

Master Gardener News

Amador County

OCTOBER 2005



Your Co-Pres' Speak

Hello



MGs,

Here it is fall. A few months ago the most important tool or piece of equipment we needed was a weed eater. In a couple of weeks a leaf blower or a rake will be number one. My Oaks are already starting to drop their leaves.

The fall expo was a great success. Plant sales were very good and we had very positive feedback from the public attending the lectures. All of the MGs who spent their morning helping at the expo should be commended for their services. It's your effort that made this expo a success.

Just a reminder that the MGs are sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday Oct. 6th from 11am-6pm. It will be held at the Civic Center next to the police dept. in Jackson.

Co-President Dennis Miller

Last month I was out of town and missed getting my report in the newsletter. Sorry. Three days into fall and you can feel it in the cool mornings and mild days. My garden is looking like it has put in a long hot summer and is in need of a major makeover. But it's still a little early to put in my winter garden plants many of which are not yet in the nurseries. I'll just have to be patient for a few more weeks.

I would like to congratulate all the MGs that taught classes at the Fall Expo and everyone that sold plants, grew plants, sold calendars and assisted in all the many activities that made the Expo successful. Thank you. For all of you that missed the last meeting, we completed our calendar and it is for sale for \$12.00. Every MG needs one and it will make a great gift for your gardener friends. Sue, Rita, Marie and Janice spearheaded this project and Scott also provided assistance - A GREAT JOB!

Special thanks to Dennis for covering for me for the past two months. It's your turn now Dennis- have a great duck-hunting season.

Co-President Jack Lyall

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Oct. 6 – Thursday – **Blood drive**, 11am-6pm at Jackson Civic Center

Oct. 8 – Saturday – Public education class on **Planning, Planting and Caring for a Home Orchard**, 9:30am-noon at Ag office.

Oct. 18 – Tuesday – **MG Monthly Meeting**, 1:00 pm at Ag office. Speaker MG **Jerry Trottier**, “**Managing Ants and Weeds**”.

Oct. 22 – Saturday – Public education class on **Greenhouses and Plant Propagation**, 10am-noon at Ag office.

Secretary's Notes

SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

The meeting was held at the MG Office and was called to order by co-pres. Dennis Miller. Jim Harrington and Jerry Trottier recently attended an all-day seminar at UC Davis. The seminar covered (1) Online Internet resources for Master Gardeners, (2) Managing Ants, and (3) Managing Weeds. Jim provided a real-time Internet presentation on the Internet web site designed specifically as a resource for Master Gardeners. Next month, Jerry Trottier, will present the information on managing ants and weeds.

The presentation on the Internet web site was indeed interesting, if not a bit overwhelming. Jim likened using the program to drinking from a fire hose, there's so much coming at you. Clearly, this web site offers great search capabilities, once you learn your way around because there are so many possibilities, and so many choices. Jim sees it as a great tool for answering phone clinic and other questions on plant pests and diseases. It is possible, not only to research any plant-related question but also to forward the information to anyone else that has a email address. Here's the scenario: It's your phone clinic day, a call comes in about little green bugs that are all over the caller's roses. You ask all the right questions, get all the right answers and suspect the culprit might be aphids. So you go to www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/FAQ/mgipm.html and bring up the pest note on aphids. Then you speedily send it to the caller who has an email address. No licking envelopes, no stamps, no paper trail, no hang time, just so efficient. So welcome to the age of the Internet.

What else is there? For starters, there is the latest information on a multitude of topics by UC researchers. You can download power point presentations by IPM people. The most current pest notes are on file. There is a pest natural enemy plant ID, and a weed, turf grass and ant key with photos to ID what you don't know. There is also a Master Gardener

link with access to all counties in California and national information as well. There is great food crop information, ornamental and floriculture nurseries, interactive tools and models, degree-days, (when to look for insect outbreaks), workshops and events and much much more.

So thank you Jim for showing us how to take a giant step into the age of the Internet. Now it's our turn. Go to www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/FAQ/mgipm.html and get acquainted, if you haven't already done so.

