



A Garden Runs Through It

October 2021

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

UCCE Master Gardener Program, Colusa County
County Director, Franz Niederholzer

UC Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

P.O. Box 180
100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite E
Colusa, CA 95932

530-458-0570
Gerry Hernandez
glhernandez@ucanr.edu
cecolusa.ucanr.edu

In This Issue

- **Ornamental Plant of the Month**— *Mahonia aquafolium*
- **Bonus Ornamental Plant of the Month**—Luscious Citron lantana
- **Edible Plant of the Month**— Just Say No!
- **Book of the Month**—*The Quarter-Acre Farm*
- **Recipe of the Month**— Skillet Samosas
- **Garden Guide**
- **Safety Notes**



Upcoming events



October

Pumpkin Centerpiece workshop
Coming in October!
Watch for details

This event has been cancelled.

November

Colusa County Office of Education
Community Resource Fair
November 6
10-2 pm
Multipurpose Room
499 Marguerite
Williams, Ca

Come and see us!

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



Listen to our podcast

visit: theplantmasters.com



OCTOBER 2021 - GARDEN PESTS

In this episode of 'A Garden Runs Through It', the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County, Gerry Hernandez, Cynthia White discuss garden pests and how to manage them.



How to listen?

Search your favorite app for RadioColusa.com

Radio colusa.com



"A Garden Runs Through It" podcast is produced in partnership with:



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Mahonia aquifolium

Holly-leaved Barberry, Holly-leaf Oregon-grape

Holly-leaf Oregon-grape is a 3-6 ft., mound-shaped, broadleaf evergreen shrub with pinnately compound, glossy, leathery leaves. The 5-9 dark-green leaflets are armed with spiny teeth and turn reddish in fall. Terminal clusters of bright-yellow, bell-shaped flowers are followed by clusters of tiny blue, grape-like fruits. The bronzy copper color or the new growth in spring is an added bonus.

This stout shrub is the state flower of Oregon. The berries of this and other Oregon-grape species are eaten by wildlife and make good jelly. Native Americans made a yellow dye from the bark and wood of this shrubby species. Several are used as ornamental garden plants; in the nursery trade some of them are known by the common name Mahonia.

Water Use: Low

Light Requirement: Part Shade , Shade

Soil Moisture: Dry

CaCO3 Tolerance: Low

Soil Description: Moist, well-drained, acid loams.

Conditions Comments: Protect this plant from drying winter winds. Leaf scorch can be severe. Barberry aphids, scale and whiteflies can be a problem.

Use Ornamental: Widely used as an ornamental and has been reported as an escape from cultivation across the continent.

Use Wildlife: Berries are relished by a variety of wildlife.

Use Medicinal: Medicinally, various root preparations of *Berberis aquifolium* were used by Native Americans for stomach trouble, hemorrhages, and tuberculosis; as a panacea, a tonic, a gargle, and an eye wash; and to purify blood. Leaves and roots were used in steam baths to treat yellow fever; karok was used as a poison; and the tips of stems were used to treat stomach aches (D. E. Moermann 1986).

Conspicuous Flowers: yes

Special Value to Native Bees.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Ornamental Plant of the Month

New Lantana Butterflies Yellow into your Landscape

Luscious Citron lantana

I know this isn't the first time you have seen yellow lantana but this one has an advantage that may stir your interest. And you also will have to wait until 2022 to be able to find it in the garden centers around here. Many people think of lantana and automatically think that orange is too much for their landscaping. So, let's soft-pedal yellow and go straight to the Luscious Citron lantana. Some might call it a pastel, but if you have ever seen a citron fruit, this nails it.

The test gardens report this lantana has a wonderful habit reaching 30 inches tall and wide. Not one reported any setting of fruit. It simply just keeps growing and blooming at the right pace. It was paired with a Ruby Chip buddleia that has the same compact habit plus the added attraction of a wide variety of pollinators. Despite all the other butterfly nectar options, the Luscious Citron has been a favorite. Giant swallowtails, Easter tiger swallowtails and spicebush swallowtails have all been regulars feeding on the blooms. The smaller American lady butterflies have also made frequent visits. Luscious Citron will bring the lantana series to 11 colors. Lantana needs very little to do well in our area - plenty of sun, and fertile, well-drained soil. Proven Winners touts their cold-hardiness as perennial in zones 9 and warmer. Be sure to give it enough moisture to survive the dry summer here and it should come roaring back in the spring.

Lantanas need to be kept in an active state of growth for continual blooms. Cutting back to stimulate growth, feeding and watering during drought periods are all part of regimen over a long hot summer. Luscious Citron can keep blooming until frost, rivaling any other plant in the garden. I try to add something each year to the garden so there is a surprise.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Edible Plant of the Month

JUST SAY NO!

