

# 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 2018

UC Cooperative Extension,  
Colusa County

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## Upcoming events

[Click here to read our blog.](#)



### September

#### Gourd Workshop

Saturday September 22  
10 to 1pm

Colusa County Fairgrounds, Community Building  
\$15 fee  
See flyer for details

### Garden Chat

Tuesday September 25  
1-2pm  
Arbuckle Library

### October

#### Pumpkin Centerpieces

Thursday October 18, 6 to 8pm  
Details to come

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





# Gourd Workshop

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

**When: Saturday September 22**

**10am to 1pm**

**Where: Colusa County Fairgrounds**

**Community Building**

- We will learn the art of decorating gourds.
- We will also learn how to grow and dry gourds.
- We will provide the gourds, paint, polish and drills. *If you have a special stencil, please bring it to use.*
- Fee - \$15, prepayment is required. [Click here to pay.](#) Or go to our office or [cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master\\_Gardeners](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners)



**Guest  
Gourd Artist**

**Barbara Rippetoe**



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## Book of the Month

**Garden.org**

### **Weekly Newsletter from the National Gardening Association**

If you are like me you probably get emails and posts from several different gardening sites. The weekly newsletter from The National Gardening Association is by far my favorite. It is in my in box when I wake up Saturday morning so makes for a great way to start the week-end.

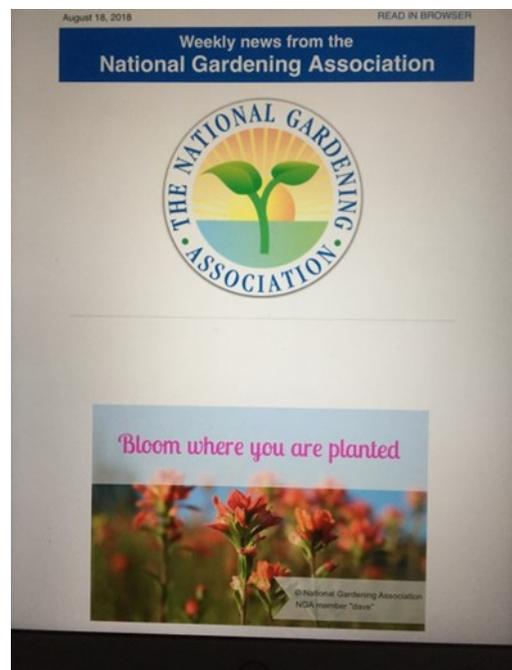
It starts with articles to read. This week's 1<sup>st</sup> article was on "Avoiding the Mummy Berry in Blueberries". It was not something I had ever heard or read about before but, since I have several blueberry bushes, it seemed like a good thing to know. Mummy berry is when the mature berries shrivel up, turning gray and hard. It is caused by a fungal disease called, of course, mummy berry. The article provides information on prevention and lists disease resistant varieties along with citing their information source.

My favorite part of the newsletter is the pictures sent in by the members. Sometimes they are single beautiful flowers and some are shots of yards and landscaping showing how different flowers and herbs look together to create a wonderfully cohesive look. It provides an opportunity to see different colors, shapes and textures work together without experimenting on your own yard.

Finally, there are the notable discussions from their forums. You can get lost in all of the discussions and information available.

Did you know that August 13<sup>th</sup> was National Watermelon Day?!

Submitted by Carolyn Froelich



# GARDEN CHAT

This is a roundtable chat about  
gardening! Share your gardening  
experiences!

This is a good place to ask questions!  
Bring a friend!

Garden Chat is open to the public!

**Tuesday**

**September 25**

**1 – 2 pm**

**Arbuckle Library,  
610 King St**

**Garden Chat with UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County**

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

100 Sunrise Blvd. Ste. E, Colusa, Ca 95932

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## Ornamental Plant of the Month

### Kangaroo Paw

I have tried and tried to grow this fun, drought tolerant plant with no success. Then last year I talked at the California State Fair with a grower from the hill area east of San Diego. He told me they are easy to grow and like water. Well I tried again and finally I have learned the secret.

