

# 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...

April 2019

UC Cooperative Extension,  
Colusa County

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- **Garden Guide**
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- **Meet Your Master Gardener**



## Upcoming events

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



### April

#### Family Fair

April 13, 10 am to 1 pm  
Egling Middle School, Colusa

#### Plant Clinic

Friday, April 19, 10 am to 2 pm  
Griff's Feed and Seed  
851 7th St., Colusa

#### Virginia Read—*Charlotte's Web*

\*Tuesday April 23, 6 to 8 pm  
Colusa County Library, Colusa  
\*Saturday April 27, 1 pm  
Rocco's Banquet Hall, Main St., Colusa

#### Garden Chat with the MasterGardeners

Tuesday April 30, 1-2 pm  
Arbuckle Library  
610 King St., Arbuckle

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



# Garden Advice

## at the Colusa County Children's Services Family Fair

Bring your children and grandchildren to the Family Fair. There will be lots of great activities for the kids.



- April 13, 10-1pm, Egling Middle School, Colusa
- UCCE Master Gardeners of Colusa County will be planting succulent containers.
- While the kids are planting their succulent container you can “Ask Us” your gardening questions.



## Book of the Month

### ***100 Flowers and How They Got Their Names***

Diana Wells

As someone interested in flowers and in words, when I spotted a book titled *100 Flowers and how they go their names*, I had to take a look. This is an older book (1997) by garden writer and historian, Diana Wells.

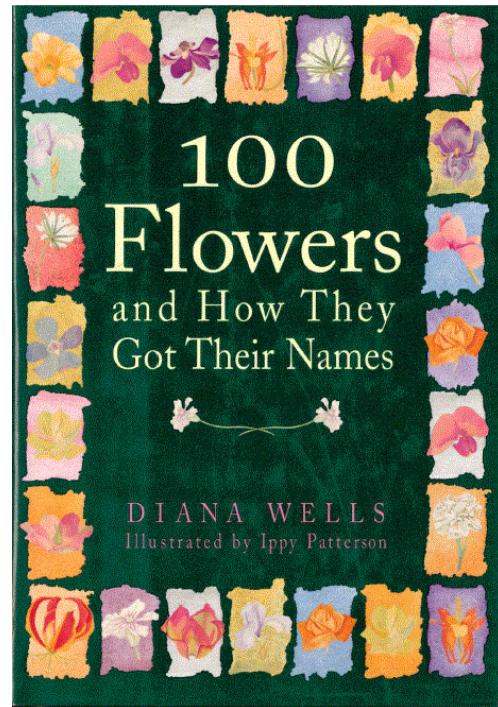
According to Wells, from abelia to zinnia, every flower tells a story. She delves into horticultural history, etymology, and lore to uncover myths, legends, folk beliefs and stories of botanists who searched the world for new and unusual flowers.

Did you know that the name candytuft has nothing to do with candy but actually comes from Candia, or Crete, from where it was imported to England in Elizabethan times?

The common name for hollyhock comes from the word holy. It may have been considered holy because it was brought to Britain by the Crusaders. It is hard to know for certain the origin of the name because it is such an ancient plant. Herbs found in the fifty-thousand-year-old grave of a Neanderthal man included the remains of hollyhock.

The name nasturtium comes from the Latin *nasus*, nose and *tortus*, twisted, because their pungent smell makes the nose wrinkle or twist.

Wells explores in two to four pages the history of each of these plants and ninety-seven others. There are drawings of each flower by illustrator, Ippy Patterson.



Submitted by Peggy Townzen

# Plant Clinic

April 19, 10 to 2 pm

Griff's Feed and Seed  
851 7<sup>th</sup> St., Colusa

Insect questions?  
What do I plant questions?

**Have a question? Ask us!**



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## Ornamental Plant of the Month

