

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...

January 2020

UC Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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Upcoming events

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



February

Colusa Farm Show

February 4, 5, 6

Colusa County Fairgrounds

Second Saturday at the Library

February 8, 10 am to noon

Topic: Propagation

Colusa County Library, Colusa

Garden Chat

January 29 & February 25, 1 pm

Arbuckle Library

March

Landscape Tree Workshop

Details to come

Second Saturday at the Library

March 14, 10 am to noon

Topic: Pest ID & Management

Colusa County Library, Colusa

Garden Chat

March 31, 1 pm

Arbuckle Library

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





Second Saturday at the Library

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County
Colusa County Free Library

When: Second Saturday every month

10 am to noon

**Where: Colusa County Free Library,
Colusa**



- February 8 – Propagation
- March 14 – Pest ID
- April 11 – Roses
- May 9 - Salvia and Agastache for Hummingbirds!



**University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources**

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

Book of the Month

My New Year's Garden

Written By Lisbeth Ann Williams

From The Weeder's Reader

As we grow older, New Years Resolutions are apt to become more important to us. The accumulating years begin to press down upon us, bringing acute awareness of our mortality. So we reflect on the previous year's disappointments, consider those things that we have put off, and contemplate new possibilities – especially if we are gardeners. Indeed, once the Christmas decorations have been stored away and the seed catalogs start to arrive, I find myself starting to ponder

I planted too much *anger* and *resentment* last year, so this I will replace them with some *tolerance* and *patience*. I really could have used some more *enthusiasm*, too, so I will add a little extra this time and plant it next to the *hope*. I have always wanted to cultivate *laughter*, and I have the perfect spot next to the *light hearted expressions*.

Perhaps I could thin out the *tears*. I really don't need very many of those. And, you know, I never really liked the *frustration*- its so invasive. I think I will replace it with *harmony*. I didn't care for that variety of *judgement*, either. It's casting a shadow over the *kindness*. It does compliment the *blame*, but the other plants that are near it are not doing well. I will move them both back to that back corner, and be sure to keep them pruned back. I should probably move the *criticism* back there, as well.

A person could never have too much *peace*, so I will order twice as much this year. I will add a couple more varieties of *love* and put them right here in front, so I can smell their fragrance whenever I walk past them.

There. Now I can place my orders. This catalog says that if I place an order of \$20 or more, they will send me a free *good will* bush. It would look so pretty, tucked in between the *peace* and the *harmony*. Now if spring will just hurry up and arrive.

I'd better not wait, though. I will start these seeds right away. I'll begin them inside, to give them – and myself – a good start on the New Year.

Submitted by Carolyn Froelich



GARDEN CHAT

Garden Chat with the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County

Where: Arbuckle Library, 610 King Street

When: Tuesdays, 1 – 2 pm

**January 28, February 25, March 31, April 28,
May 26, June 30, July 28, August 25,
September 29, October 27, November 24,
December 29**

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, enjoy, and meet with fellow gardeners.

**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**

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OF COLUSA COUNTY**
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Ornamental Plant of the Month

Enjoy the Christmas Amaryllis Year After Year

Many may have received a Christmas Amaryllis lily as a gift this season and then just discard because of not knowing what to do with it when the blooming is finished. I have enjoyed late spring/summer bloom in my garden now for several years from plants that could have been discarded. Simply, once the flower is spent, set the pot aside until early spring or until the soil is ready to till.

The Amaryllis is not fussy as to exposure, but in our valley, partial sun, with late afternoon shade will be the best location. Too much shade will reduce bloom; too much summer sun may burn the leaves. Plant in well-drained soil at the same depth as in was in the container with 1/3 of the bulb neck above ground.

Compost will not only amend the heavy soil but, in fact, will provide nutrients to the roots. Plant 12-15 inches apart and water well until established. Use a balanced fertilizer once the leaves have emerged and keep moist throughout the growing season, however, once establish the Amaryllis is fairly drought tolerant.

An established Amaryllis does not require much care and will continue to bloom year after year. However, dividing crowded bulbs in the fall, much like daffodils, a good way to start new potted plants and to renew or increase bloom.

