



A Garden Runs Through It

October 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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In This Issue

- **Ornamental Plant of the Month**— Sedum
- **Edible Plant of the Month**— Garden Plan
- **Recipe of the Month**— Corn, Tomato and Bacon Salad
- **Garden Guide**
- **Safety Notes**

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Upcoming events



October Pumpkin Centerpiece workshop

October 20, 6:30 pm
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa
\$25/person
See flyer for details.

December

Wreath workshop

December 3, 10 am
Watch for details in next month's newsletter.



Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



Pumpkin Centerpiece



MG Event

What

- We are going to make pumpkin centerpieces using succulents.
- Fee: \$25
- Deadline to pay, October 17. No tickets at door.
- [Click here to pay](#) or pay in our office or go to cecolusa.ucanr.edu
- Fee includes appetizers and refreshments.

When

Thursday
October 20
6:30pm

Where

100 Sunrise Blvd.
Conference room
Colusa



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program



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Edible Plant of the Month

Garden Plans

This year has been tough for many of us in agriculture. We can dwell on it, but as have been in this business for almost my entire life, we have learned it does little good to be depressed over it. What we need to do is plan for next year! Close your eyes and imagine your garden full of color, not to mention green, lush and productive. Yes, that's it, now let's plan!

Grab a piece of paper (I like to use graph paper), a pencil, eraser, and ruler. Think about your garden, how will it look in 2023? Be sure to pencil in any existing trees, perennials, buildings, hardscapes you wish to keep, using a thick line to outline and label. Now add everything else in, your plans for the upcoming year, where to make changes etc. Keep in mind spacing of trees, plants, beds, bushes etc. It does not have to be down to the exact $\frac{1}{4}$ ", but do the best to draw in beds, incoming trees etc. This is where your Sunset Western Garden bible comes in handy for sizing up prospective trees, bushes, vines, and beds. Look at the sunlight needs of these additions to your garden, as well as water and soil types needed to make this happen. Don't be afraid to erase and redraw as you change your mind!

Winter vegetable gardens are easy. It is time to plant lettuces, spinach, fava beans. In a month or so: cabbages, onions, cauliflower, broccoli, brussels sprouts, peas. Many people are planting those now, but I like the rains taking care of my winter garden. **YES, I said RAIN (*think positive*)!**

Start thinking about what bare-root fruit trees and/or vines you are thinking about adding to your garden. Personally, am looking at old apple varieties, self-pollinating ones; Mutsu, Arkansas Black (great keepers), Pippin, and what about Gravenstein (which make the BEST applesauce), and Pink Pearl (best cider apple). Think about peaches (needs dormant sprays 3 times during the winter months to keep peach leaf curl at bay). Which ones would you choose? O'Henry's are my favorite. Don't forget about possibly planting apricots, plums, nectarines (which should also need to be sprayed), figs (give these trees some room as they can grow rather wide), loquats, pomegranates, grapes, and berries. Nut trees; almond, walnut, pecan, and pistachio. Do they need pollinators? Think about planting citrus trees...lemon, orange, mandarin, lime, minneola, clementine, blood orange, tangelo, grapefruit, kumquat, Buddha's hand, tangerine, Satsuma, Meyer's lemon to name a few! Don't forget many bare-root trees/vines can be ordered now before supplies are limited and can be shipped directly to you.

