



# A Garden Runs Through It

April 2022

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

UCCE Master Gardener Program, Colusa County  
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## In This Issue

- **Ornamental Plant of the Month**— *Hibiscus*
- **Edible Plant of the Month**— Vegetable Garden Basics
- **Book of the Month**— *Dream Gardens*
- **Recipe of the Month**— Fried Rice
- **Garden Guide**
- **Safety Notes**



## Upcoming events



### April

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

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

### May

**Williams Flea Market**  
Friday May 13, 10 am  
Williams, across from the library

### June

**Williams Flea Market**  
Friday June 10, 10 am  
Williams, across from the library

**Colusa County Fair**  
June 9—12

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





# MG Event



UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM OF COLUSA COUNTY

## Plant Clinic

@

## Griff's Feed & Seed



UC Statewide IPM Program  
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### What

- Do you have gardening questions?
- What weed is this?
- What insect is this?
- What are some good water wise plants?
- Need tomato advice?
- What tree should you plant?

Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!

### When

Friday, April 15  
10am to 2pm

### Where

Griff's Feed and Seed  
851 7th St  
Colusa



University of California

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UCCE Master Gardener Program



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## Ornamental Plant of the Month

### ***HIBISCUS***

*Malvaceae*

Five species of Hibiscus are grown in the west, an annual, a perennial, 2 deciduous shrubs and an evergreen shrub. Today we are going to concentrate on the tropical Chinese hibiscus (*rose-sinensis*), which grows in our 9 Zone. It is one of the showiest flowering shrubs, reaching seldom over 15 ft. or even smaller in our area. Flower color ranges from white to red, pink, yellow and even orange.

Good drainage is required as well as sun, heat and protection from frost. You will find, in our area, plantings that flourish on the south side of most buildings. Although sun is required, best if some shade is provided during the hottest part of the day during summer. Plants need to be fed monthly from April to early September. Water deep and frequently, however, do not drown with water. It all depends on the drainage.



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Submitted by Bernice Dommer

**Consejos Que Le Ayudarán....¡Pregúntenos!**

## **Programa Jardinero**

### **Maestro de UC**

**En el Mercado de Pulgas Williams, 10 am de mediodia.**

**8 de Abril, 13 de Mayo, 10 de Junio, 8 de Julio, 12 de Agosto,  
9 de Septiembre, 14 de Octubre**



**UNIVERSIDAD DE CALIFORNIA**  
Agricultura y Recursos Naturales

■ Programa Maestro de Jardinero UC

**Advice To Grow By....Ask Us!**

## **UC Master**

### **Gardener Program**

**At the Williams Flea Market, 10 am to noon.**

**April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14**



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ UC Master Gardener Program

# Edible Plant of the Month

## Home Vegetable Gardening

Vegetables can be grown in containers, home yards, community garden lots, or large ranch areas. To grow vegetables successfully, observe the following basic rules.

- Plant only as large a garden as you can maintain easily. Beginning gardeners often overplant and fail because their skills and time commitment are not great enough to accomplish the task. Gardening requires weed and pest control and irrigation when needed.
- Plan your garden on paper before you begin.
- Grow crops that produce the maximum amount of food in the space available.
- Plant during the correct season for the crop you plan to grow. Choose varieties recommended for your area.
- Select a site that receives at least 8 hours of full sun each day. It should be relatively level, well-drained, and close to a water source. Avoid shaded locations.
- Prepare the soil properly and amend and fertilize as needed.
- Harvest vegetables at their proper stage of maturity. Store them promptly if they are not to be used immediately.
- Plant what you like to eat.

### Warm-season vegetable crops

Warm-season vegetables require long, hot days and warm soil to mature. They grow best and produce the best-quality crops when average temperatures are 65 to 95 degrees. They are also intolerant of prolonged freezing temperatures.

### Seed packets or labels

Read your seed packet or transplant label. There is a lot of good information for you. If it says allow 2 feet for the plant, that means 2 feet circumference . Also, allow for a path way. Does the plant need staking?

We hope these tips are helpful to beginning gardeners.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

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## Book of the Month

### *Dream Gardens – Discovering the Gardens of the Lake District*

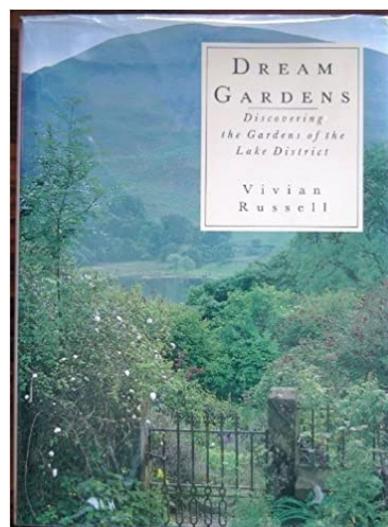
by Vivian Russell

A few years ago we had the pleasure of spending about 10 days in the Lake District of England. The main thing that I knew of the area is the garden at the home of Beatrix Potter, author of the beloved *Peter Rabbit*. When we went to the home it was the garden that took me immediately into the land which harbored the real Mr. MacGreagor's garden. It was real – in the area behind the house – just like I had always suspected.