Following Jim's presentation, Sue Harrington reported that the MG Calendar is ready and will be available at the Sept. 24, Expo. Cost is \$12.00, and is full of useful gardening advice, including information on drought tolerant plants and a vegetable planting guide by elevation. The upcoming plant sale was discussed. Plants are to be at the MG office by Friday afternoon between 2-3PM. Those helping with the sale should be at the office by 8:00AM, Saturday. Sale begins at 8:30 and a crowd is expected.

MG office received an email that there are free bulbs available but takers need to provide feedback on how the bulbs are doing, etc. Talk with Scott.

Foothill Garden Club is looking for a speaker on the subject of Oak Trees for their January Meeting. Contact Rita Martin, if interested.

Janice Johnson reported that the tomato tasting at the Sutter Creek Farmers Market on August 27 went well. There were 91 entries and the public got to taste and vote for their favorites for the first time. In the past there has been a panel of judges but this approach is more inclusive and fun.

Dave Andrews the new Home Visits Coordinator said that there is a new sign-up sheet in the MG office that is organized geographically. Those interested in doing home visits should sign up ASAP. Dave

reminded us that the more accurate the information that is recorded on Phone Clinic Information Sheets, the better the home visit can be. All those who work the phones need to take complete information, and be sure to put your own name and date on the form as well as whether or not the problem has been resolved or needs follow-up.

Dennis Miller who went on a recent home visit to help diagnose a pine tree problem stated that the book, TREES OF NORTH AMERICA, has great information on identifying trees and DISEASES OF TREES AND SHRUBS, is a good resource for diagnosing problems. Both books are available at the MG office and perhaps should be taken on home visits.

Steve Collins requested volunteers to help with the blood drive on October 6, from 11 - 6:00, at the Jackson Civic Center, to pass out refreshments to donors. There was a sign-up sheet.

There is a new volunteer needed to take over the Food Bank Garden. Talk with Scott or Steve Collins if interested.

Bob Allen reported that a field trip to King's Mums is in the works for the last week in October or the 1st week of November.

Charlie Thorp is moving to Southern California in the near future and we had a special cake to acknowledge and thank him for his valuable contribution over the years. We will miss him.

MG secretary, Donna England, was on vacation this week, so stepping in and respectfully submitting minutes for this meeting was Emily Beals.

Announcements

FRUIT TREES AND BERRIES

On October 8, we will have a Saturday class on Planning, Planting and Caring for a Home Orchard. Since bare-root season is right around the corner, this is valuable info for someone who wants to start or expand an orchard or have a berry patch. I would like for those of you who have experience in this area to join us and be available to add your expertise to the classes. Hope to see you there.

Marie Loretta

GREENHOUSES, COLD FRAMES AND PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES

On October 22, Janice and Rita will be presenting these topics. They have both given this talk before and both have greenhouses as well as a lot of personal experience in propagation. This is a MUST DO class for anyone interested in these topics.

AMADOR COUNTY MG CALENDAR FOR 2006

Wait until you see this – it is fantastic. Bring \$12 to the next MG meeting and purchase one. It is geared to our area and took lots of time to prepare. As a matter of fact, bring more than \$12, as you must have friends who would want one for Christmas!!!

Marie Loretta

CALENDAR THANK YOU

Many thanks to Janice Johnson, Rita Martin and Marie Loretta for making our first Amador County Master Gardener Calendar a success!! It took many hours of work by everyone to complete the final product. Janice provided the first seeds we included from her sources and Robin Ivanoff and the Amador Flower Farm have offered to donate additional seeds to include in the Calendar. Thanks to all of you.
Sue Harrington

U. C. Davis Fieldtrip

On August 18th, about a dozen of us enjoyed a pleasant day at the U.C Davis campus. Robert Allen had arranged for tours of the campus greenhouse research areas and the R. M. Bohart Museum of Entomology.

For several hours in the morning, Mr. Ron Lane guided us through the greenhouse areas, explaining the many ongoing research projects and intricacies of greenhouse operations. They use a variety of planting mediums. Three types of soil amendments used include Perlite, which is totally inert without nutrients; Vermiculite, which has some chemical and nutrient elements; and ground up Coconut core, which has some additional nutrient elements.