### Spotted Bee Balm

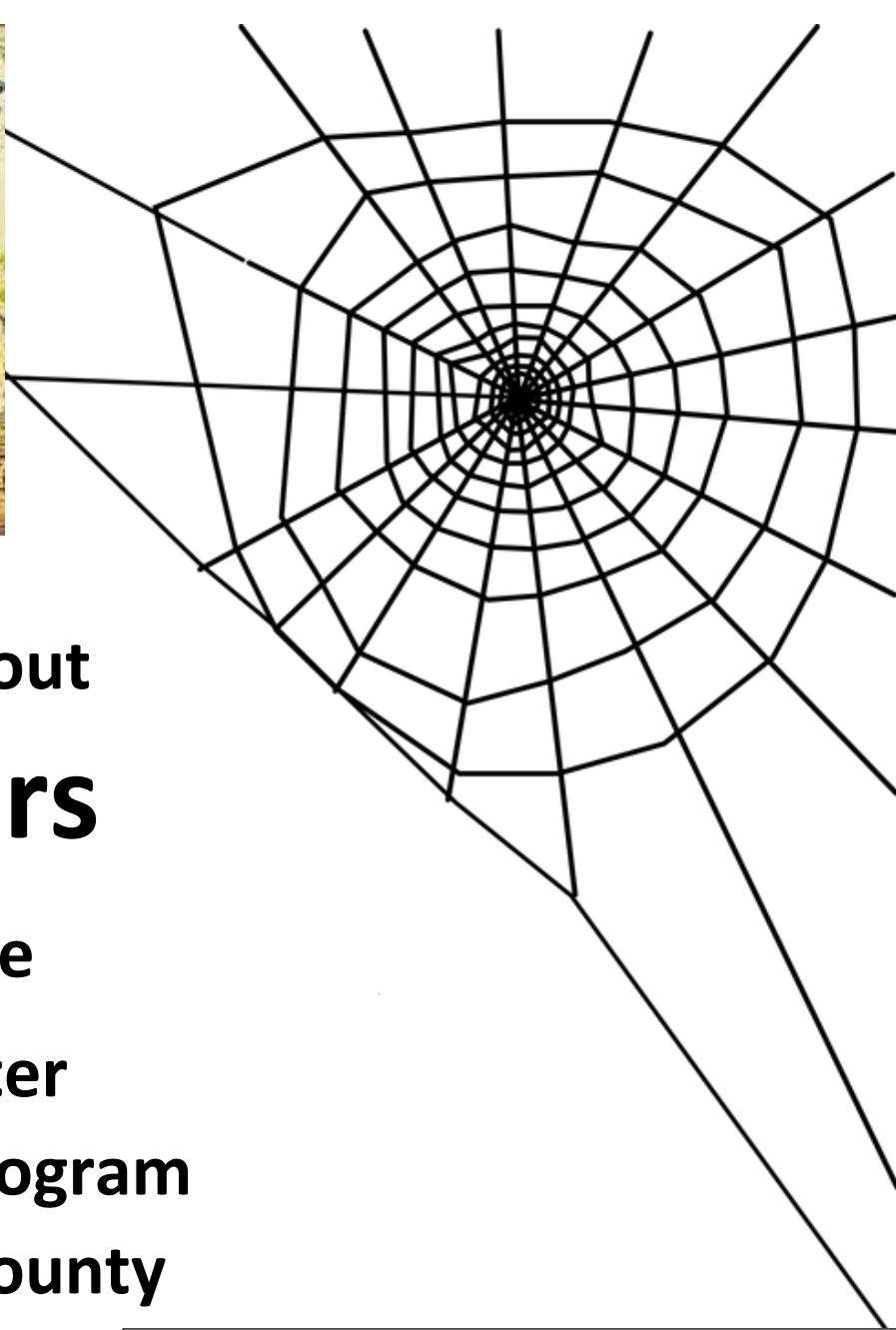
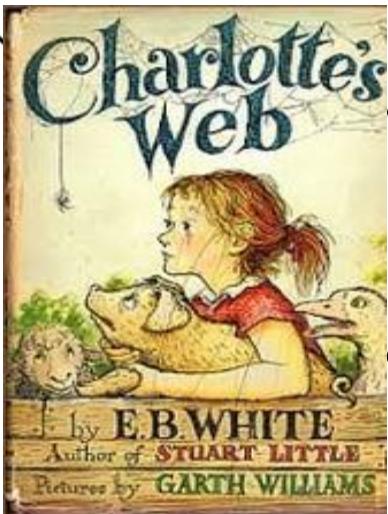
*Monarda punctata*

We hear so many stories about the struggle of bees and in an effort to give them a welcome treat I invite you to try the Spotted Bee Balm. It's a hardy perennial that is quite adaptable to many soil and climate conditions – tolerant of dry to drought like conditions. It will always look nicer with a bit of supplemental water during the growing season. Spotted bee balm is a member of the mint family but is not as aggressive as most mints. To keep it under control make sure you deadhead the flowers so there is no seed production. You can count on it growing to about 2 feet in height which adds a nice back drop for shorter plantings. The flowers and bracts on this plant are slow to open but put on a great show by mid to late summer. It will bring in the bumblebees, honey bees, beneficial wasps and other nectar feeders. Like its cousin the scarlet bee balm it can get leggy so stick one of your tomato cages around it as it fills with flowers.

Plant this hardy perennial in full sun to partial shade and well drained soil. Wildlife will thank you!!



