and the larvae of lacewings and lady beetles look almost like tiny alligators. Larvae eat the most aphids!

Learn to tolerate some insect damage as a minor but necessary evil for attracting beneficials. When you spot aphids on a plant, don't immediately kill them all off. Aphids appear first, then the carnivorous insects move in to eat them.

Above all, do not use toxic pesticides. They kill the beneficials as well as the pests, completely defeating your purpose. Often use of pesticides results in rebound or secondary infestations that are worse than the original problem.

Habit Number 10: Linger in the Garden

"Linger: to stay in a place longer than necessary, typically because of a reluctance to leave."

Horticultural Terms—Chilling Requirement

Julia Schardt, Master Gardener

Tree Crop	Chilling Hours
Almond	400-700
Apricot	350-1000
Cherry	600-1400
Grape	100-500
Pear	600-1500
Peach	200-1200
Pistachio	800-1000
Plum	700-1800
Walnut	400-1500

A complex chemistry informs the life of every plant. Home gardeners can see the evidence when fruit trees, long-since harvested, show their leaves turning color and ready to drop.

With fall's shorter and cooler days, some plants produce growth inhibitor hormones which stop them from growing. These hormones maintain the plant's dormancy during winter months. Normal growth doesn't resume until enough **chill hours** are achieved to break down growth inhibitors within the plant. **Chill hours** are the number of hours within a season a plant must be exposed to temperatures between 32° and 45° before dormancy is broken.

A specific number of **cumulative chill hours** is the **chilling requirement** necessary to break dormancy. When adequate chill numbers have been achieved and plants are exposed to longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures in the spring, the natural growth processes resume.

The cumulative chill hours required are determined by the species and variety of the plant. Insufficient chill time can prolong blossoming, cause buds to deteriorate or drop off, and inhibit or prevent

flowering (which means no fruit). Too much chill time, on the other hand, can end the process of dormancy too early and subject the plant, its flowers and fruit to freeze damage.

Plants that have a Chilling Requirement for good blossom production include fruit and nut trees, most bulb plants, and some vegetables (e.g., cabbage, carrots, celery). Nurseries usually include descriptions of chill hours necessary for fruit and nut trees.

For other plant species, gardeners might have to do their own research.

Find some low chill tree varieties for the Central Valley here: [Low Chill Fruit Trees](#). Find more information about chill hours in the Central Valley here: [Chill Calculators/San Joaquin County](#).

The Help Desk—Nutria in the Delta

Lee Miller, Master Gardener

What Do We Know and How Can We Help With the Invasion of Nutria

The following is mostly condensed from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) press release. The CDFW coordinates with other government agencies and non-governmental organizations to reduce introduced non-native species impacts or eliminate them from the waterways and wildlands of California.

Nutria are large, semi-aquatic rodents native to South America that are considered one of the world's worst invasive species. They were introduced to the U.S. for the fur trade in 1899 and were present in the Central Valley and South Coast of California in the 1940s-1950s, but were eradicated from the state in the 1970s. Nutria reach up to 2.5 feet in body length and weigh over 20 pounds. They strongly resemble native beaver and muskrat, except that they have white whiskers and round tails. They can reach sexual maturity as early as four months of age and breed year-round. A female nutria can give birth to more than 200 offspring within a year of reaching reproductive maturity. Nutria have devastating impacts on wetland habitats, agriculture, and water conveyance/flood protection infrastructure.



In March 2017, a pregnant nutria was captured in a wetland southeast of Gustine, Merced County. From March 2017 through March 2018, more than 50 nutria have been captured or confirmed in Merced, Stanislaus, Fresno, Tuolumne, Mariposa, and San Joaquin counties in canals, rivers, and wetlands. Nutria burrow into banks and levees and can consume up to 25% of their body weight in above-ground and below-ground plant material daily. An Interagency Nutria Response Team has been formed including CDFW, the California Departments of Food and Agriculture, Parks and Recreation, and Water Resources, as well as federal agency counterparts and local agricultural commissioner offices. An eradication plan is being developed, modeled after the successful Chesapeake Bay Nutria Eradication Project. They will try to determine the extent of the invasion.

Recent nutria occurrences in the Delta include: 1) a Nutria found on 4/13/18 after a dog dragged it to a landowner's home approximately 0.1 mile off Old River and 1.25 linear miles (2.4 river miles) from the confluence with the San Joaquin River. Property owners delivered the carcass to the San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner on 4/16/18, who contacted CDFW. Veterinarians determined this animal was a male, approximately six months of age, and sexually mature. 2) Nutria captured by Lathrop Animal Services on 4/9/18 (reported to CDFW on 4/20/18), was netted under a vehicle in a residential neighborhood 0.5 mi off the San Joaquin River. Animal Services did not identify the animal but photographed it, and unfortunately released it back to the San Joaquin River.