What we did find besides the rascal rabbit home however was the beautiful gardens of the Lake District of England. The book is a wonderful testimony to the amazing gardens that barely survived the world wars and still greet the newcomer. A great deal is shared as well as given away as the author carries the reader from cottage gardens to the stately properties of Ruskin and Wordsworth to the immaculate properties of the National Trust. When I first saw the book I had little idea that we would be in the area and have the time and opportunity to actually see the collection.

Many of the gardens are still open to the public if you can find yourself in the area. There are the gardens like Hutton-in-the-Forest that are still in the restoration mode, the great gardens such as Levens Hall that are at the peak of perfection, and Making the Dream Last gardens of historic homes such as Sizergh Castle and Dove Cottage where they are carefully preserved from a time long past.

You may never have the opportunity to visit in person but this lovely book can transport you to a time and place where Dreams are really made. Beatrix Potter claimed that 'stolen plants always grow' and this book will take your fancies to a magic land. Enjoy!!



Submitted by Cynthia White

## Recipe of the Month

### Fried Rice - Two Ways

#### Sweet and Spicy

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 2 boneless skinless chicken thighs, trimmed of fat and cut into 1/2-3/4 inch pieces
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 tablespoon Asian sweet chili sauce
- 1 teaspoon finely grated fresh ginger
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 3 cups cold cooked long grain white rice
- 1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons Asian chili oil
- 2 tablespoons roasted salted cashews or peanuts

Heat a large nonstick skillet or wok over high heat and then swirl in 1 tablespoon of the oil.

Add the egg and swirl the skillet to make a flat egg pancake that's only half set, about 10 seconds; scoop out onto a plate.

Add the chicken to the skillet, and cook, stirring constantly, until just cooked through, about 4 minutes. Transfer to a bowl. Add the remaining tablespoon oil, then add the carrots, sweet chili sauce, ginger, soy sauce and cook, stirring constantly, until the carrots are just barely crisp-tender, 1 to 2 minutes. Set aside with the chicken.

Add the rice, stirring to break up any clumps, and spread it out in the skillet.

Then add the chicken back to the pan and cook until thoroughly heated, about 3-4 minutes.

Return the egg veggies to the skillet, breaking up the egg, to mix it in thoroughly, about 1 minute.

Season with salt if needed.

Stir in the chili oil (or more sweet chili sauce for more sweet and less heat), sprinkle with the nuts and serve.



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See next page for more versions....

## Recipe continued...

### Shrimp or Chicken

2 large eggs

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

1 1/2 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce

1 teaspoon sesame oil

1/2 pound shrimp, peeled, deveined and cut into pieces OR chicken breast or thigh meat in 1/2" pieces

1 tablespoon minced peeled ginger

4 ounces fresh or frozen snow peas (thawed, if frozen), halved

1 cup shredded carrots

1 bunch scallions, chopped

3 cups cooked white rice

Whisk the eggs. Heat 1 tablespoon vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.

Add the eggs and cook, without stirring, until almost set, about 1 minute.

Flip the egg pancake with a rubber spatula and cook until just set on the other side, about 30 seconds.

Transfer to a cutting board and cut into thin strips.

Combine the soy sauce, sesame oil and 1 tablespoon water in a small bowl and set aside.

Heat the remaining 1 tablespoon vegetable oil in the same skillet over high heat.

Add the shrimp (or chicken) and ginger and stir-fry until almost cooked through, about 2 minutes; set aside.

Add the snow peas, carrots and scallions and continue to stir-fry until crisp-tender, about 1 minute.

Add the rice and soy sauce mixture, return meat to the pan and stir-fry until thoroughly heated.

Stir in the egg strips and divide among bowls.

### NOTES - For either version:

For more intense flavor, double the sauce/seasoning ingredients and marinate your protein while you prep the veggies. Then, before you cook the protein, drain the sauce off for addition later, when the rice goes in.

If you don't have the sweet chili sauce, substitute honey mixed with red chili flake.

Chinese restaurants often use frozen mixed vegetables in place of the shredded carrots.

Anything quick cooking and crunchy, like sliced celery, bell pepper strips, green beans, water chestnuts or bamboo shoots can go in. The crunchiest go in first, tenderest go in last.

Other add-ins include sliced mushrooms, bean sprouts, zucchini, cabbage, bok choy, or frozen peas - totally up to you!

My daughter really enjoys Pineapple Fried Rice! Just toss pineapple chunks in with the carrots - good to go.

Try Brown Rice for a heartier version or nuttier taste.

You could also toss in either thinly sliced pork or beef and leftovers - that would be ok! Just heat through.

Depending on what all you put in, this could be the entire meal.

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

# Earwigs

**While their prominent tail-end pincers might look ferocious, earwigs aren't harmful to people.**

Earwigs can seriously damage seedling vegetables and chew holes in annual flowers, soft fruit, and corn silks, but earwigs also play a beneficial role by feeding on aphids and other insects. Earwigs feed at night and hide during the day in dark, cool, moist places in the yard or within flowers or vegetables. To manage earwigs, reduce hiding places and moisture, and employ a vigilant trapping program.