Submitted by Cynthia White



Learn about  
**Spiders**  
with the  
**UC Master  
Gardener Program  
of Colusa County**

**Virginia Yerxa Community Read**

Tuesday April 23, 6:30-8 pm at the Colusa County Library, 738 Market St., Colusa

Saturday April 27, 1 pm at Rocco's Banquet Hall, Main St., Colusa



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## Edible Plant of the Month

### Spring Irrigation Tune-up

Now that spring is here and the rainy season is over (we think), your plants will eventually need to be irrigated. The following check list is geared for a drip & micro irrigation system. The following steps can be used as a guide for a spring sprinkler tune-up.

Before you turn on your irrigation system follow these quick 10 steps.

1. Make sure that you have adjusted the irrigation controller timer to reflect daylight saving time.
2. Flush the main line to clear any accumulated dirt or sediment in the line.
3. Clean the filter (if you have one).
4. Turn on each valve and check for any leaks in the main irrigation lines and repair as necessary.
5. Check all emitters to be sure they are operating.
6. Clean or replace emitters that are not performing satisfactorily.
7. Take a look at the area being irrigated. Have the plants matured over the last year making it necessary to add additional emitters?
8. Remember that grouping plants that have similar irrigation needs (hydrozoning) is the best plan for your garden irrigation design. Do any rearranging of plant material that can be done safely at this time of the year.
9. Over-watering with drip systems is common. Check the soil moisture at the rooting depth of plants that day after watering. Adjust the irrigation time and delivery method accordingly.
10. Remember that plant water requirements change during the season. Make a note on the calendar to recheck in June and again in September.

Perform spot checks throughout the season to assess system performance. Regularly check soil moisture around plants. The failure of a drip system is often evident only when the plant is failing.

Now you are set for another successful year of gardening!



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez



# GARDEN CHAT

Garden Chat with the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County

**Where:** Arbuckle Library, 610 King Street

**When:** Tuesdays, 1 – 2 pm

April 30      May 28      June 25  
July 30      August 27      September 24

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

**Share your experiences.**

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

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

**At the Arbuckle Library**

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.



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## Recipe of the Month

### Lemon Cream Pasta with Asparagus

Adapted from Rachael Ray

2 cups white wine  
1 lemon, zested and juiced  
1 cup heavy cream  
salt  
1 pound linguine or spaghetti  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1/2 pound asparagus  
1/4 cup chopped preserved lemon peel (peel only, not flesh)  
3 tablespoons butter  
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
1 cup grated Romano cheese  
fresh basil (or parsley) for garnish



1. Bring wine and lemon zest (1 1/2 teaspoons) to a boil in a saucepan, simmer gently until wine is reduced by half, about 10 minutes. Add the lemon juice (1/4 cup), gently whisk in the heavy cream, and continue to simmer to reduce while cooking pasta.
2. Bring a large pot of water to a boil, add salt, and cook pasta about 2 minutes less than package directions.
3. Trim the asparagus of tough ends and slice the remaining stems on the bias about 1/4-1/2 inch thick while pasta cooks.
4. Sauté the asparagus in the olive oil until just barely tender crisp, about 4 minutes. They will continue to cook in the sauce.
5. Stir the preserved lemon peel into asparagus mixture. (or use some additional zest and some extra salt)  
Remove from heat.
6. Drain the pasta, melt the butter into the hot pan, return pasta to the pan, toss to coat.
7. Add cream sauce and cheeses to the pasta, toss.
8. Add the asparagus mixture and toss again.
9. Serve in shallow bowls, serves 4.

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

# 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!



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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.)

# Gardening Guide

## UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	April	May	June
P L A N T I N G	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the flower garden you can still plant seeds of marigolds, zinnias, cosmos and sunflowers. You can set out transplants of perennials like yarrow, verbena, black-eyed Susan, and dahlias.</li> <li>In the vegetable garden you can plant seeds of pumpkins, squash, and corn.</li> </ul>
M A I N T E N A N C E	<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dig and divide spring-flowering bulbs when the tops have died down.</li> <li>Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture.</li> <li>Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Later in the month use a fertilizer for acid-loving plants like azaleas and camellias.</li> </ul>
P R E V E N T I O N	<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>	  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be sure to water early in the day to conserve water and minimize plant disease. Regularly check your sprinklers and drip emitters for needed repairs and adjustments. Monitor soil moisture in hot weather to be sure you are irrigating enough. (Use a metal rod to push into the ground. If it goes in easily, the soil is moist.)</li> </ul>

