

# 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...

March 2019

UC Cooperative Extension,  
Colusa County

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## In This Issue

- **Book of the Month**— *What's Wrong With My Plant?*
- **Ornamental Plant of the Month**— Yellow Wood-Sorrel Oxalis
- **Edible Plant of the Month**— Lemon Grass
- **Recipe of the Month**— Beef and Barley Stew
- **Garden Guide**
- **Safety Notes**
- **Meet Your Master Gardener**



## Upcoming events

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



### March

#### Landscape Tree Workshop

Saturday, March 16  
10 am to noon  
Williams Community Center

#### Second Saturday at the Library

Saturday, March 9, 10 to noon  
Colusa County Library, Colusa  
Landscape Trees

### March

#### Garden Chat with the Master Gardeners

Tuesday March 26, 1-2 pm  
Arbuckle Library  
610 King St., Arbuckle

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



# Demonstration Garden

The UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County is excited to announce we are starting a demonstration garden!

We will be using a few garden plots located at the Visitor's Center in Colusa.

Our vision is to start small and work our way up to more garden plots. The garden has several preexisting raised plots, a shade structure, picnic tables and benches. It also has a compost pile.

Eventually, we will be able to conduct workshops at the site.



## We Need Your Help to be Successful!



University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program  
Colusa County

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We need funds for:

Soil

Plants

Seeds

Irrigation supplies

[Click here to donate.](#)

(Use the dropdown menu and choose UCCE Master Gardener Program.)

## Book of the Month

### What's Wrong With My Plant (And How Do I Fix It?)

#### A Visual Guide to Easy Diagnosis and Organic Remedies

Written by David Deardorff and Kathryn Wadsworth

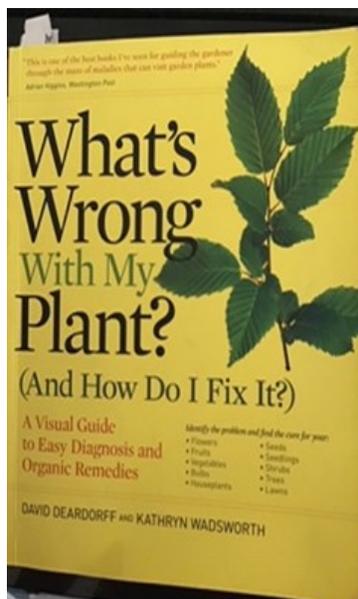
Many times when I'm at the Farmers' Market, someone will hand me a bag of leaves or flowers or show me a picture of a plant in their yard and ask why it is dying. It is usually the basics of location, water, pests and weather that are causing the problem. This book takes you through the diagnostics using easy to read flow charts.

The book is structured in three parts:

1. What's Wrong: Easy diagnostic flow charts. By using the simple charts and answering "yes" or "no" you can move through to find the symptom. Once you have pinpointed the symptom you go to the page indicated to get further information in Part 2
2. How Do I Fix It: This section goes into detail about the problem solving focusing on natural solutions and organic remedies. It covers the basic information all master gardeners know and pass on to the community.
3. What Does it Look Like: This section contains photos of all the problems covered in the previous sections.

The sections may seem repetitious and that's because they are. They consistently reference back and forth to show the symptoms, likely solution and pictures to an unhealthy or dying plant.

A really good reference book!



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich



# Landscape Tree Workshop

Presented by  
UCCE Master Gardener Program  
Colusa County

**When: Saturday, March 16**

**10 am to noon**

**Where: Williams Community Ctr**

**860 C Street, Williams**



## Schedule of talks

(every 20 minutes)

- **The Value of a Tree Canopy (10:05)**
  - \$ Value
  - Benefits of Trees
- **What Tree to Plant (10:25)**
  - Recommended Trees for Colusa County
  - City of Colusa Tree List
  - Selectree
- **Maintenance of Trees (10:45)**
  - Watering
  - Fertilizing
  - Pruning
- **Is My Tree in Trouble? (11:05)**
  - Recognize Hazards
  - When & Who to Call
- **Tree Planting and Staking (11:25)**
  - Tree Planting Demonstration



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## Ornamental Plant of the Month

### Yellow Wood-Sorrel Oxalis

This plant is in strong bloom right now. You can see growing in many lawns, flower bed beds and open fields. Yes pretty, but **very invasive**. I have found it easy to hand pull while the ground is soft from the rain. When removing be sure remove the deep growing roots if you don't want a bigger crop next season. This herbaceous plant may grow as an annual or weak perennial. The flowers produce seed capsules that when touched explode in every direction.