Kangaroo Paw is native to the eucalyptus forests in western Australia, hardy to 24 degrees F. The striking tubular flowers in red, purple, green or yellow are borne in woolly one-sided spikes on 3-6 ft. stems. The flowers attract hummingbirds and bloom from late spring to fall **if spent flowering spikes are cut to the ground**. Plant in light sandy soil or heavier soil with good drainage and careful watering; sunny exposure. What I did learn is to cut back the spent spikes and water the established plants when the plants start to dry out. I have now cut my plants back and water every three to four days, as I have very good draining soil. New growth is coming forth. I am looking forward to sharing photos and cuts next spring from my well established Kangaroo Paw plants.

Family: *Haemodoraceae*      Genus: *Anigozanthos*



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

# Do you enjoy Gardening?

Are you willing to volunteer your time and talent?



The UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County is now accepting applications for our 2019 training.

Application deadline is January 3, 2019 at 1pm.

Meet the Master Gardeners orientation is January 3 at noon at the CIP conference room.

Visit our website for more information and to download an application.

[cecolusa.ucanr.edu](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu)

Questions, call 530-458-0570



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## Edible Plant of the Month

If you love the taste of fresh vegetables, herbs and fruit from your own garden, it's time to prep your garden space for edibles. The summer season is coming to an end, and the winter garden is coming fast.

You'll need to do a little bit of front-end planning and preparing, so when the timing is just right for planting, you'll have your garden space ready to go. In some warmer regions, you're ready to start your cool-season gardens outdoors. In colder regions, you're only starting seeds indoors.

No matter where you live, it's easy to plan and prepare your edible gardens for the upcoming season so planting will come easy.

### 1. Plan your edibles garden

Know where the sun hits. To plan your garden for edibles, first know where the sun hits in spring and summer. Most edibles need at least six hours of sunlight. Also investigate shade areas, since some edibles can take or prefer shady afternoons, such as blueberries, peas, beets, chives, mint and salad greens.

Placement is key. Use graph paper and sketch out a plan. When planning your garden, consider seasonal temperatures and weather patterns, such as wind or strong storms. Edibles grow best when sheltered from strong wind. Consider placing them near a fence, hedge or other structure that can shield them. Also pay close attention to cool vs. warm-season vegetables, herbs and fruits and plant according to season.

Consider size. Because some edibles need plenty of space to branch out, research your plants before they go into the ground. Remember that tomatoes need plenty of space to grow. Pineapple sage, a perennial herb in Southern regions, needs about 3 feet around each plant as it spreads out. For small-space gardeners, look for compact varieties of veggies and herbs.

### 2. Prepare soil for your edibles garden

Perform a soil test. Get a soil test kit, amend your soil according to the results.

Prepare your soil. If you haven't already amended your soil, loosen the soil by digging or tilling 6 to 8 inches deep with a garden fork. Mix in compost and other organic amendments to give your soil a nutrient boost and a solid start for the growing season. Read this primer on soil to learn more about the types available.

Build ahead. If you're using new raised garden beds, now is a great time to build them and fill with organic raised bed soil so everything is in place for the upcoming season.

Clean up. Clean up and tidy your garden, raised garden beds, containers and window boxes. Wear protective gardening gloves and use appropriate garden tools, such as a garden rake or pruning shears, to clear away any leftover plant material from last year.

Watch your step. When working in your garden beds, be careful while the ground is soggy or icy. Walking around in those conditions will compact the soil, making it difficult for plant roots to penetrate. Meanwhile, digging will leave clods of dirt you'll struggle to break apart if you're cleaning your garden bed.

Uncover your plants. If your existing cold-season veggies have plant covers, check underneath and look for new buds or shoots. Those are signs to remove the plant covers.



Submitted by Lynne Spivak

## Recipe of the Month

### Grilled Steak and Watermelon Salad

Serves 4

4 beef Tenderloin Steaks, cut 1" thick (4 to 5 ounces each)

1 tsp. ground coriander

1 tsp. ground cumin

2 slices seedless watermelon, 1" thick

Salt & pepper

8 cups baby arugula, spinach leaves or spring greens

1/4 cup balsamic or Italian dressing

1 cup cherry tomatoes cut in half

1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion

1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese ( I like blue cheese too)

1. Combine coriander and cumin: press evenly onto beef steaks

2. Place steaks in center of grill over medium hot coals . Arrange watermelon slices around steak. Grill steaks to your desired doneness. Grill watermelon 2 to 4 minutes or until grill marks form. Turning once.

