

# A Garden Runs Through It

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program



Colusa County

Whether it's a vegetable garden, houseplants or a landscape...

September 2017

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Colusa County  
  
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## Upcoming events



**October**  
Pumpkin Village  
October 21-22 & 28-29  
10am to 4pm  
Colusa County Fairgrounds



**October**  
Arbuckle Car Show  
October 29  
10am to 2pm  
Downtown Arbuckle  
  
**November**  
Craft & Garden Expo  
November 4  
9am to 3pm  
Colusa County Fairgrounds, Atwood Hall

## Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





# Become a Certified Master Gardener

What could be more fun and gratifying than mastering the art and science of gardening with friends and other garden enthusiasts? You may have been born with a green thumb or, more likely, were self-taught or learned gardening techniques from an experienced gardener. Even if you are limited in knowledge or experienced, perhaps it's time to become a skilled home gardener through a proven training program like that of the UCCE Master Gardeners. All you need is a love of learning, an eagerness to participate in a training program, and the willingness to share your knowledge with the community. If this sounds fun to you, this year may be the year to become a UCCE Master Gardener of Colusa County.

This year's training will be on Wednesdays from January 11 to April 26 in Willows from 6 to 9pm.

[Click here for more information and application.](#)

# Advice to Grow By...Ask Us!

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County



## Craft & Garden Expo

- The UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County and Colusa County 4-H have teamed up for this great event.
- Craft and garden projects!
- Open to all kids of all ages!
- Crafts & garden projects are priced at cost.

*Don't miss it!*

### When

Saturday November 4th  
9am to 3pm

### Where

Colusa Fairgrounds,  
Atwood Hall



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UCCE Colusa County, Master Gardener Program

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## MASTER FOOD PRESERVER

The UC Cooperative Extension of Colusa County is exploring the possibility of starting a Master Food Preserver program in Colusa County. This training is for adults.

### **About the UC Master Food Preserver program**

The UC Master Food Preserver program teaches communities how to safely preserve foods, because we believe everyone should have access to safe and healthy food.

For more than 25 years, the UC Master Food Preserver program has been a leader in food safety and food preservation. Located at UC Cooperative Extension offices across California, its dedicated volunteers teach people practical food preservation so they may safely preserve foods at home.

By adopting UC recommendations, food preservers can eliminate some of the most common mistakes and risks associated with home and small-scale preservation. Properly done, food preservation retains not only the nutritional value of food, but also the delicious taste of produce at its peak.

Through extensive training, UC Master Food Preserver volunteers learn the science and best practices of safe home food preservation. After training is completed, volunteers share UC's research-based recommendations on food preservation methods in their local communities.

### **Nuts and Bolts**

- You would train in another county (Sacramento, Yolo or Solano) but volunteer in Colusa County. County of training is still to be determined.
- The training is about 8 days, all day.
- The cost is about \$250.
- You will volunteer 50 hours the first year and 25 hours per year thereafter.
- Take an annual food safety recertification test.
- Attend monthly meetings in Colusa.
- Volunteers teach Colusa County residents through hands-on demonstrations, workshops, and help-lines. We will also staff booths at local events.

[Click here to show your interest in becoming a Master Food Preserver or if you would like to attend workshops.](#)



## Book of the Month

### Trowel & Error

Over 700 Organic Remedies, Shortcuts & Tips for the Gardener

By Sharon Lovejoy

I don't ordinarily have an interest in the type of book containing bits of misc. information for gardening. However the introduction caught my eye and I found someone with my gardening "style". My husband referred to it as "mental patient gardening" when I would go outside in my pajamas with my morning coffee and come back in several hours later with mud on my slippers and leaves in my hair.

I particularly liked the chapter called *Tricks and Tools That Bend the Rules*. There are several tips that I plan to incorporate:

Keep a bar of soap in my gardening shed to dig my finger nails into before gardening

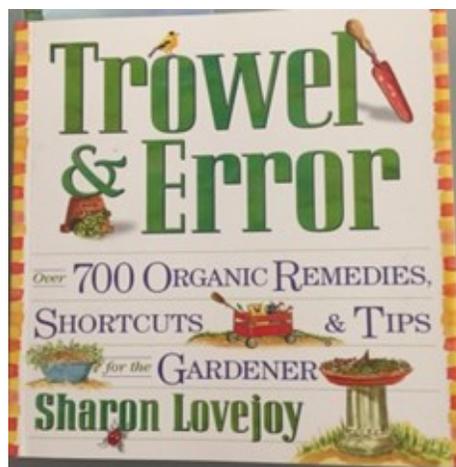
Fill an old soap dispenser bottle with mineral oil for quick tool clean-up

Put some clothespins on a line in the shed to quickly hang herbs, close seed packets and several other uses I can think of

Cut the foot out of an old sock so I can slip something over my wrists and lower arms for protection when reaching into plants with thorns and sap

Mark inch and foot measuring marks on my shovel and rake handles to use when planting

There is a lot of information in the book regarding pests, composting, potions, attracting beneficial insects, seed planting and transplanting of seedlings. Feel free to borrow the book if you have an interest.