Control in the lawn can be done by maintaining a healthy lawn provided with the nutrients needed to grow lawn thick and strong. Mowing the type of lawn you have at the right height also helps to grow a thick and strong lawn.

Wood sorrel greens and flowers can be used in salads but only in small amounts. One needs to remember oxalis has a high oxalis acid content and should not be consumed in high quantity.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer



# GARDEN CHAT

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

*Where: Arbuckle Library, 610 King Street*

*When: Tuesdays, 1 – 2 pm*

**March 26    April 30    May 28    June 25**  
**July 30    August 27    September 24**

Calling all garden lovers! Garden Chat is a roundtable chat about gardening. It's a place to share your gardening stories, successes, challenges and learn from your neighbors. See what happens when you unplug, slow down and enjoy and meet with fellow gardeners.



**University of California**  
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UCCE Master Gardener Program  
Colusa County

**This is a  
roundtable chat  
about gardening!**

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**Share your  
experiences.**

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**This is a good  
place to ask  
questions.**

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**Garden Chat is  
open to the  
public!**

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**At the  
Arbuckle Library**

**UC MASTER  
GARDENER PROGRAM  
OF COLUSA COUNTY**

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

530-458-0570

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## Edible Plant of the Month

### Lemon Grass

All parts of this grass are strongly lemon-scented and widely used as an ingredient in Southeast Asian cooking. This plant will grow 3-4 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide. Lemon grass can live in the mildest-winter regions, but it's safer to pot up a division and keep it indoors or in a greenhouse over winter.

I have lemon grass, in large ceramic containers, and it stays outside year round. Sometimes it looks a little rangy in the spring.

#### How to Grow It

Best site—like most true grasses, this one does best in full sun.

Soil—ordinary garden soil works well.

Planting—Divisions are usually used but seeds are available. Plant in the spring after the last frost date.

Spacing—One plant can cover a 3 foot circle.

Water—Regular water during the active growth, then less.

Fertilizer—This plant requires very little fertilizer.

Harvest—Cut off the thick, bulbous stems just above the crown (ground level). Only the bottom third of each stalk is used. Peel off the outer sheath and finely slice or pound the inner stem for salads or cooking.

Challenges—This is a trouble free plant.

Several years ago, I went to a gardening conference in Fresno. The exotic fruit and vegetable speaker gave everyone a “stick” of lemon grass. It sat in my car for several months, then I put it in a one gallon container. After a few more months, I decided to throw it away but when I pulled it out of the container it had lots of healthy roots. So, I kept it. Now I have several large containers and it is beautiful.

Information from the Sunset Western Garden Edibles Book.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez



# Second Saturday at the Library

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

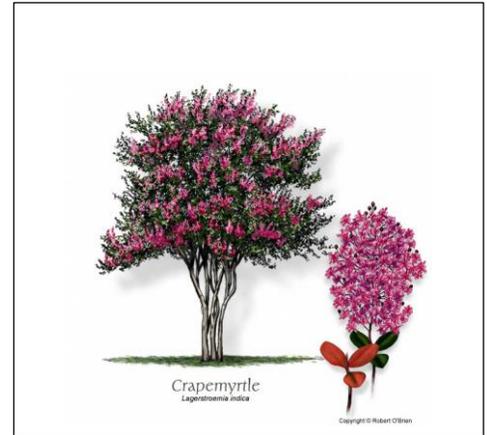
Colusa County Free Library

**When: Second Saturday every month**

**10am to noon**

**Where: Colusa County Free Library**

**Colusa**



- **March 9 – Landscape Trees**
- **April 13 – Pest Management**
- **May 11 – Rose Varieties**
- **June 8 – Irrigation for lawns and flowers**
- **July 13 – Irrigation for vegetables**
- **August 13 – Compost**



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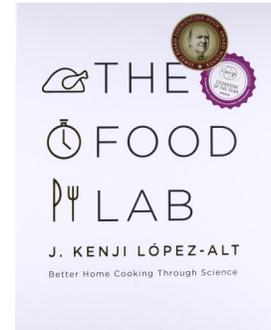
## Recipe of the Month

I know spring is coming but this stew is so good and warming on the cold rainy days we have been having, and it really is a one pot meal. I doubled the recipe for a big crowd and it served about 15 people for lunch.

