



A Garden Runs Through It

March 2022

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

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Upcoming events



March

Landscape Tree Workshop
March 12, 10 to noon
Colusa County Courthouse

All About Tomatoes
March 26, 10 to noon
Education Village
499 Marguerite, Williams

April

Family Fair
April 2, 10 to 2 pm
Egling Middle School

Williams Flea Market
Friday April 8, 10am
Williams, across from the library

Plant Clinic
April 15, 10 am to 2 pm
Griff's Feed and Seed, 851 7th St., Colusa

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





Landscape Tree Workshop

Presented by
UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

When: Saturday, March 12

10 am to noon

Where: 547 Market St., Colusa
Colusa County Courthouse



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



University of California
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Colusa County



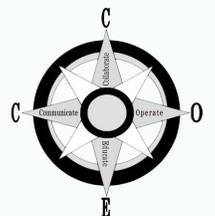
**UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM
OF COLUSA COUNTY**

All About Tomatoes

**When to plant
What to plant
General care**

Saturday, March 26 at 10 am

**Farm to School
Demonstration Garden
Education Village
499 Margurite St.
Williams, CA**



Chitalpa tashkentensis

A great tree for a mow strip area that doesn't get a lot of supplemental water.

One of the really adaptable trees for our area is this hybrid cross between the native *catalpa bignonioides* and the desert willow *Chilopsis linearis*. It has long 3-5 inch dark green leaves and from the *chilopsis* inherited the ability to withstand some dry heat. It is frost hardy once established but can struggle its first couple of winters when if the temperature dips below 15F. That is not a normal thing for our area. We love it for its beautiful azalea like pink blossoms and very long flowering season through the spring, summer and even into fall. It grows deep tap roots so you can plant near a path, patio or driveway without ruining the hardscape. Your visitors as well as the hummingbirds and butterflies will love it! It grows fairly quickly to around 25' high once established.

One of the nice things about this small tree is that the plant can take some broken shade if that is the case in your prospective planting area. The one thing that you will not find on this plant is the long bean seed pods that are common to the native catalpa.

There are some great specimen plants of this that are less than 6 years old on the east side of 1st Street just off of Market here in Colusa.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Edible Plant of the Month

Growing Tomatoes

Spring is finally here and that means that tomato season is around the corner. Don't get too excited, though. Even though seedlings will be showing up in nurseries, it's best to wait to plant them.

Tomatoes need warm air and soil, as well as a lot of sunlight, to grow strong and healthy. Planting too early can leave them spindly and weak. March is a typical time of the year to plant tomatoes. One way to check if the soil is warm enough, is to sit on the ground and if it is comfortable then plant.

Choosing a proper location for your tomato garden is important. The spot should get several hours of sunlight each day. You may have a prime spot but don't overuse it. Like other members of the nightshade family, tomatoes nurture the soil fungi *Fusarium* and *Verticillium*. The soil can become infected if tomatoes are planted in the same location too many years in a row. Rotating your tomato planting locations, or changing out the soil in a raised bed, will prevent the fungus from affecting your vegetables.

Plant tomatoes deeply. First, remove a few leaves above the roots. Place the seedling at a slight angle in the hole. The plant's buried stem will push fresh roots, giving the young plant increased access to water and nutrients. Tomatoes also need a good deal of room to grow, so plant them at least two feet apart.

After your seedlings are planted in their beds, they need some nurturing. If you are concerned about hungry animals or other threats, cover the tomatoes with the top half of a large soda bottle. Not only can this keep them from becoming a snack, but it provides them with a personal greenhouse to keep them warm.

Tomatoes thrive with water, especially in the early days. Make sure to give them enough that the water soaks deep into the soil. This will ensure the plants get enough water immediately but will also encourage their roots to follow the water deep into the soil, helping the plants stay hydrated later.

Avoid extreme fluctuations in soil moisture. These conditions increase blossom end rot (early) and cracking (late). Mulching will help with even soil moisture and discourage weeds.

As your plants grow, they will likely require support. Some tomatoes are "determinant" and grow into a shrub only a few feet tall. Many others are "indeterminate," however, and will continue to grow like a vine until cold weather arrives.

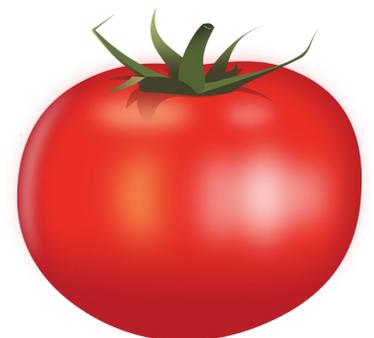
For these motivated climbers you will need a tomato cage or other device such as stakes and trellises. You can use a few stakes placed in a circle around the plant, with loose string or plant tape strung between them. This structure provides enough support while also allowing easy harvest.

Tomatoes are self-pollinated, so it's possible to get fruit while growing only one plant. The pollen still needs to move from one flower to the next, though. To be sure this happens, give your plants a light shake every morning.