Carve steaks into slices. Cut each watermelon slice into 6 wedges. Season beef and watermelon with salt and pepper. Combine greens and dressing, toss to coat, divide among 4 plates. Arrange beef and watermelon on salad; top evenly with tomatoes, onion and cheese.

BeefItsWhatsForDinner.com

Submitted by Sherry Maltby



# Gardening Guide

## UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	September	October	November
<b>P L A N T I N G</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cool-Weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now.</li> <li>Also, transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale can be planted this month.</li> <li>Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can plant directly in the garden seeds of carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach and turnips. Indoors you can start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, kale, bunching onions, and radicchio.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can still sow seeds of wildflowers this month. Plant California poppy, calendula, clarkia, and sweet peas.</li> <li>In the veggie garden plant seeds for lettuce, mustard, spinach, radishes and peas.</li> <li>Plant the chilled bulbs, and the spring flowering tubers and corms.</li> </ul>
<b>M A I N T E N A N C E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Put your spent annual and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile.</li> <li>Dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut off spent flowers of perennials and annuals for continued bloom.</li> <li>Check the mulch you have spread around and be sure it is thick enough to suppress weeds. (3 to 4 inches)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you didn't get your new tree planted last month, it is not too late to take advantage of the fall root growth that will give your new tree a strong start in the spring.</li> <li>In the middle of the month fertilize the veggies and flowers that were planted in October.</li> </ul> 
<b>P R E V E N T I O N</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to weed. Be especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds.</li> <li>Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at your camellias and remove excess buds to get larger flowers.</li> <li>Clean up all the fallen/falling leaves and other plant debris and dispose of diseased materials.</li> <li>Monitor the weather for rain, turn off your irrigation system accordingly.</li> </ul>

The list below reflects possible landscape activities to do during the selected month(s) in your region. You can use the checklist as a guide for IPM activities in your own landscape or provide it to your clients.

## September

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, herbicide, salinity, soil pH, sunburn, wind, and too much or little water.
- [Ants](#) - Manage around landscape and building foundations, such as using insecticide baits and trunk barriers.
- [Aphids](#) - On small plants, spray a strong stream of water or apply insecticidal oils and soaps. Look for and conserve [natural enemies](#) such as predaceous bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, and syrphids.
- [Asian citrus psyllid](#) - Look for it and if found where not known to occur report it and other new or [exotic pests](#) to your local county agricultural commissioner.
- [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as leafminer.
- [Clean up](#) mummies and old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests.
- [Coast redwood dieback](#) - Check for drought-stress related maladies such as abiotic disorders, bark beetles, fungal diseases, and spider mites. [Deep water trees](#) and apply mulch.
- [Codling moth](#) of apple and pear - Bag fruit. Promptly remove infested and dropped fruit. Apply insecticides only if precisely timed.
- [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist.
- Cover grapes with netting to [exclude birds](#) and other [vertebrate pests](#).
- Cypress, or Seridium, [canker](#) - Prune dying branches at least 6 inches below any apparent cankers. Irrigate appropriately. Replace severely affected trees.
- Deter [borers](#) - Deep water trees adapted to summer rainfall e.g., fruit and nut trees. Protect trunks and roots from injury and avoid pruning, except for hazardous trees and certain pests and plants that warrant summer pruning. [Paint trunk and scaffolds with white](#) interior latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water.
- [Irrigation](#) - Adjust watering schedules according to the weather and plants' changing need for water. Check systems for leaks and broken emitters and perform maintenance as needed. Consider upgrading the irrigation system to improve its water efficiency.
- [Leaffooted bug](#) - Look for feeding on fruit and nuts such as almonds, pistachios, and pomegranates.
- Oak [gall wasps](#) - Usually do no serious harm to oaks. Control is very difficult.
- [Plant](#) California natives. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site. Water regularly to keep root zone moist, but not soggy.
- [Prune](#) evergreen, summer-flowering shrubs.
- [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- [Spider mites](#) - Irrigate adequately, mist leaf undersides daily, reduce dustiness, spray horticultural oil.