If you positively identify a nutria and have the means of killing it, that would seem to be a wise move. If you spot one, kill one and/or photograph it so you can report it to CDFW. For reporting information and nutria identification characteristics, [click here](#).

UC San Joaquin Master Gardener Learning Landscape

Cherie Sivell, Master Gardener

It was a gorgeous September morning when I visited the Demo Garden for this edition. As you can see the red butterfly roses, white iceberg roses, coral yucca, hot lips salvia and, Karl Foerester grasses in the All Star garden make quite a picture. Also, the Chinese Flame tree (Koelreuteria bipinnata) in the entry garden is showing off its multi-colored fruit capsules (similar to paper lanterns). Colors range from orange to soft pink, to yellow. The other gardens have much to offer as well, including the Edibles which has a fine crop of pumpkins and cherry tomatoes on display. We will be having another Open Garden Day on Sat. Oct. 13th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Come out and join the fun, watch the Master Gardeners at work, and bring your questions. See [page 17](#) for more info!



Save the Date!

Fall Open Garden Day with the
San Joaquin UC Master Gardeners!

Saturday, October 13th

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

San Joaquin UC Master Gardener
Learning Landscape (Demo Garden)
2101 E. Earhart Ave., Stockton, 95206

Master Gardeners will be available to
answer your gardening questions!

We will have:

- Information tables on landscape trees, CA native plants, composting, vegetable gardening, pest management and more!
- Tool sharpening (limit 3 tools please)
- UC horticulture publications for sale (cash or check only please)
- Light refreshments will be provided

If you have any questions, please call
209-953-6112. This event is free.



UC IPM website



Integrated pest management, or "IPM," is a process you can use to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment. IPM can be used to manage all kinds of pests anywhere. [Click here for more info.](#)

A Taste of the Season

Julie Hyske, Master Gardener

What's not to fall in love with fall recipes? The air has gathered a crispness that just lends itself to roasted meats, garden vegetables, and baked goods warm out of the oven. This recipe selection embodies a taste of fall perfect for a family gathering or simply elegant enough for company. The apple salsa delivers a scrumptious freshness to the roasted pork, the vegetable medley is a savory accompaniment and the warm pumpkin spices in the Bundt cake bring together a whole level of happiness and comfort to the table!

Roast Pork with Apple-Walnut Salsa Serves 14-16

Ingredients

1 5-7 pound bone-in pork shoulder roast
Salt
Freshly ground pepper
1-2 tbsp olive oil

Apple-Walnut Salsa

4 red and/or green tart eating apples, cored and finely chopped
1 cup walnuts, toasted and finely chopped
½ cup chopped fresh cilantro
½ cup finely chopped red onion
½ cup lemon juice
1 fresh jalapeno pepper, finely chopped and seeded if desired
2 tbsp honey or pure maple syrup
1 tbsp sunflower or other mild-flavored oil
2 cloves garlic, minced



Preheat oven to 300°. Trim fat from meat. Sprinkle meat generously with salt and pepper (don't be shy, as this is the meat's only seasoning). In a very large cast-iron skillet, brown roast about 5 minutes on each side in hot oil over medium-high heat. Drain. Transfer roast to a rack in a roasting pan. Roast for 4 to 5 hours or until meat is very tender (195°). Remove from oven and let stand 20 to 30 minutes before slicing.

While meat roasts, prepare the salsa: In a medium bowl, combine the apples, walnuts, cilantro, red onion, lemon juice, jalapeno, honey, sunflower oil and garlic. Chill, covered, until serving time. Serve with roasted, sliced pork.

Roasted Vegetable Medley Serves 7

Ingredients

3 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into small wedges
2 medium sweet red peppers, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 small butternut squash, peeled and cubed
2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
1 medium red onion, cut into wedges
3 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
2 tbsp minced fresh rosemary or 2 tsp dried rosemary, crushed
1 tbsp minced fresh thyme or 1 tsp dried thyme
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper



Preheat oven to 425°. In a large bowl, combine potatoes, red peppers, squash, sweet potato, and onion. In a small bowl, whisk oil, vinegar, and seasonings. Pour over vegetables and toss to coat. Transfer to a greased 15x10x1-in. baking pan. Bake, uncovered, 30-40 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally.