Continue to next page

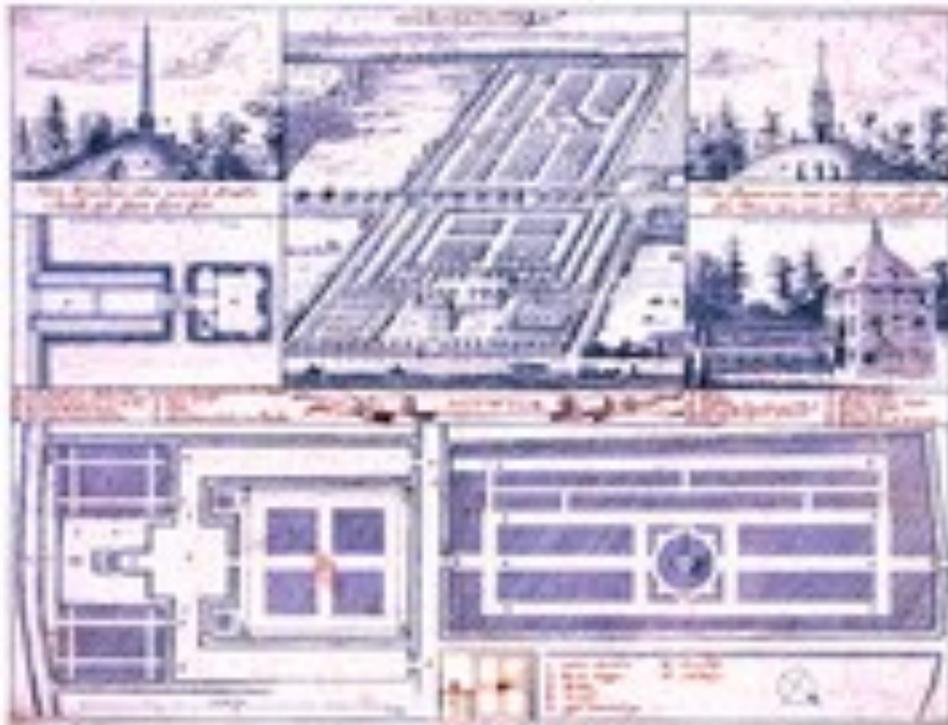
Edible Plant of the Month

Continued

Think about where you are going to plant your herb garden this spring. I planted different types of mint to use in teas this winter (oh SOOO fragrant, but don't let it get away from you, be sure to keep it "corralled"). I also grow loads of basil, thyme, sage, rosemary, oregano, parsley, and chives. I found the best way to dry herbs is to place the sprigs with leaves in a large paper bag, loosely fold it closed, and shake every day until dried. The color and taste are almost like it would be fresh and right out of your garden.

Where will you plant tomatoes this coming year.... other vegetables? Corn, peppers, squash, melons, cucumbers, carrots, spuds, peas, beans, pumpkin patch? This will all be part of your plan. Good luck and stay positive! And don't forget the flower beds for beautiful bouquets!

Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen





UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Food Preserver Program

UCCE Sutter-Yuba-Colusa

Become a Master Food Preserver

Application Deadline: November 18, 2022

Training: January 26 to May 20, 2023

Cost: \$260.00

[Access the QR code to reserve your spot](#)



Informational
Session RSVP



Online Application

UCCE Master Food Preserver volunteers receive an intensive four month training program in home food preservation, including:

- Food safety
- Cold Storage & Equipment Usage
- High Acid Canning
- Pickling & Fermentation
- Fruit Spreads
- Low Acid Canning
- Food Dehydration
- Emergency Food Preparation

Classes will be via Zoom on Fridays, with multiple hands-on labs to learn the food preservation

Volunteer Commitment:

- 1st year: Complete and record a minimum of fifty (50) hours of UCCE sponsored volunteer service within the county you live in: Sutter-Yuba or Colusa County.
- Attend monthly meetings: Monthly meetings may be via Zoom with an in-person meeting every quarter beginning in July 2022 in Yuba City.
- After 1st year: Complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) hours of UCCE sponsored volunteer service and earn twelve (12) hours of continuing education credit through approved

For more information, please call us at: 530-822-7515 or email at sutteryuba@ucanr.edu

Ordering Online Plants and Seeds

Recently, we received a call from a gardener, and she had questions about a tree. Then the gardener talked about how they purchased the tree online and the first one was not delivered. But they received a letter from the USDA that the tree had been quarantined and destroyed because of a pest or disease. So, the gardener went back online and purchased the same tree from the same vendor. This time the gardener received the tree.

After talking with our Master Gardener tree expert, we recommended that the tree be destroyed because it is highly invasive!

You may ask “what is the harm”? California is the largest agricultural producing area in the world, and we need to protect it from potential devastation from foreign insects and disease.

You do not need to order plants and seeds from the huge famous online retailer. There are thousands of seed and plant companies located in the United States. If the retailer is outside of California, check to see if they can ship to California. Remember, we are the largest agricultural producing state in the world and we need to protect it.

Did you know that Colusa County is a huge seed producing county? Yes, some of the seeds you purchase in the store and online are from here!

So, how can you tell if the online retailer is reputable? First, read all the information on their website. Look for detailed descriptions of the plants. Research how they are shipped, as in, bare root or potted plants. Will this plant survive in our area? Does it need a lot of water? Can it become invasive? Read their reviews.

Ask friends and family where they purchase seeds and plants? Do they recommend the online retailer? Social media garden forums are another place to ask questions.

Instead of purchasing online, go to your local store and purchase local. There are a lot of advantages of shopping local. Local stores carry plants that do well in our area. They have people who can answer your questions. Shopping local keeps your dollar in your community. If you don't like shopping in the big box stores, shop the small local garden centers. Their employees have been trained to help you! Small local stores usually carry a larger variety of plants than the big box stores.