Ever thought of using "Buffalo Grass" for ball fields? One researcher is looking into how to improve propagation of this type of grass, which is drought resistant, grows in clumps then spreads by stolons, and is very good at choking out other grasses.

One research project was tracking the time line of Pierce's Disease infection in grapes, from point of introduction through the plant. Yet another project was experimenting with various Walnut propagation mediums and moistures. Several students were hand picking specific part from special wheat specie, for chromosome analysis. Very tedious work!

I was particularly impressed with the two tanks containing some specie of water lotus plant. As explained the seeds for these plants were obtained by a U.C. professor, while in China. The seeds were "dredged" up after being dormant for more than 1,000 years. Talk about staying power. Hope the plant is kept away from the delta waters!

Mr. Lane was very informative about greenhouse operations and his 15 years at U.C. Davis. Although many of the greenhouse "mister", "drip", "float", "fans", and other hardware looked low tech, they are in fact very well thought out, and all the greenhouses are computer monitored / controlled. Have you ever heard of an

"electrostatic" sprayer? The equipment is similar to electrostatic painting in that spray medium is charged such that it will attach to all parts of the plant, even under the leaves without bending over. Great saver of the back, but not good on the pocket book.

For our lunch break, Bob Allen directed us to the redwood grove portion of the campus "Arboretum", which was much cooler and very relaxing. I highly recommend taking a stroll along the Arboretum trails. Not only beautiful, but also educational as the plants are well labeled. The ducks are fun too.

The afternoon tour of the R. M. Bohart Museum of Entomology was a lot of fun, as well as informative. Being inside an air-conditioned building was a plus!! Our guide, Dani DuCharme, was so enthusiastic about the museum's collection (and life in general), that we all became enthralled with "bugs". The museum is not only a depository for huge specie collections, but also provides diagnostic, education and research. During our visit, several people brought in samples of insects to be identified by staff. Check out <http://bohart.ucdavis.edu>

Dani started us out by showing us huge collections of "Butterflies" and "Moths". The range of colors, textures, and sizes was very impressive. Did you know that one way to tell butterflies from moths are to look at their antenna? Butterflies had nodules on the antenna ends. Moths have rather "feathery" antenna without nodules.

She then, at someone's suggestion, showed us the down and dirty part of the museum where the "live" bugs live. No one on the trip should ever mistake what Black Widow Spider "X" markings look like. Dani even persuaded the more squeamish to hold live giant African Millipedes, left over from a Fear Factor episode. Did you remember from our classes that Centipedes have a pair of legs "on each side" of each body segment, whereas Millipedes only have a pair of legs per body segment.

Hope this field trip is repeated next year so more of you can enjoy. I know I will return.

John E. Otto

GETTING TO KNOW YOU By Lucy Martin

Another tomato lover, congenial and hard working – this is Peggy Sullivan. Athletic and wholesome with pretty blue eyes, sandy-blond hair and a hearty, joyful laugh. Peggy is a wonderful addition to our membership. She is married to Bill. The two live above Buckhorn on Salt Springs Road in Amador Pines at the 4000' elevation. Buffy, the dog lives with them and "the girls" (9 chickens) – that they keep for their eggs and for bug control. They have lived in the same house for 25 years and love it. Their property is very forested and somewhat secluded. They have a son and a daughter. David and his wife live in Virginia and Carrie and her husband and three children live just five miles from them. Peggy and Bill welcome the opportunity to occasionally baby-sit their grandchildren.

Peggy was born in College Park, Georgia. Her father had a job that required many moves; from GA they moved to Florida – then to Colorado and then to California. She graduated from hi-school in Cupertino. From Cupertino she moved to Sonora and was working at a bank when she met Bill through a friend. They were married; soon after on a whim for adventure they decided they would move to Oregon. They detoured through Buckhorn – stopped for lunch where Bill chanced to meet an old friend. This friend was working on a job and needed some help; he offered Bill a job for a couple of weeks. That was just long enough for them to fall in love with the area; Oregon was forgotten! Bill started his own business and he and Peggy operated Sullivan Tree Service for 25 years. As the business was winding down pending Bill's retirement – Peggy got a job at the mill in Martel. She was hired as a forklift operator. But then she did a database program for them. When they discovered that she was so skilled at the computer – she was utilized in the office instead. Then the mill closed. As part of their benefit package she was able to go to computer school in Sacramento for one year where she polished up her networking skills – up to this time what she knew was self-taught. She enjoys her computer knowledge but does not work on the computer at length.