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich

## Ornamental Plant of the Month

### Dog Days of Summer!

They have arrived, or have the dog days been here most of the hot summer? If you are like me, you just can't wait until cool is the word for the day, and our garden flowers either recover and start blooming or you start shopping for the fall blooming plants. Also, you may see tulip, daffodil, and other winter/spring blooming bulbs available for planting. Be cautious about planting too soon, while the soil is still so warm.

Purchase them now, but refrigerate until the soil is cold, perhaps late October or even into late December/January. Why you ask? If you plant bulbs while the soil is warm, they will immediately start pushing and not develop a strong root system. The flower is already established in the bulb, but you should want the bulbs to develop a strong root system so they have strong, large bloom. If planted when the soil is cold, with a little bone meal at bottom of hole, a layer of soil over the bone meal, and then the bulb, you should be rewarded with beautiful blooms. Also, I have experienced that planting the bulbs at least 2 times the size of the bulb or even more, deep you have a better chance of them returning year after year. I have had some tulips return to bloom for over 10 years. Group your bulbs so you get the best show of color and you may want to stagger planting time to have a longer bloom time. Sometimes bulbs are offered at a great price, but be aware that the size of the bulb can influence the quality of bloom.

Hint: cut tulips and daffodils can be longer lasting and stand straighter with a little gin or vodka added to the water. Try it and you may be surprisingly delighted.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

## Edible Plant of the Month

### Lettuce

I love growing lettuce from fall to spring on my porch. Leaf and butterhead lettuce grows well here but Iceburg lettuce does not.

**Butterhead** has a loose head with green smooth outer leaves and yellow inner leaves. Good varieties include 'Bibb', 'Buttercrunch', and 'Tom Thumb'. For red-speckled or red-tinted varieties try 'Flashy Butter Oak', 'Merveille de Quatre Saisons' and 'Speckles'. Remember new varieties come out every year.

**Loose leaf** makes a rosette rather than a head. Because this type is easy to grow and stands heat well, it is the biggest category of lettuce. Choice selections include 'Black-seeded Simpson', 'Simpson Elite', 'Oak Leaf' for green varieties. 'Salad Bowl', 'Merlot', 'New Red Fire', 'Red Deer Tongue', and 'Red Sails' for red tinged leaves. Remember new varieties come out every year.

**Best Site:** Full sun in cool areas or partial shade where it is hot.

**Soil:** All lettuces need loose, well-drained soil.

**Planting:** Sow seeds in open ground, barely cover the seeds.

**Spacing:** Loose leaf lettuce can be grown as close as 4 inches apart.

**Water:** Spray the seed bed regularly until seeds germinate. Then keep roots of growing lettuce moist. Leaves will become bitter if it is under watered.

**Fertilizer:** Lettuce is a light feeder, but it benefits from a feeding with a complete fertilizer once or twice during the growing season.

**Harvest:** Harvest by picking the outer leaves as needed or by pulling up the whole plant.

**Challenges:** In the spring watch for snails.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Sunset Western Garden Book of Edibles

## Recipe of the Month

### NUT BARS

2 cups brown sugar  
1/2 cup (one stick) butter  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
2 eggs  
1 cup flour  
2 cups coarsely chopped nuts - your choice

1. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in vanilla, soda and eggs. Stir in flour and nuts.
2. Prepare a 13 x 9 inch pan, lined with parchment paper and buttered .
3. Pour into pan Bake at 350 degrees for 20 min .
4. Allow to partially cool, but cut into bars when still a little warm.

These are pretty rich and soft, so small is good!

This recipe was given to me back in the early 80's by my sister's mother-in-law. She made it with walnuts, but I much prefer either almonds or pecans. If I am using almonds, I like to blanch them and toast them a little first.



Submitted by: Penny Walgenbach

## September in the Garden

### What to plant:

- Cool-Weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now.
- Also, transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale can be planted this month.
- Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.

### September Chores:

- September is a good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. It is also a good time to rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding.
- Put your spent annual and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile.
- Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.

This is also the month to dis, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.

In today's fast paced, social media way of life, fake news has become normal.  
This includes fake gardening advice.  
UC Master Gardeners use cutting edge, research-based information to help you garden better.  
We are practical, connected and trusted.  
*Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!*

[Small gifts can make a difference.](#)

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### Science Word of the Month

**Crown**—The point at which a plant's roots join its stem (top structure), at or near the soil line. It can also refer to a tree's entire branch structure, including foliage.

## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Monday September 25, 6:30
- St. Stephens Church, Colusa

## Additional Links

- Integrated Pest Management [ipm.ucanr.edu](http://ipm.ucanr.edu)
- UC Davis Arboretum [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)
- Invasive Plants [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)
- Plant Right [www.plantright.org](http://www.plantright.org)
- Save Our Water [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com)
- California Garden Web [cagardenweb.ucanr.edu](http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu)
- McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens [turtlebay.org](http://turtlebay.org)
- UCANR Colusa County [cecolusa.ucanr.edu](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu)
- UC Master Gardener Program (statewide) [mg.ucanr.edu](http://mg.ucanr.edu)
- California Backyard Orchard [homeorchard.ucanr.edu](http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu)
- ANR publications [anrcatalog.ucanr.edu](http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu)

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