



A Garden Runs Through It

August 2022

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

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

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Colusa County

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Upcoming events



August

Open Garden
Saturday August 20th
9 am
Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden
499 Marguerite, Williams

September

Colusa County Employee Benefits Fair



Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



Edible Plant of the Month

Are you tired of your lawn?

The one that needs to be mowed every week and watered out the ying-yang? Have you ever considered using herbs as groundcovers in your landscape?

Herbal groundcovers take about half the water than traditional grass lawns and you don't have to use that "Have you kicked your lawnmower today?" thought in the back of your brain? Unfortunately, herbal ground covers will not stand up to heavy foot traffic, which is one issue to consider, but in those areas of terraces or steep slopes, it will be beneficial to keep erosion at bay. Other reasons to consider these types of groundcovers, is you can plant them under and around trees and shrubs, rather than mulching all the time. These groundcovers may also attract pollinators, repel pest bugs, and provide other benefits.

Here are some examples of groundcovers.



Roman Chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*): grows well in zone 6-8 but will also work in 9 provided it is given partial shade. Roman Chamomile was once used as "lawns" in England before grass became popular in the 1700s. Its sweet scent is a plus.



Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*) would be a great perennial to grow under a tree as it is taller than most but will it's great to use instead of mulch or mowing. Super fragrant, and its leaves add flavor in teas and desserts.



Mint (Mentha), it probably won't substitute for lawn grass but will grow thickly and choke out weeds in places where you are not walking regularly. Some gardeners like to use it under citrus trees. *Mentha pulegium*, or prostrate pennyroyal can be planted in paths and will withstand foot traffic. Use mint with caution though, as it can get away from you and take over your garden like a Minty Monster! It sure smells great though and makes excellent tea!



Oregano (*Origanum* species) is a great groundcover. Creeping varieties will adapt better to lawn condition or to growing under or alongside vegetables in gardens. Oregano is a wonderful herb to use in cooking.



Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) is a fragrant edible, and medicinal herb with many different cultivars. Some creeping varieties, such as *Prostratus*, and make great ground covers. Planting rosemary of steep banks also helps with erosion control.



Thyme (*Thymus* spp) Creeping thyme (*T.serpyllum*) is especially good to use to use as a ground cover for paths, lawns and will also stand up to light foot traffic.

Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen

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UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM
OF COLUSA COUNTY

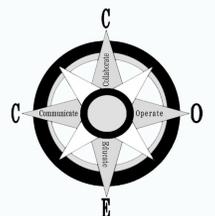
Open Garden

Pick tomatoes,
squash & flowers
Have a question?
Ask Us ...

Saturday, August 20, 9 to 11 am

Farm to School
Demonstration Garden

Education Village
499 Margurite St.
Williams, CA



PROGRAMA DE JARDINEROS MAESTROS
DE LA UC DEL CONDADO DE COLUSA

Jardín Abierto

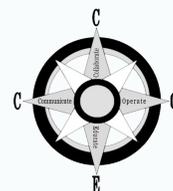
Recoge tomates, calabazas y
flores.

¿Tiene una pregunta sobre
jardinería?
Pregúntanos...

*Sábado, 20 de Agosto a las
9 para 11 am*

Jardín comunitario del
Programa de "Farm to School"

Education Village
499 Margurite St.
en Williams, CA



Water Conservation in Your Garden & Landscape

Checklist

Water during the cool parts of the day.

Watering before 8 a.m. reduces evaporation and interference from wind; helps prevent the growth of fungus.

Don't water the gutter & sidewalk.

Position your sprinklers in such a way that water lands on your lawn or garden, not on concrete, where it does no good. Avoid watering on windy days when much of your water may be carried off before it ever hits the ground.

Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings.

Leaks outside the house may not seem as unbearable, however they can be just as wasteful as leaks in the house; even the smallest drip from a worn washer can waste 50 or more gallons of water a day.

Water your lawn only when it needs it.