Pumpkin-Maple Swirl Bundt Cake Serves 12

Ingredients

1 package spice cake mix
1 package (3.4 ounces) instant vanilla pudding mix
4 large eggs
¾ cup pure maple syrup (not pancake syrup)
¼ cup canola oil
1 cup canned pumpkin (pumpkin purée, not pie filling)
¼ tsp salt
1 tbsp pumpkin pie spice

For the cream cheese swirl:

1 (8-ounce) package of cream cheese, softened
1 large egg
¾ cup confectioners' (powdered) sugar
1 tsp vanilla

Make the cake batter: First preheat your oven to 350° F. In a large bowl, break four eggs. Lightly beat them with a fork and add the rest of the Bundt cake ingredients.



Using an electric mixer, blend on low speed for about 30 seconds. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and increase mixer speed to medium, beating for a full two minutes. Make the cream cheese swirl: In a medium bowl, crack one egg and lightly beat it with a fork. Add the softened cream cheese, powdered sugar, and vanilla. Using your electric mixer blend the ingredients together. When no more clumps are visible, whip for a full minute until smooth, light, and creamy. Generously spray a 12 cup Bundt pan or a fluted tube pan. Into the pan, pour about half the cake batter. Add the cream cheese mixture in an even layer. Swirl a knife deep through the layers of cream cheese and cake batter. Make little loops as you move around the entire ring of batter in the pan. Now add the rest of the batter to the pan and level it off with the back of a spoon. Bake in a preheated oven at 350° F. for 40 to 50 minutes. If you're unsure, insert a toothpick into the cracked areas of the cake. Be careful not to over-bake. Cool for a full 30 minutes before removing the cake from the pan. Allow the cake to finish cooling before dusting with powder sugar or a glazing of choice.

Coming Events—Fall 2018

Corinne Bachle, Master Gardener

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 6, 11am

Seed Saving

In Season Market and Nursery
215 E. Alpine Avenue, Stockton

Saturday, October 13,

9am-Noon

San Joaquin Master Gardeners' Open Garden Day

Our Master Gardeners will be working in the Demonstration Garden doing what they love to do most...

GARDENING! We will have demonstrations in some of the

seven gardens (Foliage, Mediterranean, Edibles, Natives, Entrance Garden, Beneficials/Pollinators, and All-Stars). This event is free.

San Joaquin County Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Way, Stockton

Saturday, October 13, 1am

Kick Wheel Class for Stockton Arts Week

In Season Market and Nursery
215 E. Alpine Avenue, Stockton

Saturday, October 13, 9am-10am

\$10.00

Bulbs for Beginners

Beef up your understanding of bulbs – the optimum timing, kinds of bulbs, positioning for maximum impact, how to care for them while in the ground and after they come out, and how to divide.

Alden Lane Nursery,
Garden Store Deck,
981 Alden Lane, Livermore (925) 447-2080.

Saturday, October 20, 10:30am-Noon

Houseplants Made Easy

Please RSVP at (209) 953-6100 to reserve your seat and class materials. Space is limited.
Manteca Library, McFall Room
320 W. Center Street, Manteca

Saturday, October 20, 11am

Olive Curing with the Master Food Preservers

In Season Market and Nursery
215 E. Alpine Avenue, Stockton



Sunday, October 21, 11:30am – 1pm

Chicken Care

For additional information, please contact
Kenda Templeton, (925) 698-5304 or
ktempleton@puentesa.org

Boggs Tract Community Farm

46 S. Ventura Street,
Stockton

Saturday, October 21,

11am

Tie Dye Scarves with Theresa Baycca

In Season Market and Nursery
215 E. Alpine Avenue,
Stockton

Tuesday, October 23,

10:30am-Noon

Growing Fabulous Citrus

Please RSVP at (209) 953-6100 to reserve your seat and class materials.

San Joaquin County Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Avenue,
Stockton

Saturday, October 27,

10:30am-Noon

Selecting and Planting Landscape Trees

Please RSVP at (209) 953-6100 to reserve your seat and class materials. Space is limited.

Tracy Library
20 E. Eaton Avenue, Tracy



NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 3, 11am

Plant Propagation with Semi-Woody Perennials

In Season Market and Nursery
215 E. Alpine Avenue,
Stockton

Monday, November 5, 10-11:30 am

Houseplants Made Easy

Please RSVP at (209) 953-6100 to reserve your seat and class materials. Space is limited.