It's that time of year! *PUMPKIN SPICE* is EVERYWHERE, from coffee drinks, desserts to candles, beer, breakfast cereals, infused wines, yogurt, hot cocoa mixes, ice cream, cream cheese, chai, teas, protein bars, muffins, bread spreads, and even recipes for chili, mac & cheese, mixed drinks, nachos, and smoothies containing the stuff. YUCK to all of this (except maybe the candles).

Nothing says FALL better than the delicious scent of cooked APPLES! These autumn beauties can be grown right here, even in our hot as Hades'.

Many varieties require low chilling hours for production, which means apples are suitable, and we can also grow MANY types here in our hot climate (providing we have water). Some heirloom varieties are the best in my opinion. Most apples are "self-fertile" which means they WILL NOT need another variety to help with pollination.

Some popular SF (self-fertile) apples (popular in local markets), which grow in USDA zones 9-12 are: Gala, Braeburn, Granny Smith, Honeycrisp, Jonagold, McIntosh, Rome Beauty, Winter Banana, Fuji, (**and so many more!**). MY favorites are Mutsu, Gravenstein, and Pink Lady. One of my treasured non-self-fertile apples is Black Arkansas (which has a long shelf-life). An appropriate old school baking apple which has the same early bloom time would be Newtown Pippin. One can purchase trees which are already grafted with different varieties to assist with pollination, or DIY by taking an Arkansas Black, and a Newtown Pippin and grafting a branch or two onto the other. There are sooo many apples suited for USDA zones 9-12 which are available, especially through on-line nurseries.

There are also some of those interesting apples out there like Red Devil and Niedwetzkyana with a bright red fleshy portion, making for very interesting and colorful pies, or just snacking!

Apples do need care if you wish to have a larger fruit crop and keeping your tree healthy. Apple trees prefer well drained soils but will also grow in heavier soils. Shaping, and pruning is essential, unless one wants to make it an ornamental tree. If you are planting an apple tree for fruit production however, you will need to train into almost a vase shape, but not allowing the 4 main branches to come from the same point, rather evenly spacing around the trunk and at least 8-9" apart. You can also prune using the 'central leader' method. Prune out crossing and over-vigorous branches coming from the center of the tree. Thin heavily fruited branches to encourage larger individual fruit. Two pests to watch out for are codling moth and apple maggot which you can find out how to deal with them at ipm.ucanr.edu



Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen

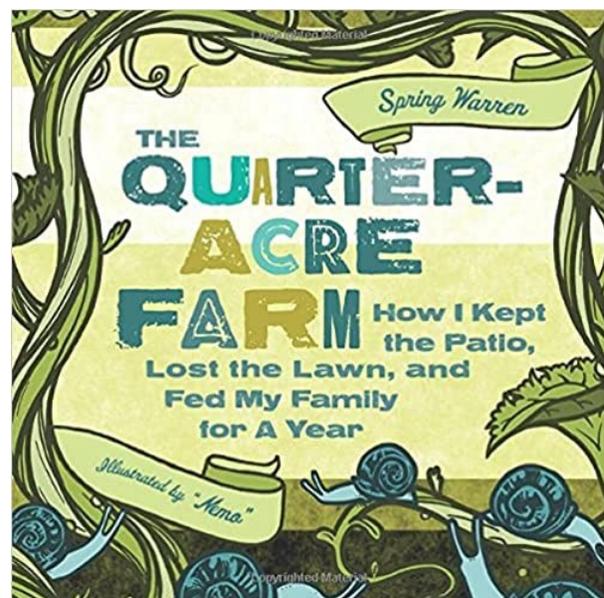
Book of the Month

The Quarter-Acre Farm

A few years ago the Friends of the Library had Spring Warren come to a meeting and talk about her book. So, I purchased one and I am so glad I did. You see I grew up on a farm and knew how difficult it was to grow food. For me, this book was very funny!

If you want to turn your backyard into a farm then read this book. She tells you about all the pitfalls and the glorious bounty of being your own farmer.