Watering frequently can be very wasteful as it doesn't allow for cool spells or rainfall that can reduce the need for watering. A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on some grass. It doesn't need water if the grass springs back up when you move. Grass roots should be deeper than 1" and will grow deeper if they need moisture; 2-4 "depth ideal.

Place a layer of mulch around trees and plants.

A layer of mulch will slow the evaporation of moisture.

Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.

There are many beautiful trees and plants that thrive with far less watering than other species.

Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and steps.

Using a hose to push around a few leaves and scraps of paper can waste hundreds and hundreds of gallons of water; 150 gallon each time.

Don't run the hose while washing your car.

Soap down your car with a pail of soapy water; then use a hose with a nozzle to rinse. Save 150 gallon each washing.

Teach your children that your hose and sprinklers are not toys.

There are a few things more cheerful than the sound of happy children playing under a hose or sprinkler on a hot day. Unfortunately, there are also few things more wasteful of precious water.

Check sprinkler and drip systems for missing heads, holes, detached lines, and for the proper placement of drip emitters.

Our 2 and 4-legged family can easily wreak havoc with sprinkler system.

For more water-wise information go to our website, cecolusa.ucanr.edu

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Cotinus coggygria 'Golden Spirit' Smokebush

One of my favorite plants that stars in my landscaping is the Bronze Smokebush. I have two of them and use them for screening and their graceful appearance. I've seen several references to another variety called Key Lime and like the idea of its brightly colored almost chartreuse leaves – but – I've been unable to find one. So, enter the 'Golden Spirit' smokebush. The leaves are bright with a hue of orange tinged chartreuse. Sometimes when you are looking for a plant for screening purposes it can create a rather dark area that needs something to brighten the area a bit as well. These bright leaves will be a great addition. In addition it turns orange/bronze as the leaves change in the fall before they fall- which makes this a deciduous plant! We would never have any frost damage to worry about with this one.

The smokebush plants don't have a real flowering stage but do put on a fairy like smokey panicle which comes out on new wood. So if you severely trim your smokebush each year you are not very likely to see this interesting trait. It is a great filler plant as the size reaches 8 feet tall and about 6 feet wide in full sun. I see it as an excellent accent plant. One can always prune it into a hedge but you would miss the flower like panicles. I'm told the foliage is fairly scorch proof but in the hottest days make sure it gets a fair amount of moisture but in no way should you overwater this plant. It is considered a great plant for a drought tolerant garden. The plant family is Anacardiaceae (cashew or poison ivy) family and if you are extremely sensitive to contact dermatitis you should wear gloves when handling. The resinous sap could cause blistering.



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Submitted by Cynthia White

Recipe of the Month

Asian Cucumber Salad

This works with any cucumber, and would work with zucchini, too.

Peel the cucumbers, if you want, but I recommend scooping out the seeds.

If you are using zucchini, leave the peel on and use small ones.

Slice cucumbers or zucchini really thin - this is important!

You want about 6 cups of sliced cucumbers or zucchini.

Toss cucumbers in a bowl with a little salt; but there's no need to salt the zucchini.

Let the cucumbers sit 15-30 min to draw out extra liquid.

Drain well and pat dry with some paper towels.

Add these to the mix - this is the foundation of the salad:

grated carrot, 1 or two, about a cup

sliced green onions, 4-6, about a cup or a little more

OR sliced white or red onions, about 1/2 cup (or more if you like onions!)

Add any of the following and toss to mix well:

sliced water chestnuts, or fresh mushrooms

sliced snow peas or snap peas, maybe a cup or so

sliced red and/or green and/or yellow or orange bell peppers

whole green peas or corn (frozen is OK), 1/2 cup each

mandarin orange segments, a small can

mango cubes, half to a whole mango

diced apple, about a cup

pineapple chunks, a small can or about a cup

raisins or dried cranberries

Don't get carried away and put the whole kitchen in the salad.