### BEEF AND BARLEY STEW

#### Serves 6-8

- 2 pounds boneless beef short ribs (I used stew meat I had in the freezer)
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 TBL canola oil
- 2 medium carrots, peeled, split in half lengthwise and cut into 1/2" pieces
- 2 medium stalks of celery, split in half lengthwise and cut into 1/2" pieces
- 1 large onion, finely diced
- 1/2 tsp Marmite ( I didn't have this, so I left it out)
- 1 tsp soy sauce
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 Tbl tomato paste
- 4 cups chicken stock
- One 14.5 ounce can whole tomatoes drained and roughly chopped ( I used diced, juice and all )
- 1 cup pearly barley
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 cups loosely packed kale or mixture of greens



#### Instructions

Toss the short ribs in a large bowl with salt and pepper to coat. Heat the oil in a Dutch oven over high heat until smoking. Add the beef and cook, without moving it, until well browned on the first side, about 5 minutes. Stir the beef and continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until browned all over, about 10 minutes total; reduce the heat if the bottom of the pot begins to scorch. Return the meat to a clean bowl and set aside.

Return the pot to medium-high and add the carrots, celery and onion. Cook, stirring frequently, until the vegetables begin to brown, about 4 minutes. Add the Marmite, soy sauce, garlic and tomato paste and cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

Add the stock and scrape up the browned bits from the bottom of the pot with a wooden spoon. Add the tomatoes, barley and bay leaves, then return the beef to the pot, increase the heat to high, and bring to a boil. Reduce to the lowest possible heat and cover the pot, leaving the lid slightly ajar. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the beef is completely tender and the barley is cooked through, about 2 hours.

Stir in the kale and cook, stirring constantly, until wilted about 2 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve, or, for best flavor, cool and refrigerate in a sealed container for up to 5 days. Reheat and serve.

This recipe came from The Food Lab, Better Home Cooking Through Science.

Submitted by Sherry Maltby

# Gardening Guide

## UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	March	April	May
<b>P L A N T I N G</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can plant canna, gladiolus, and crocosmia for summer blooms.</li> <li>Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil. It is still early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers (although you could try late in the month if the weather has warmed.) Nights should be above 55°.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can plant dahlia tubers and transplant most perennials.</li> <li>As temperatures warm (nights consistently over 55 degrees) you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.</li> <li>You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard. (Cilantro will go to seed quickly as the weather warms up.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct seed in the garden cucumbers, melons, summer squash, beans, corn, and annual herbs.</li> <li>Plant sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and aster in the flower garden.</li> </ul>
<b>M A I N T E N A N C E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance.</li> <li>Fertilize roses, annuals flowers, and berries with slow-release fertilizer when spring growth begins.</li> <li>Fertilize citrus and deciduous fruit trees.</li> <li>Prepare garden beds by incorporating compost before planting spring vegetables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring.</li> <li>Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants.</li> <li>Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. The leaves restore the bulb.</li> <li>Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month.</li> <li>Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs.</li> <li>Later in the month prune spring flowering shrubs to shape, removing old and dead wood.</li> <li>Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits.</li> </ul>
<b>P R E V E N T I O N</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small.</li> <li>Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small.</li> <li>Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the battle against slugs and snails.</li> </ul> 

## 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

**Pot Herb**—Greens; any plant yielding foliage that is edible when cooked, such as spinach, kale, chard, mustard.

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



# MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

## THINKING SAFE AND GREEN

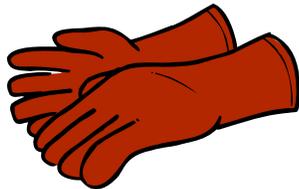


**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**#4**

### **PESTICIDE GLOVE USE**

*Information given here is intended for use by program representatives, master gardeners, and those they train.*



More than 200,000 recordable hand and finger injuries occur each year in the United States. Hand injuries cost an average of \$1,700 per incident. Many of these injuries could be prevented through the proper selection and use of gloves.