Lodi Library

201 W. Locust Street, Lodi

Saturday, November 10, 11am

Create a Fall Garden to Take Home.

\$20 class fee.

In Season Market and Nursery
215 E. Alpine Avenue, Stockton

Saturday, November 17, 11:30am-1pm

Perennial Vegetables

For additional information, please contact
Kenda Templeton, (925) 698-5304 or
ktempleton@puentesa.org

Boggs Tract Community Farm

46 S. Ventura Street, Stockton

Saturday, November 17, 10:30am-Noon

Winter Garden Chores

Please RSVP at (209) 953-6100 to reserve your seat and class materials. Space is limited.

Manteca Library, McFall Room
320 W. Center Street, Manteca

Saturday, November 24, 10:30am-Noon

Tool Care

Please RSVP at (209) 953-6100 to reserve your seat and class materials. Space is limited.

Tracy Library
20 E. Eaton Avenue,
Tracy

Tuesday, November 27, 10:30am-Noon

Abiotic Disorders and How to Diagnose Them

Please RSVP at (209) 953-6100 to reserve

your seat and class materials.

San Joaquin County Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Stockton

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 1, 11am

Make and Take a Holiday Bough. \$15 class fee.

In Season Market and Nursery
215 E. Alpine Avenue, Stockton

Saturday, December 8, 11am

Make a Nature Keepsake Ornament.

Family friendly activity. \$10.00.
In Season Market and Nursery
215 E. Alpine Avenue, Stockton

Saturday, December 15, 9-10am

Winter-Blooming Plants Don't think you

can have gorgeous color in the throws of grey winter? Think again! We will demonstrate color combinations that will knock your socks off!

Alden Lane Nursery, Garden Store Deck,
981 Alden Lane, Livermore (925) 447-2080.

Seeds: A Gift that Keeps on Giving

(cont. from page 1)

Norena Norton Badway, Master Gardener

market forces are regularly discussed. Although Baglietto's enterprise focuses on grain products, in meetings with other seed producers, Ray became aware of conditions in the vegetable seed market. Premier vegetable seeds have a limited shelf life: a use-by date is stamped on each packet of seeds even when they can be effective for a longer time period. At the end of each season, seeds that have not sold are removed from supply and dumped into landfills. For Ray, there were two problems with disposing of excess seeds. First, it was expensive to send them to a landfill. Second — an unpardonable sin to Ray — the seeds are wasted; no needy human being can benefit from those "tiny morsels of life". It was just common sense to Ray to connect surplus seeds with farmers from impoverished places.

As Ray was nearing retirement, he began looking for projects that could use his skills and keep him out of the house, and thus was born Seeds to the World. SEEDS is a non-profit, charitable organization that eschews government funding and bureaucracy. SEEDS is low-tech and informal: a telephone and notepad comprised the original equipment. Ray began spending lot of time on the telephone: he contacted packaged seed companies across the nation and agricultural charities across the world. Executives quickly saw advantages to donating surplus products: the cost to deliver seed packets to the Baglietto warehouse was offset from the cost of destruction. He made room in his warehouse to store seeds as they were donated. After 30 years, many of the donations to SEEDS comes in the form of small seed packets like we find at hardware stores, with photo, growing conditions, and harvest dates stamped on them. Logistics became a challenge; getting packets and bulk seeds across the world could have derailed SEEDS. Now that the organization receives 50-100 pallets of vegetable seeds annually, Ray uses every conduit he can find. For example, he has relied on an airline friend and the Airline Employees' Relief Organization to transport suitcases of seed packets to far off locations. Seeds sent to Lithuanian Children's Relief are trucked from California to New Jersey where they are loaded onto cargo ships to Riga, Latvia and then Vilnius, Lithuania by truck. Seeds delivered to farmers in Guatemala come by horseback for community and individual family gardens. Today, a variety of vegetable seeds are sent to over thirty countries characterized by poverty and low-self-sufficiency, but with large tracts of available land for cultivation.