Healthy, vigorous transplants should not require additional fertilizer until flowering and fruit set are under way. Excessive nitrogen fertilizer will result in too much vine growth, delay flowering and attract pests. As fruit appear, add nitrogen fertilizer every 4 to 6 weeks.

Follow instructions on fertilizer bag.

Experiment and find what practices work best in your garden. With hard work and a little luck, you will be on the path to a bountiful harvest.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Book of the Month

Braiding Sweetgrass

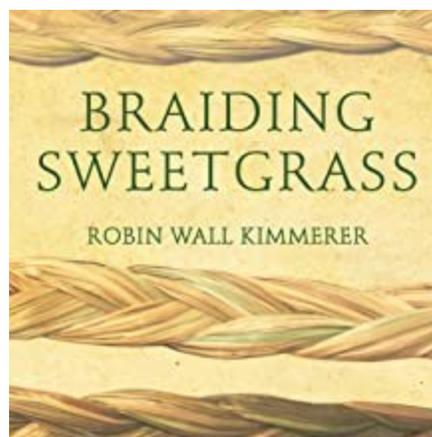
Robin Wall Kimmerer

This is a lovely book a friend gifted me in the holidays. I had tried to find a copy and when I opened this I was thrilled. This book is the story of our native people with their simple wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of the plants that we share our world with.

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a botanist trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. She brings that knowledge together to show how we have an opportunity to see our world in a very conscious state with the rest of the living world so we may give our own gifts in return.

The journey of this book shows the factual and objective lenses of science can enrich our daily lives when we see the path with our ancient knowledge of our indigenous. I was so impressed when she began the book with the story of how the turtle brought the mud from the sky to the earth so that we might have solid ground on which to stand. In the story of the sweetgrass we are shown how simple the task of braiding can be when there are two holding the ends and working together. The symbolism cannot be mistaken in the message to all of us today – we can't do this alone – it takes many hands to do the task well and have it endure.

Kimmerer tells the story of the plants in a way that they come alive on the page – describing the majestic cedars and redwoods as well as the tiny mosses that help the giants to survive.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Recipe of the Month

Orange Bread

about 3-4 whole oranges
4 Tbs sugar
2 1/4 cups flour
1 c sugar
2 1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon
3/4 cup nuts - sliced almonds or chopped pecans my favorite, but walnuts are ok too
2/3 cup whole milk
3 Tbs oil or melted butter
2 large eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp pineapple extract
1/2 tsp each brandy, lemon and orange extract

Grind the oranges, peel and all, in either a meat grinder or food processor.
You want to still have some chunks, like coarse marmalade. Save all the juice!
Mix 1 3/4 cups of the ground oranges and juice with the 4 Tbs sugar in a heavy saucepan.
Cook the ground oranges and sugar together until peel is tender, about 30 min.
Stir often and don't let it scorch - it should look kind of like marmalade.
Cool to room temp once peel is soft.

Blend the flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and nuts together in a big bowl
Blend milk, oil, eggs and extracts, whisk well, in a separate container.
Mix the orange mixture into the milk and eggs.
Add the liquids to the dry ingredients by hand, mixing only enough to blend.
Think of making cornbread - the less you stir it the better!

Spoon the batter into well buttered and floured loaf pans and,
if you have it, use parchment paper, too - you don't want this to stick!
This makes one BIG loaf, or two smaller ones, or several individual ones.

Bake at 350 degrees until a toothpick comes out clean.
Timing will depend on the size of loaf and whether you use glass or metal pans.
A single loaf will take about an hour to an hour and 15 minutes
Several small loaves will take about 30+ minutes.

Dust tops with cinnamon sugar, if desired, once cool.

See the next page for options!

Recipe continued...

OPTIONS:

I have added 3/4 cup shredded coconut to the batter

I have added 1/2 cup chopped candied ginger and/or dried mango

If you don't have pineapple extract, skip it OR you could add 1/4 cup well drained crushed pineapple and reduce milk to 1/2 cup.

If you don't have the lemon or orange extract, use a tablespoon of zest for each.

You can substitute rum for the brandy, or not miss it at all...

This recipe came from a wonderful neighbor, Aileen Kader, when I moved to Davis from Santa Barbara in 1976. Our moving truck pulled up and as soon as we opened the door to our new home, the neighbors showed up - all hands on deck - and helped us move in. As soon as the truck was empty, the food arrived and we all sat down on unopened boxes and got to know one another. It was and still is a great neighborhood, even if I don't live there any more.



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Listen to our podcast

visit: theplantmasters.com



Early spring is the time to begin preparing your garden for the planting season. In this episode of "A Garden Runs Through It", Colusa County Master Gardener's Gerry Hernandez, Bonnie Rose, and Pam Niehus discuss spring gardening hints, tips and more.



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



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Colusa County

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.