For information on how to purchase quality plants, go to; cecolusa.ucanr.edu

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Sedum (*hyloelephium spectabile*)

in the garden – loves to stay in pots

Too often in the fall we forget the plants that just hang around and show off in stages as the fall days get cooler. My favorite is the sedum – autumn, devil's spine and neon. When the cold weather takes over they die down to just nubs in the soil. I have several that I keep in pots that I can move around if the heat or sun starts to take them down too far. Adding more water is never the answer with sedum because they get to a point and then go soft and that is the end for the season. My Autumn and devil's backbone are gorgeous right now and I keep them close to the patio for soft color. I don't have 'neon' yet but have looked for it with its burst of pink blooms. The flowers last well into fall and the bees and butterflies flock to the hot pink color. They slowly age to burgundy then tan as autumn progresses. The foliage turns from light green to bright chartreuse in fall which contrasts sharply with the flowers. I let the blossoms dry in place for winter. They add interest to arrangements then toss them into the compost in late winter.

I like the sedum in the containers for another reason besides being able to move them around to my liking – the other reason is when they die down to the ground I don't mistakenly dig them up or crush their new growth.

Sedum thrives in zones 2-9 and grow to about 18-24 inches tall and want to be in well drained soil. Despite their frothy blooms they are really tough plants!



Submitted by Cynthia White

Listen to our podcast

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.



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

Recipe of the Month

Corn, Tomato and Bacon Salad

With LOTS of Options!

4 slices bacon, cut in 1/4" lardons (that's a fancy term for slices)

2 shallots or 1/2 medium red onion, diced

1 clove garlic, grated or minced

3 cups fresh corn kernels cut off the cob

(frozen works, too, especially if you plan to cook the corn)

1 cup halved cherry or grape tomatoes

1 Serrano, Fresno or Jalapeno pepper, seeds and ribs removed, sliced thin, diced or minced

2 teaspoons fish sauce

juice and zest of one or two limes

1/2 cup cilantro, chopped

1 avocado, diced

Season with salt and pepper - carefully! Fish sauce is really salty.

Saute bacon to crisp, remove and drain on paper towels

Saute onion or shallot in the bacon drippings to soften

Add chilies and garlic, saute to soften a bit

Choose to either leave fresh corn raw (add later) OR

Add corn and cook either a little or enough to brown some kernels - your choice

Add the tomatoes at the end, if you choose to leave them raw OR

either just warm them OR saute longer if you want them to release juices and be softer

Add the bacon back in with fish sauce, lime and cilantro, toss to blend

Gently fold in avocado, check for seasoning, and serve

Notes:

1. Probably best served warm or at room temp.

If you plan to serve cold, drain ALL the bacon fat off after cooking onion/shallots.

Otherwise, the bacon fat could firm up too much and be nasty.

2. If you plan to serve cold, think about leaving most ingredients, other than bacon, fresh.

You will probably want to add a couple tablespoons to 1/4 cup of olive oil OR swap out for the creamy version, below.

3. If you don't have fish sauce, mash an anchovy into the lime juice to blend, or use soy sauce.

Recipe of the Month

continued

Options:

Instead of cooking the corn in a skillet, grill 3-4 fresh cobs on the BBQ, brushed with a little oil

Slice the kernels off the cobs and proceed with the rest of the recipe...

Swap out the shallots or onions for scallions (and leave them fresh)

Swap out the hot peppers for red and/or green bell peppers, leave fresh or saute - up to you

Swap out the fish sauce for a little Dijon mustard (or anchovies!! - but leave out the bacon...)

Swap out the lime juice for a couple tablespoons red wine vinegar

Swap out the cilantro for parsley

Swap out the fish sauce and lime juice for Ranch Dressing and some cracked black pepper

OR dress with 1/4 cup sour cream, 1/4 cup mayonnaise with a little garlic, cumin (and hot sauce?) for a creamy version.

Crumbled Cotija cheese or feta, or grated Parmesan would be good additions!

Consider diced jicama and a can of black beans, drained and rinsed.

Add more crunch by including quartered, seeded and sliced cucumber and/or sliced celery.

Toss with 5-6 ounces baby arugula or spinach to widen the veggie profile.

Spice it up a little with a half teaspoon of cumin or some chipotle in adobo tossed with the tomatoes.

Crushed nacho chips would be a nice topping, too!

Make it a one dish meal....

Grill some (well seasoned) peeled and deveined shrimp to go with the salad!

Grill some boneless chicken breasts or thighs, or cut up some rotisserie chicken, and add to the salad.

I also saw a version that included cooked farrow - leave out the bacon and that makes it a hearty meatless meal



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach



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.

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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can still sow seeds of wildflowers this month. Plant California poppy, calendula, clarkia, and sweet peas. In the veggie garden 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 to take advantage of the fall root growth that will give your new tree a strong start in the spring. 	<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"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at your camellias and remove excess buds to get larger flowers. In the middle of the month fertilize the veggies and flowers that were planted in October. 	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up all the fallen/falling leaves and other plant debris and dispose of diseased materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

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.

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

Vacuole—The large cavity within the protoplasm of a cell containing a solution of sugars, salts, etc.

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

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 or your local University of California Cooperative Extension office.

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

October 24, 6:30 pm
St. Stephen's 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

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