# 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.

## April

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.
- [American plum borer](#) - Check for frass and gum on lower branch crotches and graft unions of young trees such as almond, mountain ash, olive, sycamore, and stone fruit.
- [Anthracnose](#) e.g., on ash and sycamore - Fungicides are generally not options for large trees other than ash.
- [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.
- Camellia, citrus, gardenia, grape and other plants adapted to acidic soil - If leaves are yellowing (chlorotic) between green veins, plants may benefit from foliar or soil [application of iron and zinc](#) chelate and mulching.
- [Carpenter bees](#) - Paint or varnish and seal wood in which they nest. If intolerable, treat tunnels during fall or early spring.
- [Carpenterworm](#) - Protect trees from injury and provide proper cultural care, especially appropriate irrigation.
- Cherry [spotted wing drosophila](#) - Harvest early, apply spinosad as soon as fruit begins to develop any pink color.
- [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as caterpillars, mites, scales, and thrips.
- [Clearwing moths](#) - Look for signs of boring in ash, birch, pine, poplar, and willow; less often in oak, sycamore, and stone fruits.
- [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 during rainy weather if needed to avoid sogginess.
- 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.
- [Fertilize](#) caneberries, citrus, deciduous fruit trees, palms, and heavily-flowering shrubs with slow-release product if not done in March.
- [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.
- [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.
- [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.

# Seasonal IPM Checklist

- [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Avoid pruning olive and oleander during wet weather if stem galls are a problem.
- [Olive pests](#) e.g., ash borer, psyllid, and scales. Blossom drop sprays on nonharvested trees. [Olive fruit fly](#) suppression on harvested trees.
- [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.
- [Plant](#) frost-tender species e.g., avocado, bougainvillea, citrus, and hibiscus. Water regularly to keep root zone moist, but not soggy.
- [Powdery mildew](#) - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits.
- [Prune](#) pine terminals only during candling (new shoot growth), late spring to early summer, to retard growth and in young pines direct growth.
- [Prune](#) winter-flowering shrubs e.g., camellia before next year's flower buds form.
- [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- [Rose pests](#) - Manage or take preventive actions, such as for aphids, black spot, Botrytis blight, downy mildew, hoplia beetle, powdery mildew, thrips, and rust.
- [Scab](#) of apple, crabapple, and pear - Avoid sprinkler wetting of leaves. Compost or dispose of dropped leaves. Grow resistant cultivars or apply preventive fungicides.
- [Scale insects](#) - If damage has been unacceptable, monitor the crawler stage and when abundant apply horticultural oil or another insecticide.
- [Stone fruit pests](#) - Monitor for pests such as aphids, borers, brown rot, caterpillars, powdery mildew, and scale insects.
- [Weeds](#) - Manage weeds using nonchemical methods such as [cultivation](#), handweeding, or mowing.
- [Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps.

## 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

**Lenticel**—Opening through the bark or outer covering of fruits and stems (and sometimes other organs), that permits exchange of gases from the inner tissues with the surrounding air.

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!*

Safety Note #35

## GRASS TRIMMER SAFETY



Consumer Product Safety Commission data indicate a total of approximately 10,000 people were treated in hospitals for grass trimmer injuries during 2003. Of this total, 3,100 injuries were to eyes and 2,200 injuries were lacerations. Other injuries included contusions, strains, and sprains. Most grass trimmer injuries are avoidable and are due to operator inexperience or inattentive or improper handling of grass trimmers. **Video E-082 Groundskeeping Safety is available from the ANR Environmental Health and Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.**

### Pre-Use Activities

- Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the grass trimmer operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect the grass trimmer for damage or disrepair and make sure the cutting head and shield are securely in place. For electric grass trimmers inspect the electrical cord for fraying or damage.
- If a grass trimmer fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the grass trimmer from service by attaching a red tag that states "DO NOT USE." Complete red tag with appropriate information.

### Operating Precautions

- Always wear safety glasses or goggles and gloves when using a grass trimmer.
- Wear long pants and sturdy shoes (i.e., no sneakers or sandals) when using a grass trimmer. Do not wear loose clothing.
- Always start a gasoline-powered grass trimmer outside. Do not operate a gasoline-powered grass trimmer inside an enclosed space (i.e., sheds or garages) where carbon monoxide exhaust gas can accumulate.
- Prior to starting, inspect the work area and pick up all loose objects (i.e., sticks, stones, pieces of glass/metal, etc.) that could be thrown by the grass trimmer.
- When working outdoors, wear the appropriate clothing and sun protection for the weather conditions and consume adequate amounts of fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Always operate the grass trimmer with the cutting head below the waist. Avoid overreaching with a grass trimmer.
- Exercise caution when trimming grass near trees or shrubs with low hanging branches.
- Never fuel a gasoline-powered grass trimmer when the engine is hot. Use a rag to wipe up fuel spills.
- Shut off the grass trimmer and disconnect the spark plug wire or electric cord before performing mechanical adjustments, maintenance, or repairs or clearing/unclogging the underside of the cutting attachment and shield.
- Maintain the grass trimmer according to the manufacturer's instructions, including cleaning, lubricating, and storage of the grass trimmer.

## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

April 29, 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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Website: [http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative\\_Action/](http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/).

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