Peggy became a Master Gardener in 2004 – completing the classes in Calaveras County. She learned about Master Gardeners through

the newspaper and became interested by attending many of the classes the MGs offered. She realized it was something that she would love to do. She has been gardening since the 1970's and grows most of her vegetables from seed. She especially loves tomatoes and grows many heirloom varieties. She also has had much success with peppers. Vegetables are her favorite gardening project. She also plants green beans, beets, carrots, kale, onions, and chard, (their favorite). In winter she uses a cold frame. She has contributed many pepper and tomato plants for our spring and fall expos. Her favorite ornamental plant is Perovskya (Russian Sage) - it has gray green leaves and clusters of dainty lavender flowers on long slender stems. It is easy to grow and drought tolerant and the deer do-not-eat-it! She enjoys the work free and the look of a natural landscape. Bill had to cut down some trees in order to make room for a garden. He planed the lumber from those trees to be used for raised beds. Other than that the yard looks pretty much as it did when they moved there. She maintains the natural landscape, using what Mother Nature has provided and compliments it with shrubs that harmonize and naturalizing plants, such as iris and daffodils.

In her very brief time with us she has worked with Janice Johnson on the tomato/pepper public presentations, she grows and contributes many of the plants that are offered for sale. She put together a beautiful binder filled with many useful brochures and information sheets related to all gardening possibilities. It is available for sale to clients who have multi landscaping questions that are beyond MG hands-on parameters.

Peggy and Bill enjoy camping – sometimes tent – sometimes travel trailer. They try to get away to a state park each year – next year it will be one in Utah. They both enjoy fishing – particularly for trout. Bill hunts and Peggy does the meat processing including grinding and packaging. Each month they do a short trip to a place where they can hike and ride bicycles – Lake Tahoe is a favorite destination.

Her words of wisdom and encouragement that she would like to share with fellow Master Gardeners:

"Do what you love and love what you do."
Wise words indeed!

HOW'D THE EXPO GO?

It went great. Again, not as many folks as in spring, but a decent showing. We sold lots of plants but Bernice and I have quite a few left to babysit too. The weather was perfect.

Jackie did a wonderful job of Tree Selection with a Power Point presentation to give lots of nice tree examples. Then Jill, our expert on planting techniques made all of the important points for our students. Many were still surprised about the proper size of the planting hole and how to stake properly. Use native soil??? No fertilizer??? Oh, but compost is OK and encouraged as well as mulch. It is always fun to see the look on people's faces when they find they need to give up old habits. John Otto did an outstanding job on his first Power Point show covering the important topic of Construction problems for trees. Dennis was as thorough as usual with his slide presentation on Tree Hazards. Finally Hack showed the Training Young Landscape Trees video and talked with the group about some errors he made prior to attending this Tree class at the UC.

Thanks and More Thanks to All who spoke of helped with the plant sale.

Marie Loretta

HOW TO SAVING TOMATO SEEDS (LIKE A PRO)

You can save seeds from any open pollinated tomato variety. This includes heirlooms such as Brandywine or newer varieties such as Green Zebra. In an open pollinated tomato, each seed produces a plant identical to itself. Occasionally there can be a spontaneous mutation or cross pollination, but a backyard gardener doesn't need to worry about this. Tomatoes have "perfect blossoms" and are self pollinating with only the help of a little breeze; bees are not required. Hybrid tomatoes are the result of manual cross pollination that's done by people. Seeds saved from a hybrid tomato will not reproduce that tomato and the results are unpredictable.

The seed saving processes is called fermenting and is done to remove the gel capsules around the seeds. The gel capsules inhibit germination. It is also

believed that fermentation helps reduce tomato diseases.