Planting your Amaryllis in the garden is a wonderful way to enjoy the bloom year after year.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

Sorrel

Rumex species

Knotweed family (*Polygonaceae*)

Perennial often grown as an annual.

Two similar species are grown for their edible leaves, which can be used raw in salads or cooked in soups, sauces and egg dishes. The flavor is like that of a sharp, sprightly spinach but sorrel is more heat-tolerant than spinach and produces throughout the growing season.

Cut out flowering stems to encourage leaf production and replace (or dig and divide) plants of either kind every 3 to 4 years.

Common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), zones 1-9 and 14-17. This is a larger plant, 3 feet tall, with leaves to 6 inches long, many shaped like elongated arrowheads.

French sorrel (*Rumex scutatus*), zones 3-10 and 14-24. This is a somewhat sprawling plant to 1.5 feet tall, with shorter, broader leaves and a milder, more lemony flavor than common sorrel.



How to Grow it

Best site: Full sun for both species.

Yield: A dozen plants will supply a family of four.

Soil: Grow in reasonably fertile soil with good drainage.

Planting: Sow seeds in early spring or set out transplants at any time.

Spacing: Thin perennial plants to 8 inches apart. If grown as annuals, 4 inches apart.

Water: Provide even moisture for both, but French sorrel can get by with less water.

Fertilizer: Apply a complete fertilizer once after thinning.

Harvest: Pick tender leaves as soon as they are big enough to use (about 2 months after sowing). With row covers, harvest can continue through winter in mild winter climates.

From *Sunset Western Garden Book of Edibles*

Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Recipe of the Month

Pumpkin Curry Soup

This recipe is adapted from Libby's® Pumpkin

A great tasting pumpkin soup with a hint of curry!

Ingredients

2 Tbl butter	1/4 tsp ground white pepper
1 cup chopped onion	3 cups chicken broth
2 cloves of garlic	1 (15 oz) can of Libby's Pure Pumpkin
1 1/2 tsp curry powder	1 (12 oz) can Evaporated milk
1/2 tsp salt (or to taste)	1 tsp garam masala spice mix (optional)

Directions

1. Melt butter in large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion and garlic; cook, stirring frequently for 2 to 3 minutes or until tender. Stir in curry powder, salt and pepper; cook for 1 minute
2. Add broth and pumpkin; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low; cook, stirring occasionally, for 15 to 20 minutes. Stir in evaporated milk. Transfer mixture to food processor or blender and let it cool down a bit before blending. Alternatively, you can use an immersion blender right away. Blend until smooth. reheat and serve warm.
If you like a little more spice, I recommend adding 1 tsp garam masala spice mix. It's a blend of ground spices common in North Indian or South Asian cuisines. You can order it on Amazon if you can't find it at your local store, in the ethnic food aisle.

4 to 6 servings



Submitted by Sherry Maltby

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9



	January	February	March
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant rhubarb, strawberries, and cane berries. Plant seeds for broccoli, cabbage, parsley, turnips, peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach. This is the time to plant bare root roses, trees, artichoke crowns, grapevines, and other vines. You can still plant pansies, violas, snapdragons, and fairy primroses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant rhubarb, strawberries, and cane berries. Plant seeds for broccoli, cabbage, parsley, turnips, peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach. This is the time to plant bare root roses, trees, artichoke crowns, grapevines, and other vines. You can still plant pansies, violas, snapdragons, and fairy primroses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can plant canna, gladiolus, and crocosmia for summer blooms. Early in the month you can still plant bare-root trees and shrubs if the garden center still has any. Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil. It is early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers. Nights should be above 55°.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Later in the month you can divide Shasta daisies, daylilies, chrysanthemums, and other perennials. Roses, fruit trees and other perennials can be pruned this month. Do not prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom. Prune berry canes that bore fruit last year to the ground. Prune grapevines back, leaving 2 to 3 buds per side shoot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roses, fruit trees and other perennials can be pruned this month. Do not prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom. Prune berry canes that bore fruit last year to the ground. Prune grapevines back, leaving 2 to 3 buds per side shoot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance. Fertilize roses, annuals flowers, and berries with slow-release fertilizer when spring growth begins. Fertilize citrus and deciduous fruit trees. Watch for aphids on new growth on the roses; spray with a strong spray of water, or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray horticultural oil on pruned fruit trees to control scale, mites and aphids. Thorough coverage will kill over-wintering eggs. Later in the month, spray neem oil on roses to control mildew, rust, and black spot. Do not apply oils unless there will be 24 hours of dry weather following application. Be sure to clean up debris (leaves and twigs) around roses and fruit trees to help prevent disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray horticultural oil on pruned fruit trees to control scale, mites and aphids. Thorough coverage will kill over-wintering eggs. Later in the month, spray neem oil on roses to control mildew, rust, and black spot. Do not apply oils unless there will be 24 hours of dry weather following application. Be sure to clean up debris (leaves and twigs) around roses and fruit trees to help prevent disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small. Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them.