March

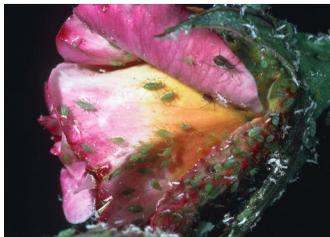
- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.
- [Anthracnose](#) e.g., on ash and sycamore - Fungicides are generally not options for large trees other than ash.
- [Ants](#) - Manage around landscape 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.
- [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.
- [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as caterpillars and scales.
- [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 soginess.
- 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.
- [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.
- 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. 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.
- [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.

Seasonal IPM Checklist

- [Olive psyllid](#) - Take action now if it was intolerable last year.
- [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.
- [Powdery mildew](#) - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits.
- [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.
- [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.

Aphids

Almost every plant has one or more aphid species that occasionally feed on it, but low to moderate numbers of aphids usually aren't damaging to gardens or landscape trees.



Rose aphids on young blossom.



The fuzzy-orange aphids were killed by a fungus.

Although aphids can curl leaves and produce sticky honeydew, they rarely kill plants, and can usually be washed off with water. When aphid numbers are high, natural enemies often feed on them, eliminating the need for pesticides. When pesticides are necessary, use less-toxic products such as insecticidal soaps and oils.

Aphids are common in gardens.

- Aphids like lush, new growth. Don't over fertilize; use organic or slow-release products.
- Aphids build up on flowering plums, roses, tulip trees, crape myrtles, apples, and many vegetables. Expect aphids when you grow these plants.
- Ants protect aphids from their natural enemies. Keep ants off plants to help these beneficial insects do their job.

How can I reduce aphids?

- Prune infested leaves and stems.
- Knock aphid populations off plants by shaking the plant or spraying it with a strong stream of water.
- Protect seedlings with covers or aluminum foil mulches.
- Wait for hot weather; some aphids are heat-intolerant and will be gone by mid-summer.

Are there any good bugs that will eat aphids?

Beneficial insects such as lady beetles and lacewings will visit plants naturally when aphids are abundant. Protect these natural enemies by avoiding the use of insecticides that can be toxic to them. Common natural enemies of aphids include:

- Lady beetles (ladybugs), both adults and larvae
- Lacewings
- Syrphid fly larvae
- Soldier beetles
- Tiny parasitic wasps that turn aphids into crusty "mummies"



Lady beetle larva eating an aphid.

What about pesticides?

- Use nonchemical methods first to manage aphid populations.
- If insecticides seem necessary, choose the safest products, such as insecticidal oils and soaps. When properly used, these materials solve most aphid problems.
- Oils and soaps work by smothering aphids, so apply these products thoroughly. Don't apply them to drought-stressed plants or when it is very hot. Some plants are sensitive to these products.
- Apply insecticidal soaps, soap-pyrethrum mixtures, or neem oils on vegetables or small bushes such as roses.
- Narrow range horticultural oils—such as supreme or superior oils—are appropriate for larger trees.
- Oils and soaps don't kill aphids hidden within curled leaves. Prune these out. Systemic insecticides can kill hidden aphids, but they are much more toxic and might kill bees and other beneficial insects on flowering plants.

What you do in your home and landscape affects our water and health.

- Minimize the use of pesticides that pollute our waterways and harm human health.
- Use nonchemical alternatives or less toxic pesticide products whenever possible.
- Read product labels carefully and follow instructions on proper use, storage, and disposal.

For more information about managing pests, visit ipm.ucanr.edu or your local University of California Cooperative Extension office.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	March	April	May
P L A N T I N G	<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 still early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers. Nights should be above 55°. 	<p>In a shady spot early in the month you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can plant dahlia tubers and transplant most perennials. As temperatures warm you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers. You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct seed in the garden cucumbers, melons, summer squash, beans, corn, and annual herbs. Plant sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and aster in the flower garden.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<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 to remove them, or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring. Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants. Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. The leaves restore the bulb; so wait to remove them until they turn yellow. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Apply (or re-apply as needed) organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. Be sure to leave space around the base of the plants. Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits. Deadhead (cut off spent flowers) to get continuing bloom on annuals and perennials.
P R E V E N T I O N	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. The leaves restore the bulb; so wait to remove them until they turn yellow. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal. Continue the battle against slugs and snails.

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

Bud—A protuberance on a plant stem containing an embryonic leafy or flowering shoot, or both.

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



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN



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

#14

GRASS TRIMMER SAFETY

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



Photograph Courtesy of UC IPM

Consumer Product Safety Commission data indicate more than 11,000 people were treated in hospitals for grass trimmer injuries during 2006. Most of the injuries were lacerations to the fingers, hands, and legs and foreign objects, lacerations, and contusions to the eyes. Other injuries included strains and sprains. Most grass trimmer injuries are avoidable and are due to operator inexperience or inattentive or improper handling of grass trimmers.

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, remove the grass trimmer from service.

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

March 28, 6:30
St. Stephens Church
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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