Factors of Success

The factors that account for the success of SEEDS resonate with Master Gardeners. The first factor, often overlooked in agricultural research, has been "noticing." Ray attended trade association meetings and listened. Applying his vast experience with the information he was learning, he "noticed" a gap in excess supply in the US and scarcity in areas around the world. A second factor was utilizing existing friends to build a large network of supply and demand. This growing network helps identify locations where seeds can be accumulated, cargo companies that can help with transport, established charities in third world nations where the seeds will be reliably used, and other goods that might be useful to those charities. Ray has received calls from American organizations with bales of clothing and with new toys, and he uses his logistics networks to gather, store and distribute these collections as well. A fourth factor is the value of self-reliance for food. SEEDS believes that these little packets offer nutrition as well as a sense of empowerment for independence for a family's well being. Two other factors have been important. Dogged persistence — not taking "no" for an answer — has allowed Ray to expand the amount of seeds and other goods to gather and distribute. And finally, a deep-seated objection to waste of vital resources has driven the growth of SEEDS endeavors.

These success factors ring true to Master Gardeners. When Master Gardeners look at a program, individual specimen, yard or garden, they apply training and observation to "noticing" areas of concern. The association with other Master Gardeners reveals areas of expertise that each person brings, and an earthy delight in sprouting seeds thrills us. Perhaps above all, we share abhorrence for waste with Seeds to the World.

Reflections

This story of Seeds to the World has been satisfying to learn and share. It's an organization founded on values prominent among the Greatest Generation — self-reliance, waste-not, and persistence. It's an endeavor grounded in not relying on government or "someone else" to tackle solutions to large problems. SEEDS demonstrates what one person with determination (not to mention a vast background of experience and resources) can build to improve the world.

And finally, the story of SEEDS reminds us all how sharing with the next generation is essential for continuity. The Baglietto family has nurtured service and the joy of growing with children and grandchildren. I would argue that one of the most important accomplishments of Master Gardeners occurs when we teach children — our own or others — to get their fingers dirty, to observe the quality of soil and the many wiggles and seeds that depend on that soil, and the excitement of seeing a first sprout.

SEEDS has taken this mission to an international level by organizing a system for youth and adults across the world to have access to seeds and the nutrition they offer. In the process, we are all reminded of the vital nature of "master gardening" at all levels.

Sources

- <https://www.seedstotheworld.org>
- [The Success of Seeds 2017 Progress Report. https://www.seedstotheworld.org/success-stories/](https://www.seedstotheworld.org/success-stories/)
- Grant Baglietto, third generation Baglietto Seeds and Seeds to the World

Fall Garden Chores (cont. from page 2)

Sue Davis, Master Gardener

to prevent tuber rot. This seems like a lot of work when stems can be left unpruned so water doesn't invade easily.

Cover your [frost-sensitive plants](#) (being sure to keep covers from touching foliage) before sunset so that ground heat is preserved. Remove the covers during sunny days. Highly frost-sensitive plants such as Hibiscus and Begonia will be damaged at any temperature below 32 and will be killed by a freeze. Consider moving these plants to a greenhouse for the winter or your garage during cold spells.

Row covers and water-filled containers surrounding young vegetable seedlings offer a warmer nighttime environment.

Keep container plants watered because moist soil retains heat better than dry soil. Remove saucers from under your containers so pots can drain during rain.

Control earwigs and snails by reducing the dark, cool, moist places they favor and hand-pick or trap to eliminate them. Look for them under boards, pots, and broad leaf plants during the day.

Protect plants near your home from becoming waterlogged by extending rain gutters with flexible pipe. Save the water run off for landscape watering in the spring.

Check outdoor faucets and fix any that are dripping. Wrap exposed portion of the water pipes to protect them during freezing weather.

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

Apply dormant sprays to fruit trees after pruning. Spray after a period of rain or foggy weather – not during or just prior to freezing weather. Sprays are tree and pest specific - read labels and follow directions carefully.

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

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

December Notes

Plant -

[Camellias](#) are beginning to bloom now. Select a color and

bloom type to enhance a shady area.

Horseradish and rhubarb are available in local nurseries this month.

Acacia, columbine, flowering quince, foxglove, gaillardia, salvia, and winter Daphne are perennials to plant now for early spring bloom.

Bare root plants are arriving in nurseries. Fruit trees, grapevines, cane berries, roses, strawberries, artichoke, asparagus, and horseradish make nice gifts for family members who garden.

[Boysen, Marion, and Olallie are blackberries](#) that do well in the valley and should be available as bare root selections late this month. If you are going to add to or begin a rose garden, be sure to choose Grade 1 roses for vigorous first-year growth.

Poinsettias received as a holiday gift need the foil surrounding the pot removed to avoid root rot. Select one with an abundance of dark, rich green foliage that is undamaged, dense, and plentiful all the way down to the soil line. Display away from heater vents in a spot that gets bright, indirect light or outdoors under an overhang next to the house. Temperatures below 45 -50° can damage plants. Water when the top of the soil feels dry to the touch. Poinsettias can thrive inside through the winter when placed in a warm, sunny location, out of drafts. Water your poinsettias weekly; feed them monthly through April, then transplant them outdoors.