Think about the different textures and flavors.

You want a balance of crispy and tart, sweet and savory.

The raisins or cranberries will soften in the dressing and sweeten the final salad.

Continue on the next page!

Recipe of the Month

continued

Make the dressing - stir together:

2 Tablespoons soy sauce

2 Tablespoons wine, cider or balsamic vinegar

4 Tablespoons peanut butter or almond butter

2 Tablespoons brown sugar

2 - 4 Tablespoons toasted sesame oil (start with a little and taste!)

1 - 2 cloves garlic, grated

1 - 2 Tablespoons fresh ginger, grated (no need to peel!)

If you like spice, mince a jalapeno and add it in, OR add some hot sauce or some sambal

Taste the dressing and decide if you want it sweeter, or more tangy, or more spicy!

Add a little more brown sugar, or add another couple tablespoons of vinegar.

Remember that the spice may ramp up as it sits, so be careful there.

Dress your cucumber salad and toss well.

If you added a lot of extra veggies, or added noodles and meat, you may have to double the dressing!

Top with chopped dry roasted peanuts, sliced almonds, or sesame seeds for finishing crunch.

Cilantro on top is nice, too, but parsley works just as well!

Notes from the author...

My garden is running over in cucumbers this year.

I really like the Japanese or Persian ones for this dish.

Make it your own by adding extra veggies or fruits.

Make it a vegetarian meal by adding cooked and drained noodles.

Soba ones are particularly good, but rice noodles or even spaghetti work, too.

Make it a substantial meal by adding sliced leftover chicken or pork or cubed tofu.



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

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visit: theplantmasters.com



No matter how much you water the concrete, it will not grow!
In this episode of "A Garden Runs Through It", Colusa County Master Gardener's Gerry Hernandez gives some drought gardening tips.



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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!

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.

August

- 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.
- [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.
- [Bacterial blast, blight, and canker](#) - Inspect apple, citrus and especially *Prunus* spp. (e.g., stone fruit). Remove entire affected branches in the summer, making cuts several inches away in healthy wood.
- [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 leafminer.
- [Clean up](#) mummies and old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests.
- [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.
- [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 fruit trees and grapes with netting to [exclude birds](#) and other [vertebrate pests](#).
- Cypress, or Seridium, [canker](#) - Prune dying branches at least 6 inches below any apparent cankers. Irrigate appropriately. Replace severely affected trees.
- Deter [borers](#) - Deep water trees adapted to summer rainfall e.g., fruit and nut trees. Protect trunks and roots from injury and avoid pruning, except for hazardous trees and certain pests and plants that warrant summer pruning. [Paint trunk and scaffolds with white](#) interior latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water.
- [Eutypa dieback](#) - Prune apricot and cherry.
- [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.
- [Leaffooted bug](#) - Look for feeding on fruit and nuts such as almonds, pistachios, and pomegranates.
- Lightly [prune roses](#) to promote fall flowering.

Seasonal IPM Checklist

- [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 [gall wasps](#) - Usually do no serious harm to oaks. Control is very difficult.
- [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Prune off galled branches if intolerable.
- [Powdery mildew](#) - If severe e.g., on crape myrtle, grape, and rose, avoid fertilization and overirrigation. Prune during the proper time of year to increase air circulation and sun exposure.
- [Redhumped caterpillars](#) - Monitor trees such as liquidambar, redbud, stone fruits, and walnut. Cut off shoots infested with groups of young caterpillars. Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* or spinosad.
- [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- [Rose pests](#) - Manage or take preventive actions for powdery mildew.
- [Spider mites](#) - Irrigate adequately, mist leaf undersides daily, reduce dustiness, spray horticultural oil.
- [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

	August	September	October
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can plant directly in the garden seeds of carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach and turnips. Indoors you can start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, kale, bunching onions, and radicchio. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cool-Weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale can be planted this month. Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots. 	<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.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut off spent flowers of perennials and annuals for continued bloom. Continue to weed. Be especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September is a good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. It is also a good time to rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding. Put your spent annual and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile. Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you had glads, dahlias or tuberous begonias they should be dug up and cleaned after the foliage dies. Store the corms and tubers in a cool, dry place. Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers. Check the mulch you have spread around and be sure it is thick enough to suppress weeds. (3 to 4 inches) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin. 