# Seasonal IPM Checklist



- [Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps. Trapping is most effective during late winter to early spring.

## Meet your Master Gardeners!



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!*

Tomorrow's activities are created by today's dreamers—you can make sure that the UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County is still working to help future generations through your support.

[Click here to support us.](#)

### Science Word of the Month

**Biological pest control (biocontrol)** - The action of parasites, predators, pathogens, or competitors in reducing another organism's population density.

If you attended one of your workshops, you will receive an email from [mgevaluation@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgevaluation@ucanr.edu). Your input gives us the tools we need to grow and improve our program. *Thank you!*

PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED

Safety Note #168

## MAKE A PLAN to Prepare for Emergencies

### Emergency Preparedness Safety Note Series: Step 2 – Make a Plan

*Note: This series of Safety Notes provides tips for personal emergency preparedness. Each UC ANR workplace should also have site specific emergency plans. See the [EH&S website](#) or your location's Safety Coordinator for more information about your workplace emergency plans.*

Emergencies and Disasters can strike quickly and without warning. But taking a hit doesn't have to mean you are down for the count. Do you know what natural disasters your neighborhood is at risk for? Have you planned how to respond when a disaster strikes? What about man-made disasters in your region? Have you made a plan? The importance of being prepared can never be underestimated. The first step toward emergency preparedness is to Be Informed about what could happen and how to respond (Safety Note #167). A second step toward emergency preparedness is to **Make a Plan**.



NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH  
Photo source: ready.gov

#### **Make a Plan:**

- Meet with your family or household members to discuss how to prepare and respond to emergencies that are most likely to happen where you live, learn, work and play.
- Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and plan to work together as a team.
- Identify the needs of household members and neighbors with special requirements or situations, such as use of a wheelchair, walking aids, special diets, or medication.
- Plan what to do in case you are separated during an emergency. Choose two places to meet: one right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency—such as a fire; and an alternate location outside your neighborhood—in case you cannot return home or are asked to evacuate.
- Choose an out of area emergency contact person. It may be easier to text or call long distance if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Everyone should have emergency contact information in writing or programmed into cell phones.
- Know the location of utility shutoffs and keep needed tools nearby. Know how to turn off the gas, water, and electricity to your home. Note: if you turn off gas or other utilities, make sure you know how to safely turn them back on or contact your utility provider after the emergency.
- Get training in how to properly use a fire extinguisher. Contact your local fire department or ANR EHS staff for training and resources.
- Plan what to do if you have to evacuate. Decide where you would go and what route you would take. Practice evacuating your home. Drive your planned evacuation route and plot alternate routes on your map in case roads are impassable.
- Try to keep your car's tank at least half-full or more so you are not caught short if you need to evacuate.
- Plan ahead for your pets. Keep a phone list of pet-friendly hotels/motels and animal shelters that are along your evacuation routes.
- Keep copies of essential documents, such as identification, insurance policies and financial records in a secure, waterproof container, along with your disaster supplies kit. Include a household inventory (a list and photos or video of your belongings) for insurance purposes. Don't forget food and medications for your pets as well.
- Check with your city or county to see if there is a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program in your area. Participate and get involved.
- Gather an emergency supplies kit: Take time now to provide for your entire family. In addition to setting aside water and nonperishable food, gather a few essential emergency supplies such as flashlights and extra batteries, a battery-operated radio, candles and matches.

Before the next disaster, get together with your family or housemates to plan now what each person will do before, during, and after the event. Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how to contact one another; how to get back together; and what to do in different situations. Many government agencies, schools and business have plans for various types of disasters and emergencies. Your family should also have one! Be informed, make a plan. The safety and well-being of your loved ones are important, so take the time NOW to develop a family emergency plan.

### Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- September 24, 6:30pm, social, 7pm meeting & speaker
- St. Stephens Church, 642 5th St., Colusa

### Did a friend send you this newsletter?

- You can get your own newsletter sent directly to your inbox by [clicking here](#).



### 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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