Living plants that make good holiday gifts and grow well indoors in a sunny window include basil, lavender, lemon balm, marjoram, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary, tarragon, and thyme.

Maintenance -

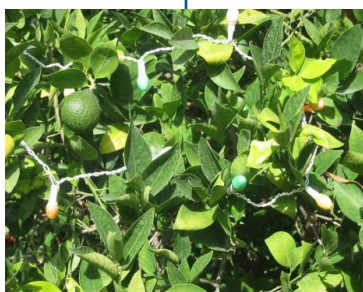
Citrus trees can handle frost, but need to be covered in a hard freeze. Be sure your cover does not touch the leaves of your tree. Little, twinkling holiday lights will keep your tree warm and add sparkle to your winter garden.

Inspect your garden after storms for broken branches, overturned pots, and wind damage.

Clean, sharpen, and oil your pruners so they'll be ready for the pruning season.

Clean and oil shovels, rakes, and other garden tools before putting them away for the winter.

Lawns need little care in December. Use the free time to plan your spring garden.



Twinkling holiday lights will keep your tree warm and add sparkle to your winter garden.

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- Light refreshments will be provided

If you have any questions, please call
209-953-6112. This event is free.



Have a gardening question? Call our hotline!

San Joaquin County Master Gardeners

Phone: 209-953-6112

2101 E. Earhart Ave.

Suite 200, Stockton, 95206

E-mail: anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu

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

Program Coordinator: Marcy Sousa 953-6100



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SHARPS COLLECTION PROGRAM

*Safely Dispose of Medical Sharps to
Protect Public Health and Safety*

SHARPS DISPOSAL GUIDELINES



What Are Considered Acceptable Sharps?

The following are considered Acceptable Medical Sharps: syringes, lancets, needles, auto-injectors and Epi-Pens



Sharps Must be in a Container

No loose sharps allowed. The FDA recommends using FDA-cleared containers. An empty household container that has no leaks, a puncture-proof lid, and is made of heavy-duty plastic may also be used.



Bring Container to a Drop-Off Location

Once sharps are collected in a container, drop off containers to an authorized Sharps drop-off location. Locations are listed below.

FREE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

STOCKTON

San Joaquin County Household Hazardous Waste Facility
7850 R.A. Bridgeford St.
Stockton, CA 95206
(209) 468-3066

El Dorado Drug Store
2005 E. Mariposa Rd.
Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 464-7722

Community Medical Center
701 E. Channel St.
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 944-4700

Community Medical Center

1031 Waterloo Rd.
Stockton, CA 95205
(209) 940-5600

St. Joseph's Medical Center
1800 N. California St.
Stockton, CA 95204
(209) 943-2000

LODI

Fairmont Pharmacy
1121 W. Vine St., Suite #13
Lodi, CA 95240
(209) 625-8633

Lodi Police Dept.
215 W. Elm St.
Lodi, CA 95240
(209) 333-6727

Community Medical Center
2401 W. Turner Rd. Suite #450
Lodi, CA 95242
(209) 370-1700

MANTECA

Manteca Police Dept.
1001 W. Center St.
Manteca, CA 95337
(209) 239-8401

Community Medical Center
200 Cottage Ave. Suite #103
Manteca, CA 95336
(209) 624-5800

Manteca Solid Waste Division
210 E. Wetmore St.
Manteca, CA 95337
(209) 456-8440

ESCALON

Vineyard Pharmacy & Gifts
1900 Mchenry Ave., Suite #202
Escalon, CA 95320
(209) 838-0511

RIPON

Ripon Police Dept.
259 N. Wilma Ave.
Ripon, CA 95366
(209) 599-2101

LOCKEFORD

Young's Payless IGA Markets
18980 N. Highway 88
Lockeford, CA 95237
(209) 727-3762

TRACY

Tracy Police Dept.
1000 Civic Center Dr.
Tracy, CA 95376
(209) 831-6550

Grant Line Pharmacy Incorporated
2160 W. Grant Line Rd., Suite #205
Tracy, CA 95377
(209) 832-2999

Tracy Recycling Buyback Center
590 E. 10th St.
Tracy, CA 95376
(209) 832-1024

Tracy Material Recovery Facility
30703 S. MacArthur Dr.
Tracy, CA 95376
(209) 832-2355



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