Get a container, such as a small jar or glass, and label it with the name of the tomato. Put the seeds from a fully ripe open pollinated tomato in the container. You can cut the tomato in half and squeeze the seeds into the container. But, if you don't want to waste the whole tomato you can cut it in half and gently scrape the seeds out, so that you can still eat the rest of the tomato. Add an equal amount of water and mix. Let it set for two to five days. After a white fungal layer develops on the top of the tomato mix, let it continue fermenting for a few days longer. Pour out the fungus, the top layer of liquid, and the bad seeds that float. Rinse the remaining seeds until they are clean. Label a paper plate and spread the seeds out to dry on it. When they are completely dry, store them in a cool dry place. Properly prepared seeds will stay viable for many years.

You now have your own stash of your favorite tomato seeds to share with friends.

Janice Johnson

FIELD TRIP

A field trip is planned for Thursday Nov. 3 to Kings Mums in Clements (on Liberty Road). This is a place we have visited for the last number of years, but with a lot of new MGs, thought we would repeat again. We will go on to Lockeford for lunch at Coyotes (Mexican food) and then on to the Chocolate Factory in Clements and take their "Dessert Tour". This is a guided tour of the factory plus a special dessert treat. The tour is about an hour. The cost for the tour is \$7.00.

We will probably plan on leaving Jackson at 9:30 AM. Tour at King's Mums will be about 1 1/2 hr & then around 11:30 head for lunch. Tour of Chocolate Factory scheduled for 12:45 to 1:00 PM. We should be back in Jackson by 2:30-3:00 PM.

A sign up sheet will be available at next meeting Oct. 15. Will also plan to email everyone closer to the date of field trip.

Bob Allen

BLACKBERRY FUNGUS

PORTLAND, Ore. Jul 25, 2005 - A deadly fungus used to control the spread of unwanted varieties of blackberries overseas has landed in the United States, infecting numerous fields in Oregon, the capital of America's blackberry industry.

First spotted this spring on the southern Oregon Coast, the rust fungus has spread to seven counties, according to officials with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Initially, the species was only spotted on the Himalayan blackberry, a weed. Now it's also been reported in virtually all of the fields of the commercially grown evergreen blackberry, the No. 2 blackberry crop in Oregon, accounting for roughly 9 percent of the state's \$30 million blackberry industry.

The fungus, which prior to its appearance in Oregon had never been detected in North America has not attacked the Marionberry, Oregon's state berry and one of the region's most lucrative berry crops, said Bruce Pokarney, spokesman for the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Officials said it was too early to estimate the potential economic damage. "We're at an early stage with the potential for serious economic damage, but we're not at the stage where that serious damage has happened," said Tom Peerbolt, a researcher with the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission.

The fungus has been used since at least the 1990s as a biocontrol agent to tame the growth of wild blackberries in Australia, New Zealand and Chile. As recently as last year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approached blackberry growers in Oregon to discuss the possibility of introducing the fungus in the United States to control invasive varieties of blackberries but the plan did not move beyond the discussion stage, said Pokarney.

Ken Johnson, a professor of botany and plant pathology at Oregon State University,

theorizes that because the evergreen blackberry, which is not grown commercially in those countries is native to North America, it might be more susceptible to the foreign pathogen.

While all the evergreen blackberry fields appear to have been infected in Oregon, so far only one grower has reported losing his entire crop.

Scott Oneto

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM ALL STAR PERENNIALS

Serpentine columbine (*Aquilegia eximia*) – Native plant; red and yellow flowers.

Seaside daisy "Wayne Roderick" (*erigeron*) – Native; lavender flowers.

Santa Barbara daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*) – Long bloom period; pinkish-white flowers.

Lenten rose (*Helleborus x hybridus*) – Winter-blooming; pink, maroon or white to green-tinted flowers.

Coral yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) – Spiky leaves; coral-pink flowers. Attracts hummingbirds.

Coral bells "Rosada" (*Heuchera*) – Mounding form; creamy pink flowers.

Island alumroot (*Heuchera maxima*) – Sprays of greenish-white flowers.

Lavender "Goodwin Creek Grey" (*Lavandula*) – Deep violet flower spikes; long bloom season.

Spanish lavender "Otto Quast" (*Lavandula stoechas*) – Compact form; good container plant.

Pacific coast Iris "Canyon Snow" (*Iris*) – Hybrid of native Pacific coast iris; white flowers with yellow markings.