When Spring Warren told her husband and two teenage boys that she wanted to grow 75 percent of all the food they consumed for one year, and that she wanted to do it in their yard, they told her she was crazy. She did it anyway. *The Quarter-Acre Farm* is Warren's account of deciding, despite all resistance, to take control of her family's food choices, get her hands dirty, and create a garden in her suburban yard. It's a story of bugs, worms, rot, and failure; of learning, replanting, harvesting, and eating. The road is long and riddled with mistakes, but by the end of her yearlong experiment, Warren's sons and husband have become her biggest fans. In fact, they're even eager to help harvest (and eat) the beautiful bounty she brings in. Full of tips and recipes to help anyone interested in growing and preparing at least a small part of their diet at home, *The Quarter-Acre Farm* is a warm, witty tale about family, food, and the incredible gratification that accompanies self-sufficiency.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Recipe of the Month

Skillet Samosas

adapted from Milk Street

3 tablespoons oil
1 large red onion, finely chopped, divided
4 large garlic cloves, finely grated
4 teaspoons finely grated fresh ginger
1-2 jalapeno or serrano peppers, minced, optional
3 tablespoons garam masala
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
14 1/2 ounce can whole peeled tomatoes with juices, crushed by hand
2 tablespoons tomato paste, blend with the tomatoes, add to skillet
1 pound lean ground beef or LAMB (more authentic!!)
2 cups frozen peas
2 cups leftover cooked potatoes* (peeled and cubed)
1/2 cup plain whole-milk yogurt, plus more to serve
1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro leaves and tender stems

In a large skillet, saute 3/4 of the onion in the oil with the peppers, if using.

You could substitute bell pepper (any color) to reduce spice level to zero.

Reduce the heat, add garlic, ginger and spices and saute until fragrant.

Add the garam masala, black pepper, tomatoes, tomato paste.

Break the meat into 1-2" chunks, place on top of tomato mixture (do not stir), cover and simmer ~ 5 min.

Taste for salt... original recipe called for 4 teaspoons onto meat! I think that is too much, start with 1-2 teaspoons.

Break up meat chunks to 1/2-3/4" pieces, then add peas and potatoes.

Simmer just to finish meat and heat peas and potatoes.

Finish with yogurt and cilantro and remaining chopped onion.

Serve with naan bread or rice or scoop into pitas and top with the yogurt, cilantro and onions.

*If you only have fresh potatoes, peel and cube and then simmer them in tomato mixture until almost tender, before you add meat.

You could also substitute frozen potatoes if that is what you have on hand...

To amp up the vegetable factor, you could add cauliflower broken into florets.

Add fresh like potatoes, or steam to tender crisp and add once the meat is partially cooked.

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

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.

October

- 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.
- [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.
- [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as brown rot, leafminer, root rots, and snails.
- [Clean up](#) mummies and old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests. [Remove fallen leaves](#) from beneath deciduous fruit trees and roses.
- [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.
- [Compost](#) - Add leaves dropped during fall. Turn and keep it moist.
- [Frost](#) - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.
- [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.
- [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- [Olive peacock spot, or scab](#) - Make a preventive spray before the rainy season if the disease has been severe.
- [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 California natives. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site. Water regularly to keep root zone moist, but not soggy.
- Prepare for rainfall. Prevent water ponding around trunks and foundations. Improve drainage. Install downspout diverters to [direct runoff into landscape soils](#), but avoid waterlogging of soil.
- [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.
- [Weeds](#) - Manage weeds using nonchemical methods such as [cultivation](#), handweeding, or mowing.
- [Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps. Trapping is most effective during late winter to early spring.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	October	November	December
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, you can direct seed cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, nigella, portulaca and sweet peas. If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring. Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots. . 	<p>You can still sow seeds of wildflowers this month. Plant California poppy, calendula, clarkia, and sweet peas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant seeds for lettuce, mustard, spinach, radishes and peas. If you didn't get your new tree planted last month, it is not too late. Plant chilled bulbs, spring flowering tubers and corms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bare-root roses Bulbs Camellias Cyclamen Hellebore Living Christmas trees Bare-root fruit and landscape trees
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting. This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up all the fallen/falling leaves and other plant debris and dispose of diseased materials. In the middle of the month fertilize the veggies and flowers that were planted in October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust your irrigation Protect citrus and other sensitive plants Apply dormant spray Add mulch to beds Divide perennials Throw out fallen rose leaves
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin. Once it begins to rain, turn off your irrigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at your camellias and remove excess buds to get larger flowers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shop: Plants and seeds make awesome holiday, hostess and mystery gifts Catalogs are arriving to get you excited about what to plant next year. You might want to consider removing some lawn area and creating a new planting bed to make room for all the new plants in the catalogs.

Common Garden Spiders

Protect spiders in your garden because they prey on insects and other pests.

Most spiders observed in the open during the day are not likely to bite or cause lasting harm if they do bite you. Spiders whose bites might require you to seek medical attention spend most of their time hidden. Spiders are arachnids, not insects. They have 8 legs and 2 body parts—an abdomen and a combined head and thorax. They lack wings and antennae. Spider families vary by body shape, web type, hunting or other behavior, and the arrangement and relative size of their eyes.