Adult earwig on strawberry.

## Should you be concerned about earwigs in your garden?



Damage caused by earwigs.

- Yes, if you are growing vegetables, herbaceous flowering plants, sweet corn, or plants with soft fruits such as strawberries and apricots.
- No, if your garden is primarily lawn, trees, and woody ornamentals or native plants.

## Reduce outdoor hiding places.

- Eliminate dense undergrowth of vines, ground cover, and weeds around vegetable and flower gardens.
- Prune away fruit tree suckers.
- Remove leaves, boards, boxes, trash, and other debris from planting areas.
- Move flower pots and other garden objects and structures that can harbor earwigs.
- Check plastic or organic mulches and remove them to limit earwig numbers.

## Trap earwigs until they're gone!

- Trap earwigs with rolled newspaper, bamboo tubes, or short pieces of hose. Place these traps on the soil near plants just before dark, and shake accumulated earwigs into a pail of soapy water in the morning.
- Fill a low-sided can with vegetable oil and a drop of bacon grease or fish oil to attract and trap earwigs.
- Daily trapping will reduce earwig populations to tolerable levels.



Earwig trap made from low-sided can filled with vegetable oil.

## What other ways can I control earwigs outside?

- Drip irrigate where possible to reduce surface moisture.
- Keep earwigs out of stone fruit trees with a band of sticky substance such as Tanglefoot around the trunk, and harvest fruit as soon as it ripens.
- Insecticides should rarely be needed.

## How can I control earwigs inside my home?

Earwigs might seek refuge indoors when conditions outside are too dry, too hot, or too cold. Large numbers of earwigs can be annoying but present no health hazard. If earwigs invade your home, follow these steps:

- Sweep up or vacuum invading earwigs.
- Seal cracks or other entry points.
- Remove debris from gutters and around entryways.
- Keep water and moisture away from structures.
- Replace white outdoor lights with yellow ones, which are less attractive to earwigs.
- Indoor applications of pesticides aren't recommended.

## 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](http://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

	April	May	June
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a shady spot early in the month you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses.</li> <li>You can plant dahlia tubers and transplant most perennials.</li> <li>As temperatures warm you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.</li> <li>You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard.</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; so wait to remove them until they turn yellow. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits.</li> <li>Deadhead (cut off spent flowers) to get continuing bloom on annuals and perennials.</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> </ul>
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Continue the battle against slugs and snails.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>	<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 soggy.
- 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.

## 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

**Angiosperms**—Flowering plants that produce their seeds within a fruit (orary); the most advanced class of plants.

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

PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED



# MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

## THINKING SAFE AND GREEN



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

**#5**

## **GARDENING HAND-TOOL SAFETY**

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



*Photograph Courtesy of Santa Clara  
County Master Gardeners*

Information available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicates more than 26,000 people were treated in hospitals during 2006 for injuries sustained while using garden hand tools. Typical injuries were strains/sprains to the lower back, shoulder, neck, and wrist. Many of these injuries could have been prevented by properly using garden hand tools and by knowing your physical capabilities and keeping garden activities to within your limitations.

### **Gardening Hand-Tool Safety**

- Prior to use, always inspect garden hand tools for defects or damage (e.g., splintered, loose, bent, or cracked tool handles, mushroomed tool heads, sprung tool joints, worn tool teeth).
- If a hand-garden tool fails your inspection, remove it from use.
- It is recommended that first time gardeners receive hand-tool training from an appropriately experienced instructor.
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for the gardening task and weather conditions, including items such as a hat with brim, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, gloves, sunglasses, closed-toed shoes, and sunscreen.
- Use eye protection when the garden hand tool produces flying, crumbling, chipping, sparking, or splintering debris.
- Consume an adequate amount of water for gardening weather conditions.
- When gardening in warm weather, take frequent breaks in the shade.
- Keep the cutting edges of garden hand tools sharp. When cutting, always cut away from the body.
- Always use the proper garden hand tool for the job.
- Follow all product label instructions, including those for PPE use, when using a hand applicator to apply pesticides or fertilizers.
- Rotate gardening tasks frequently to reduce the potential for repetitive motion injuries.
- Stand with your back straight when using long-handled garden tools such as hoes, rakes, and shovels.
- Protect your back when picking up heavy items by maintaining a straight back, bending your knees, firmly grasping the object, and slowly lifting with your legs.
- Avoid using garden hand tools above your shoulder height.
- Use an insect repellent when biting or stinging insects are present in the garden.
- Do not horseplay with garden hand tools.
- Digging with your bare hands can result injuries such as cuts, punctures, or insect bites. Accordingly, dig with a hand trowel or other tool and gloves instead of using your bare hands.
- When finished, clean garden hand tools and store in their proper locations.

## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

April 25, 6:30  
St. Stephens Church  
Colusa

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## 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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