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN



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

#3

HEAT ILLNESS AWARENESS

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

According to the National Weather Service, an average of 235 heat-related fatalities occurred annually between 1975 and 2004. Moreover, about 25,000 heat-related illnesses or injuries occurred from 1991-2000. Children are at greater risk for heat stress because their bodies have a larger surface area per pound of weight. Youth that are vigorously exerting themselves in summer heat are at higher risk for contracting heat illness. By taking several simple precautions, people can control and/or reduce exposure to conditions that may cause heat illness. **English and Spanish language safety videos on heat illness are available for loan from the ANR Environmental Health & Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.**



Heat Illness Disorders and Symptoms

1. Heat Stroke - sweating stops and the body fails to regulate its temperature. Victims may die if they don't receive immediate medical treatment. Characterized by: mental confusion, fainting, or seizures; hot dry skin usually reddish in color; and high body temperature.
2. Heat Exhaustion - profuse sweating results in dehydration. Characterized by: fatigue, dizziness, and nausea; pale and moist skin; and possibly slightly elevated temperature.
3. Heat Cramps - cramping thought to be due to loss of salt through sweating. Characterized by muscle spasms in arms, legs, and abdomen during or following physical activities.
4. Heat Syncope - dehydration while standing still causes blood pooling in lower portions of the body. Characterized by fainting while standing still.
5. Heat Rash - occurs under hot and humid conditions where sweat does not evaporate readily. Characterized by irritated/itchy skin with prickly feeling and small red bumps on skin.

Treatments for Heat Illness Disorders

1. Heat Stroke - call 911 immediately, soak victim's clothing with cool water, move victim to shaded and cool area, fan victim to increase cooling of their body.
2. Heat Exhaustion - have victim rest in shaded and cool place and drink fluids. Do not serve caffeinated fluids such as soft drinks, iced tea, or coffee.
3. Heat Cramps - have victim rest and drink non-caffeinated fluids.
4. Heat Syncope - have victim rest in a shaded and cool place, and drink non-caffeinated fluids.
5. Heat Rash - wash and dry skin. Wear loose clothing and keep skin dry.

Precautions to Prevent Heat Illness Disorders

1. Master gardeners and others should acclimatize themselves to the prevailing weather conditions.
2. Always drink plenty of fluids such as water and sports drinks. During warm weather, plan to have at least one quart of water available per person per hour of the outdoor activity. Avoid caffeinated drinks.
3. Wear a summer hat with a brim and loose-fitting, light-colored, and lightweight clothing like cotton.
4. Schedule vigorous activities during coolest portions of the day and take frequent breaks on hot days.
5. If someone is feeling symptoms of heat illness, they should take a rest period in a shaded area. Master gardeners should help find access to shade – this may be any area where the affected person is protected from direct sunlight, such as under an umbrella, a portable structure, or inside a ventilated building or vehicle.



Example of shade area to reduce chance of heat illness. Courtesy of Calaveras County CE.

If a treated victim does not recover from heat illness in a reasonable amount of time, promptly seek medical attention. Plan ahead to know how to summon medical assistance and direct emergency responders to your location or how to transport the heat illness victim to a medical service provider.

Any incidents of heat illness shall be promptly reported to the master gardener's county Cooperative Extension office.

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

Stratification—A method of storing seeds or other reproductive structures at a temperature from 35 to 45 degrees in alternate layers with moist sand, peatmoss or other medium, as a means of overcoming dormancy.

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!*

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

August 22, 6:30 pm
St. Stephen's 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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