Cellar spiders have long, skinny legs and hang upside down in dark corners, often indoors, sometimes bouncing when disturbed. The marbled cellar spider, *Holoctenus pluchei*, is shown here.



Cobweb spiders hang upside down in sticky, irregularly spun webs waiting for prey. Most cobweb species are small and harmless, such as this *Theridion dilutum*.



Western black widow, *Latrodectus hesperus*, is the most well-known cobweb spider. Most black widow bites come from mature adult females (left), which can usually be recognized by a red hourglass on the underside of the abdomen. The adult male (right) is lighter-colored and smaller than the female.



Crab or flower spiders, such as *Misumena vatia*, have enlarged front legs. They hunt during the day without webs.



Dwarf spiders are tiny, hunt during the day, and produce sheetlike or irregular crisscross webs on surfaces.



Funnel weavers spin thick, flattened webs and sit at the center of a silken hole, or funnel, running out to capture prey that contact the web. Often seen are *Hololena nedra* (left) and the **common house spider**, *Tegenaria* species, (right) found in gardens and on walls and ceilings inside the house.



Lynx spiders are active hunters that stalk and capture prey. Legs are spiny, and the abdomen is narrowest at the rear. They don't spin webs. Shown here is a green lynx spider, *Peucetia viridans*.



Jumping spiders hunt during the day, stalking and pouncing on prey. They are hairy, sometimes iridescent, and don't spin webs. This *Phidippus* species is eating a house fly.



Orb weaver or garden spiders, such as this western spotted orb weaver, *Neoscona oaxacensis*, (left) are often large and colorful and wait in their webs or nearby for prey to become entangled. They spin elaborate webs in concentric circles in the garden.



Sac spiders hide in silk tubes in places such as corners, beneath plants, or on bark, and stalk prey at night. They occur indoors and out and are usually pale, like this agrarian sac spider, *Cheiracanthium inclusum*.



Wolf spiders have long hairy legs and are often found running along the ground. They don't build webs to capture prey but can have a silken retreat. Females carry young on their backs.



Size bars indicate a spider's length from its head to the end of its abdomen; size bars don't include the legs.

Want more information? Visit ipm.ucanr.edu.

Pesticides affect natural enemies, rivers, and oceans!

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

Canker—A localized area of diseased tissue on a stem, often sunken or swollen, surrounded by healthy tissue.

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!*

PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED

Safety Note #124

SAFE USE OF CONIBEAR TRAPS



Photographs Courtesy of Hopland REC

Conibear traps are used to trap small- to medium-sized animals such as beavers, muskrats, martens, fishers, raccoons, squirrels, skunks, woodchucks, opossums, gophers, and moles. Typically, Conibear traps are set at burrow or lodge entrances to catch animals as they enter or exit their living space whether on land or under the water.

Hazards associated with using Conibear traps include potential fractures, contusions, and lacerations to the fingers and hands.

CCR Title 8, Section 3203 (7) requires employees be trained on the equipment they use in the workplace.

Conibear Trap Safety Precautions

- Always wear gloves when handling Conibear traps.
- Provide adequate verbal and signage warnings if Conibear traps are to be used in areas where pets, children, or other adults may be present.
- It is a recommended safety practice to use a setting tool when setting a Conibear trap.
- Carefully compress the trap springs by hand or with a setting tool and engage the safety latch.
- Release the safety latch after placing the trap in its designated location.
- Keep your fingers and hands outside the trap jaws and away from the trigger once the trap is set.
- Secure the trap from being carried off by staking it to the ground or tying it to an immovable object.
- Inspect set traps daily and collect trapped animal carcasses.
- Use gloves to handle animal carcasses.
- Dispose of animal carcasses properly.
- Discharge the trap energy by releasing the trigger before picking the trap up and relocating it.
- At the completion of trapping, clean the trap(s) and store in the assigned location.



Garden Club of Colusa County activities

October 25 at 6:30 pm
St. Stephens Church
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
- 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

The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, status as a protected veteran or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 [USERRA]), as well as state military and naval service.

UC ANR policy prohibits retaliation against any employee or person in any of its programs or activities for bringing a complaint of discrimination or harassment. UC ANR policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to any of its programs or activities.

UC ANR is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and/or participation in any of its programs or activities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status.

University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to: John I. Sims, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer and Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397. Email: jsims@ucanr.edu. Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.

This policy statement supersedes the UC ANR Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action Policy Statement for University of California Publications Regarding Program Practices dated July 2013.