

Master Gardener Bulletin



Cooperative Extension

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November

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This is the first Yuba/Sutter Master Gardener Bulletin. This publication is intended to provide another educational opportunity for our local backyard gardening public. Remember we are always available to answer any specific questions you may have concerning your garden, call us at 822-7515. We are available Tuesdays 9 am- noon and Thursdays 1 pm- 4 pm. Check the website for Plant Clinics and Farmer's Market hours.

Plant of the month

This month's plant of the month comes from my Horticulture magazine. The common name did me in!

Othonna capensis-Little Pickles

Perennial low growing succulent

Grows to 6" tall but 12-18" wide.

Little documentation on hardiness in US, but will tolerate some light frosts. Native to South Africa's Cape Providence

Pudgy, swollen, dark green "pickle-like" leaves

Profusely blooms yellow flowers on short stalks, summer to fall.

Needs well-drained sandy-ish soil since it is succulent-like. Keep dry while in bloom and needs full sun.

USDA zones 9-11

See *Othonna* at <http://www.hortpix.com/pc3005.htm>

or search the net for *Othonna*. There are many sites with information on *Othonna* and other "fatty" succulents.

*November is a great opportunity to get cleanup work done in your garden.
Here are some other reminders:*

Start a compost pile:

Put your old garden materials, trimmings, grass clippings and leaves to work!

Last chance to divide your perennials: Mid-November is the latest recommended timing to divide your perennials so get going! Some perennials to divide are daylilies, bee balm, etc.

Get your winter garden planted:

This is the time for potatoes, onions, garlic, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, leeks, etc.

Good time to plant your perennial herbs like oregano, thyme, and mints. Excellent time to plant your parsleys. This herb does much better in the cool winter vs. our hot summers. Dry some for use in the summer when they go to seed.

Plant your winter flower beds: Remember stock (smells great); snapdragons, pansies, and especially SWEET PEAS are best planted now for winter and early spring enjoyment.

Plant your bulbs: daffodils, tulips, Ranunculus, anemones are at the stores waiting for you to buy and plant. Gophers getting more of your bulbs than you are? Plant them in hardware cloth baskets, or better yet, plant them above ground in pots for your spring enjoyment.

Cover your tender plants when chance of frost is forecasted: Wrap or cover your outdoor pipes (especially in the foothills) to protect from freezing. Roll up and store hoses not in use.

Plant a tree: Good time of year to plant deciduous trees and shrubs. Call the Yuba/Sutter Master Gardeners for local tree suggestions.

Dormant spray your fruit trees: For those of us with home orchards, remember to spray your peaches, apricots and nectarines with copper (for fungal diseases) and light oil (for scale insects). An easy way to remember when is to spray around Thanksgiving (November 28), Christmas (December 25) and Valentine's Day (February 14). Don't use lime sulfur on your apricots.

November Special Issues

With the end of our local farmers' growing season for this year, those of us near and far will start developing mice problems. The little fur bearing mammals look for warmth (like our houses) and food (like that outside cat food bowl) once the fields have been disked for the winter. For an excellent guide on dealing with these critters that eat wood, wire and whatever they can find.....go to the UC Davis IPM website at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu and learn how to reduce your mouse issues. Once there click on Pests of Home and Landscape-Pest Notes, then click on Vertebrate Pest-House Mouse.