Santa Margarita foothill Penstemon "Margarita B.O.P." (*Penstemon heterophyllus*) – Semi-evergreen native; sky-blue blooms.

Giant chain fern (*Woodwardia fimbriata*) – Native; good for shade gardens.

Argentine rain lily (*Zephyranthes candida*) – Grows from bulbs; clumps into shiny, grassy leaves; white tulip-shaped flowers, marked with yellow.

MUM'S THE WORD

by Glenn Davis, UCCE Master Gardener, El Dorado County, November 2002

At this time of the year most of the garden color consists of late blooming roses, and leaves turning color. One exception is our old standby the Chrysanthemum, or "Mums" for most gardeners. There are about 160 species worldwide and include, along with our Florist Chrysanthemums, Shasta Daisy, Marguerite, and Painted Daisy to mention a few. Nurseries know that customers like to see the flower color when they are purchasing and now is the time they display their mums.

The flower shape has more than a dozen classes and the care and form of the plant is dictated by the class. Unfortunately that care falls on the gardener's shoulders. If you plant mums so they are protected from extremely hot afternoon sun, in well-drained soil, water consistently, fertilize occasionally and leave them alone they will do just fine. They will have flowers but they won't resemble those mounds of color we see in the nursery or florist shop.

Chrysanthemum cultivars come in different sizes, tall, medium and short and the flower size generally corresponds to the plant size. If left alone most chrysanthemums will produce flowers of the same size, with a good gardener's care, the flower and plant can become a showpiece. It is not unusual to see prize winning chrysanthemums with flowers from four to six inches in diameter and to see cascades three to four feet in length completely covered with small blooms. To produce showpieces like this gardeners must start when the plant is first starting to emerge in the spring.

If you purchase a chrysanthemum now, purchase it for color, form and size. Record the name and whether it is a tall, medium or short plant and if the flower is small, medium or large. Plant it now and take care of it until it dies back and leave the dead stalks on it. If you are in a hard freeze area, dig it up and replant it in a more moderate area, if you are in a warmer area, mulch over it.

In the spring when the new greenery starts to emerge at the base of the plant, you can dig and divide the clump and that is when you cut back the dried stalks. When the plant starts to grow, refer to your records; generally speaking you want about three main stems on tall, large flowering chrysanthemums, and you must

remove the weaker lateral stems to allow the growth to concentrate on these main stalks. To prevent the plant from becoming too leggy cut it back to about 15 inches in early July. Medium sized chrysanthemums can be treated in the same manner or they can be limited in size. Small flowering chrysanthemums are usually grown in a single mound or spray manner.

In addition to the pruning of the laterals there are two more terms you should be familiar with when growing chrysanthemums, disbudding and pinching. Disbudding means removing the flower buds from the plant and pinching means removing the terminal ends of the branches. For chrysanthemums the pinching means taking off the tip back to the next couple of leaves. When a rooted stem starts to grow in the spring the usual procedure is to cut it at four inches when it is about a foot tall. It will branch at the cut and if you want, you can cut these branching laterals again to force the plant to fill in. Eventually the laterals will reach a terminal with buds on the end and there will be buds at the first and second cuts. In addition to the terminal buds, there are second and third buds where the plant has been cut, these are called second and third crown buds. At the base you may also have a bud that is known as the break bud. It will appear that each cut will result in a leaf and flower bud.

The terminal buds usually are all flower buds and have the best color; lateral crown buds consist of flower and greenery buds and lack the intensity of color found in the terminals but do grow faster. For top flower quality at the terminal, disbud the lateral crowns and when the terminal bud starts to mature remove all of the buds around it leaving you with one or two flowers on a stem. For large crown buds you must remove the greenery buds that surround it. All of the cutting, pinching and disbudding should be completed by mid-summer. For mounding and cascading chrysanthemums, continuously pinch back the tips as they grow, this will force the production of more greenery and flowers.

During the growth period fertilize regularly with a balanced fertilizer up to flower production; after flower production fertilize with 0-10-10. About the only insect problems are aphids and mites that can be hosed off with water or killed with an application of light horticultural oil. Don't be afraid to experiment a little. Mums are good hardy plants.