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.

January

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.
- [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.
- [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](#).
- [Frost](#) - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.
- 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.
- [Mistletoe](#) - Prune off infected branches.
- [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.
- [Pine](#) bark beetles, pitch moths, western gall rust, and wood borers - If pines need branch removal, prune during October through January.
- [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.
- [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.

Master Gardener activities!



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

Hotbed—Small enclosed garden bed, having a transparent covering, in which the soil is heated.

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



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

#2

PRUNING SAFETY

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



Data available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicate approximately 27,000 people nationwide received hospital treatment for pruning injuries during 2006. Many of the injuries were to fingers and involved lacerations. **English and Spanish language safety videos on tree care safety are available for loan from the ANR Environmental Health & Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.**

Pre-Pruning Activities

- Pruning typically involves the use of shears and saws, loppers, and manual and electric hedge trimmers. Accordingly, pruning tools have sharp edges and pinch points and in some cases an additional electrical hazard.
- Thoroughly review and understand information from the pruning tool brochure or booklet provided by the manufacturer, with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect pruning tools to determine if they are functioning properly, including assuring all moveable joints are lubricated and blades are sharpened adequately. For electric equipment, inspect the electrical cord and plug for defects.

Pruning Safety Precautions

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety glasses with side shields, hard hat, gloves, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, boots, and sunscreen.
- Never prune trees or branches within 10 feet of power lines. Contact your local utility company to secure appropriately qualified tree trimming services.
- Maintain a safe working distance from other people when using pruning tools or equipment.
- Carefully inspect the work area to locate any signs of bees, wasps, or other potential animal hazards.
- Do not attempt to cut branches bigger than the pruning tool was designed to cut.
- Before making a cut, always know the location of your hands and fingers.
- Do not purposefully drop pruning tools from ladders.
- Always carry pruning tools with the sharp end pointed down.
- Prior to dropping a branch, an audible warning such as "timber" should be given.
- Take frequent breaks when performing repetitive tasks. Do not overtire yourself.
- Be aware of the weather conditions and drink adequate fluids to prevent heat illness.
- Never use electric pruning tools or equipment when it is raining or in wet conditions.
- If a ladder is used for pruning, then basic rules for ladder safety should be followed such as: always set the ladder on a solid, level surface; stepladders should be fully opened with spreaders locked; never step above the top two rungs of a stepladder; never stand on a rung or step and face away from the ladder; and always mount ladders from the center and climb/descend the ladder using both hands.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

January 27, 6:30
St. Stephens Church
642 Fifth St., Colusa

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Additional Links

Integrated Pest Management ipm.ucanr.edu

UC Davis Arboretum arboretum.ucdavis.edu

Invasive Plants www.cal-ipc.org

Plant Right www.plantright.org

Save Our Water saveourwater.com

California Garden Web cagardenweb.ucanr.edu

McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens turtlebay.org

UCANR Colusa County cecolusa.ucanr.edu

UC Master Gardener Program (statewide) mg.ucanr.edu

California Backyard Orchard homeorchard.ucanr.edu

ANR publications anrcatalog.ucanr.edu

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Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.

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