

# Master Gardener Newsletter



University of California  
Cooperative Extension

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YUBA & SUTTER COUNTIES  
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*April comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers.* Edna St. Vincent Millay



## *Timely Tips,* By Edie Young

**For the flower lover in you,** April/May is a good month for planting summer flowering bulbs like dahlias, gladiolas and lilies. Plant annual seed for asters, cosmos, marigolds and zinnias directly in the garden. Keep seed moist until it germinates. If all danger of frost is gone, you can plant tuberous begonias and cannas. Divide your daylilies, delphiniums, iris, chrysanthemums, daises and phlox. Trade the extra plants or plant them somewhere else in your landscape. You can still fertilize your roses. I use a systemic; it fertilizes and protects roses from disease and insects.

You can direct-seed/plant in your vegetable garden now. For better yield, thin the young seedlings when they have sprouted and are about an inch tall to keep them from crowding. Look on the back of your seed packet to determine the spacing for thinning them. Now is the time to plant perennial vegetables like asparagus and artichokes. Remember that the asparagus will not be ready to cut until next spring. It needs at least one year to establish itself.

When your spring flowering bulbs have finished blooming you should dead-head. Do not cut off the green foliage yet. The remaining leaves continue to grow for a few weeks, and provide the bulb with the food that they will need next year to bloom. When the leaves become brown, they can be cut back.

## Weed of the Month

*Erodium cicutarium*, *E. moschatum*  
(Geraniaceae – Geranium Family)

Redstem filaree, Whitestem filaree

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/WEEDS/filarees.html>

A winter annual or biannual with stems 1-2 feet long, spreading or erect, generally from a rosette. Leaves are divided into narrow feather-like branchlets and stems are hairy. They bear small, orchid flowers in clusters of two or more. The fruit is five-lobed and long-beaked, hence the common name of cranes bill, with each lobe splitting away at maturity. Plants may be hand-pulled or sprayed with a non-selective herbicide. Filaree is found worldwide and was probably brought in from Europe or Asia. You may recognize the seeds as those twirly things you find in your dog's ankle hair. Filaree is a member of the Geraniaceae or geranium family.



**Leaf, flower, and seed pods of Whitestem filaree, *Erodium moschatum*.**

Photo by Jack Kelly Clark.

# Plant of the Month

*Clianthus puniceus*  
(Fabaceae - Pea Family)

## Parrots Beak

<http://www.habitas.org.uk/gardenflora/clianthus.htm>

Parrots Beak is a tender perennial that is hardy in warmer climates but is easily grown in a pot. *Clianthus* grows 3-5 feet in cultivation and resembles a treelike fern. A native of New Zealand, it is nearly extinct there. Beautiful arching three foot branches bear clusters of hanging red blooms all along them in the spring. It is hardy to 13 degrees.

Sunset Zones 4-9, 14-24. USDA Zones 6-10



Source: [www.habitas.org.uk](http://www.habitas.org.uk)

# Tree of the Month

*Prunus laurocerasus*  
(Rosaceae – Rose Family)

English Laurel

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/englishlaurel.html>

Native to southeastern Europe, *P. laurocerasus* is a fast-growing, shrubby plant that matures to 15-30 feet tall. It has large, 3 to 7-inch oblong leaves that are dark green. Fragrant, creamy white blooms are borne on 3-5 inch spikes, often in clusters in spring. Flowers are followed by small black fruit. It needs little to moderate water and good drainage.

Hardy in Sunset Zones 4-9, 14-24. USDA Zones 6-10



Leaves alternate, simple, smooth or toothed on the margin, on undersurface with pairs of glands close to the midrib. Source: NCSU, [http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/cons/umer/poison/indcoa\\_e.htm](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/cons/umer/poison/indcoa_e.htm)



Cherry laurel flower spikes.  
Joey Williamson, ©2007 HGIC, Clemson Extension



## From the Office....

Question: Why are my redwoods dying?

Response: The number one cause of redwood death is lack of water. A redwood tree needs 40 gallons of water per inch of trunk caliper at 5 feet monthly. In the summer, it needs even more. In its natural range, a redwood has few problems. In the Central Valley, redwoods are subject to stress from heat and drought. This stress causes *botryosphaeria* canker on *Sequoia sempervirens*, *s. giganteum*. The disease causes twig and branch dieback and trunk cankers.

## Insect of the Month

Cutworms - various types

*Peridroma saucia*, *Agrotis ipsilon*, *Feltia subterranean*

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/INVERT/cutworms.html>  
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/VEGES/PESTS/cutworm.html>  
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FRUIT/PESTS/climbingcutworm.html>

These three species are all common pests of the garden. They girdle seedling and tender stems near the surface causing sudden wilt and death. Eggs are dome shaped and laid in groups or singly on stems and leaves near the ground. Cutworms are mostly active at night. Look for them with a flashlight. Management of these insects is best done by cleaning debris and crop residue from beds and borders. You may protect seedlings with collars of cardboard, screens or cloth. Granular baits are available.

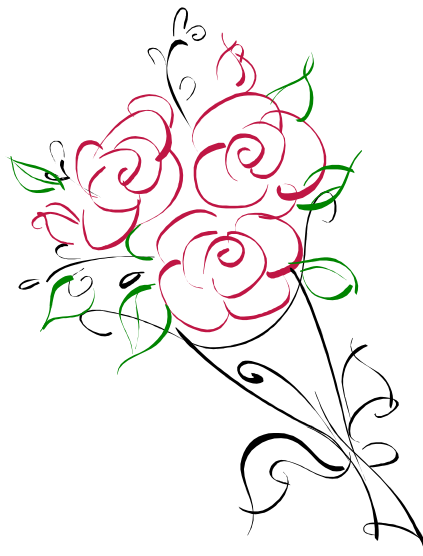


**Spotted cutworm feeding on bud**

# Disease of the Month

## Rose mosaic virus

Rose mosaic is caused by three viruses and may be spread by grafting, pruning shears, or roots touching each other. It is also known to be spread by nematodes. Outward signs of rose mosaic are artistic looking yellow streaks, rings and mottling of leaves. Coloration may be yellow or bright orange. Rose mosaic will affect the hardiness of the rose it infects. Many infected plants can remain without symptoms; this varies with cultivar and time of year. The virus is most evident in spring. To prevent spread by pruning, sterilize pruners in 10% bleach solution between plants. It is best to remove any infected rose plants immediately.



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