Vegetable & Orchard Calendar-October

PLANT SEED:

All elevations (cold frames are recommended at upper elevations):
Vegetables- beets, chard, lettuce, onions, radishes, peas, spinach (cool season crops).
Lettuce can take temps down to 25 degrees with protection such as row covers.
Plant cover crops: clover, Fava beans, mustard or vetch (N fixers).

SET OUT PLANTS:

All elevations: Artichoke, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, chives, garlic cloves, lettuce, parsley, sugar peas, turnips.
Broccoli needs fertile, deep, well-drained soil and a pH of 6.5 or slightly higher.

FERTILIZE:

Side dress newly planted veggies with a slow release fertilizer, bone or blood meal.
Liquid fertilize vegetables – all purpose or 5-5-5 is sufficient.
Fertilize fruit trees before leaf drop (16-20-0 or 16-16-16).

SPRAY AND GARDEN CONTROL:

Spray for powdery mildew if necessary.
Spray for disease prevention (before storms begin):
Brown rot
Peach blight (apricots, peaches, nectarines)
Leaf and cane spot (berries)
Pear rust mites.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Cut back herbs.

Rake and clean under fruit trees removing fallen fruit and leaves from under peach and nectarine trees helps to control peach leaf curl.

Destroy fruit mummies.

Clean up tired veggies to prevent over wintering pests

Compost:

Add non-diseased, pest free debris.

Mulch and add leaves.

Keep the pile moist and add nitrogen fertilizer every 1 ½ feet.

REMEMBER:

Order bare root plants-grapes, fruit trees, berries.

Wrap green tomatoes in newspaper and store in a warm spot to slowly ripen.

Mulch root crops.

Yard Calendar-October

PLANT SEED (all elevations):

Hardy annuals - Baby blue eyes, bachelor button, cornflower, forget-me-nots, Johnny-jump-ups, larkspur, linaria, poppies (papaver), sweet alyssum, sweet peas, wildflowers.

SET OUT PLANTS (all elevations):

Hardy annuals: See above. Also calendula, candytuft, Iceland poppies, pansies, primroses, snapdragons, stock, violas. King's Mums in Clements has gorgeous Chrysanthemums.

Fall is a great time to plant winter-hardy ground covers, vines, shrubs, trees and perennials. Consider using CA natives and other water efficient plants. Native plant societies and arboretums have many sales this month. Get these plants in the ground and let Mother Nature provide the water to get them established.

Above 1000': Plant bulbs (use bone meal or bulb food). In snow areas wait to plant ranunculus. Below 1000': Refrigerate bulbs for 6 weeks before planting. Consider naturalizing bulbs. Also think about putting some bulbs in containers. Plant daffodils every few weeks to prolong bloom. Consider over-planting bulb beds with complimentary colors of cool season annuals.

FERTILIZE:

Liquid fertilize all flowers-use all purpose or 5-5-5 is sufficient. Avoid using high N stuff. All spring blooming shrubs, perennials, trees and bulbs with super phosphate or 0-10-10 Roses and annuals.

Lawns: aerate, renovate, reseed and fertilize for warm season grasses. Apply iron to azaleas, gardenias, camellias, citrus.

SPRAY AND GARDEN CONTROL:

Powdery mildew if needed.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

Lightly prune roses. Allow spent blossoms to remain if you wish hips to form.

Prune clematis that bloomed during summer.

Divide perennials.

Compost: Add non-diseased, pest free debris.

Mulch and add leaves.

Keep the pile moist and add nitrogen fertilizer every 1 ½'.

Put oak leaves in a pile just for acid loving plants.

Apply pre-emergent herbicides.

Divide perennials-cut back plants that are scraggly.

Dig out, clean and store dahlias, gladiolas, tuberous begonias-

REMEMBER:

Save seeds!

After rains start to arrive consistently, drain irrigation lines.

If you are looking for fall color for your yard, select trees now while you can see the leaves turning (Japanese maple, ginko, liquidamber, tupeo, Chinese pistache or tallow, etc.).

For shrubs, consider viburnum ("Snowballs") and barberries.

Plant winter daphne in filtered shade.

Order bare-root shade trees.