Hand protection is recommended when work involves unusual and excessive exposure of hands to cuts, burns, harmful physical or chemical agents or radioactive materials which are encountered and capable of causing impairments or injuries. Accordingly, it is a prudent safety practice to use chemically-resistant gloves when handling pesticides or entering areas where pesticides have been applied.

#### **Glove Selection**

- Always review pesticide labels or material safety data sheets (MSDSs) to determine whether chemically-resistant gloves must be used and if so, what type of chemically resistant gloves should be worn.
- Suitable resistant materials for liquid pesticide concentrates include butyl, fluorocarbon, nitrile, or barrier laminate.
- Suitable materials for water-based pesticides, wettable powders, and granules include natural rubber, neoprene, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene, and the above-described resistant materials.
- If the glove material is not resistant to the pesticide you are using, glove damage should become quickly recognizable. If this is the case, immediately discard the damaged gloves and try a different material.

#### **Glove Safety Precautions**

- Be aware that all gloves are permeable and no glove provides 100% protection.
- Prior to use, check gloves for holes, tears, deformation, or other defects.
- Wash gloves with soap and water and rinse gloves with running water prior to removal.
- Peel one glove off by grasping the cuff, then peel the second glove off similarly so that you end up with both gloves reversed with the contaminated surfaces to the inside.
- Never pull gloves off with your teeth.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water after removing gloves.
- Signs that reusable gloves need replacement include punctures, tears, staining, color change, softening, swelling, bubbling, stiffening, cracking, dissolving, and/or leaking.
- Dry washed gloves in a decontaminated area, place dry gloves in a sealed plastic bag, and store gloves away from possible contamination.
- Routine glove replacement should occur when there is direct glove contact with highly toxic pesticides for a short time or repeated contact with pesticides over a longer period of time.

# Seasonal IPM Checklist

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.

## February

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.
- [Ants](#) - Manage around landscape and building foundations, such as using insecticide baits and trunk barriers.
- [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.
- [Carpenter bees](#) - Paint or varnish and seal wood in which they nest. If intolerable, treat tunnels during fall or early spring.
- [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid sogginess.
- Continue [rainy-season prevention of diseases](#), [earwigs](#), [snails and slugs](#), and [weeds](#).
- Deter borers in fruit and nut trees e.g., [paint trunk and scaffolds with white](#) interior latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water.
- [Fire blight](#) - Look for oozing and dead limbs on pome plants such as apple, crabapple, pear, and pyracantha. If a problem in the past, apply blossom sprays to prevent new infections.
- [Frost](#) - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.
- [Grape diseases](#) - Monitor for powdery mildew, Eutypa dieback, Phomopsis cane and leaf spot, and others. Prune, remove, or treat as appropriate.
- Implement [disease and insect control](#) for apple, pear, stone fruits, nut trees, and deciduous landscape trees and shrubs such as roses.
- [Irrigation](#) - Adjust watering schedules according to the weather and plants' changing need for water. Reduce irrigation frequency or turn off systems if rainfall is adequate. Irrigate deeply but infrequently if the winter is dry.
- [Mosquitoes](#) - Eliminate standing water e.g., in gutters, drain pipes, and flowerpots. Place *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* in birdbaths and ponds to selectively kill mosquito larvae.
- [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- [Oak pit scale](#) - Spray terminals with oil or apply another insecticide if scales are causing tree decline.
- [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Avoid pruning olive and oleander during wet weather if stem galls are a problem.
- [Peach leaf curl](#) - Apply preventive spray once or more during late fall through bud break if leaf curl has been a problem on nectarine or peach.
- [Petal blight of azalea, rhododendron](#), and [camellia](#) - Remove and discard old flowers. Apply fresh organic mulch beneath plants.
- [Plant](#) bare root deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines e.g., caneberries, fruit and nuts, grapes, and roses. Plant seedlings of cedar, fir, pine, and spruce. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site.

# Seasonal IPM Checklist

- [Prune](#) deciduous trees and shrubs that need pruning such as apple, crape myrtle, pear, rose, spirea, and stone fruits. Make cuts properly to encourage good form and structure. Remove dead, diseased, and borer-infested wood. Certain pests (e.g. shothole borer) and host plants such as apricot and cherry warrant summer pruning.
- [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- [Sycamore scale](#) - Check for presence of pest. Difficult or impractical to control on large trees.
- [Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps.

## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

March 25, 6:30 pm  
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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