



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County



A Garden Runs Through It

February 2023

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



February

Colusa Farm Show
February 7, 8, 9
All day

Native Bee Workshop
February 15, 6 pm
100 Sunrise Blvd., Conference Room

March

Landscape Tree Workshop
Date and Time to be determined

April

Plant Clinic
April 7

Family Fair
April 15

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED



Native Bees

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

When: Wednesday February 15

6 pm to 7:30 pm

**Where: Colusa Industrial Properties
100 Sunrise Blvd, Colusa**



- **Learn about native bees.**
- **And learn how to attract native bees to your garden.**

**Need Advice ...
Ask Us!**



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UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

Listen to our podcast

visit: theplantmasters.com



IPM

In this episode of "A Garden Runs Through It", Colusa County Vegetable Crops Farm Advisor talks about IPM.



How to listen?

Search your favorite app for **RadioColusa.com**

Radio
colusa.com



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



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Colusa County

Edible Plant of the Month

Edible Landscaping for Wildlife

As I look around my surroundings, it occurs to me we also need to create a bit of our gardens for wildlife habitat. I'm talking about hummingbirds, birds, beneficial insects, and bees. They too need help to make it through the winter months just like us. We sit around our fireplace, reading, watching Netflix, and snacking and when spring comes around, we are rolling outside looking like we too could have played Santa Claus with our jolly bellies. Our friends living outdoors are fighting to survive, so let's help them!

Native plants like Toyon or Christmas Berry (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) put on a beautiful show this time of year and feeds many types of birds. One minute your bushes are full of berries, and you look at them a few days later and they are naked! Yes, completely naked! Birds will come in a strip the tree of berries in no time. It's a showy plant/bush in a garden as well and cuttings of berries (before the birds move in) are lovely in holiday decorations.

Mexican Sage (*Salvia leucantha*) is a native to Mexico and Central America. It grows beautifully in our area provided it has plenty of sun and well drained soil. Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds adore this plant which flowers in spring and right now. These plants can get quite large, but they are a welcome addition to any garden. The long-spiked flowers are velvet to the touch and are stunning as a background piece.

Establishing areas for nesting of various species is also important. I've found a nest of Carpenter Bees in a large branch of a toyon I had pruned back. Carpenter bees are great pollinators and destructive pests as some believe.

Feeders left out for hummingbirds are a need to keep those little flitters full of calories. Be sure to clean the feeder and offer fresh home-made nectar frequently. Some hummingbirds do migrate, and this just helps them reach their destination. We also had a native hummingbird "Ana's hummingbird" which we like to keep around as they don't migrate. You might even find a nest or two in the spring in trees or under an eave on your porch!



Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen

Edible plants can be used in a variety of ways in your garden

Edible Landscaping, Rosalind Creasy

Ground covers

- Alpine Strawberries
- Chamomile
- Mint
- Natal Plum (dwarf)
- Rosemary (trailing)
- Sweet Woodruff
- Thyme
- Wintergreen
- Lettuce
- Marjoram
- Mustard
- Nasturtium
- Okra
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Pea

Herbaceous Border Plantings

- Alpine Strawberries
- Amaranth
- Anise hyssop
- Artichokes
- Asparagus
- Basil
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Cantaloupe (bush)
- Celery
- Chamomile (German)
- Chard
- Chives
- Collards
- Corn
- Cucumbers
- Eggplant
- Endive
- Fennel
- Kale
- Lavender
- Peppers
- Poppy (breadseed)
- Rhubarb
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Scented geranium
- Shallot
- Squash (summer)
- Tarragon (Mexican)
- Tomato (bush types)

Shrub Borders

- Apple (dwarf)
- Artichoke
- Blueberry
- Citrus (dwarf)
- Currant
- Gooseberry
- Natal plum
- Pomegranate
- Quince (flowering)
- Sweet bay
- Tea

Hedges, sheared

- Citrus
- Filbert
- Natal plum
- Olive
- Pineapple guava
- Rosemary (upright)
- Sweet bay
- Tea

Hedges, unsheared

- Apple (dwarf)
- Asparagus
- Blueberry
- Citrus (dwarf)
- Currant
- Elderberry
- Gooseberry
- Pomegranate
- Quince
- Rosemary (upright)
- Sweet bay
- Tea

Barrier and Boundary plants

- Elderberry
- Mandarin
- Oranges
- Pineapple guava
- Rosemary (upright)
- Brambleberry
- Gooseberry
- Lemon
- Lime
- Natal plum
- Prickly pear

Vines and Climbers, annuals

- Bean (pole)
- Cantaloupe
- Cucumber
- Hyacinth bean
- Jicama
- Nasturtium
- Pea (vining)
- Pumpkin
- Runner bean
- Squash (vining)
- Tomatoes

Book of the Month

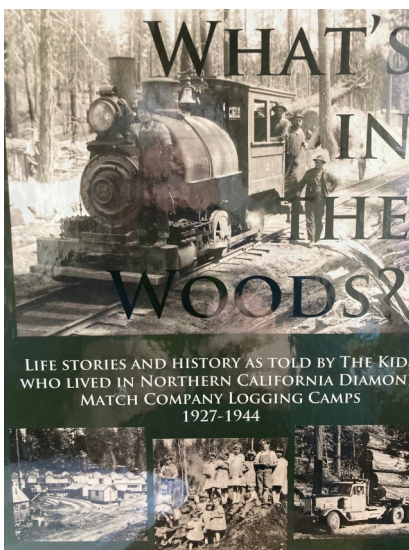
WHAT'S IN THE WOODS?

While looking through my bookcase for a book to tell you about I came upon a wonderful collection of stories and history that were written by the kids who lived in the Northern California Diamond Match Company Logging Camps from 1927 – 1944. It's the general area of Butte Meadows where we are fortunate enough to have cabin built in 1926. It might not seem like a particularly relevant book to gardening as we know it on a daily basis but it really is the story of an entire community who existed because of the trees that grew in the area.

These trees that had been growing since primeval times were felled by axes and saws at the will of the Diamond Match Company and they had men working the area and their families. The children, six to be exact, tell their childhood in wonderful collections of remembrances that capture the imagination of such an amazing time in the local history. There were no gold seekers among the men felling the trees that had been growing for so long. A rail system was built into the area to help in the removal of trees when it wasn't realistic to get a truck into the area. The logging began in the late 1800's in earnest and continued to the present in one form or another.

Co-authors Bill Dennison and Lifford "Blackie" Gilbert were part of the Diamond Match Company and have an extensive history with Diamond and each other. They were raised in the simple logging cabins in the West Branch Camp. They had a wonderful time putting together the book of memories.

I hope you will find a book in the library and take a trip down this particular road that changed the lives of many families in Northern California.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Bergenia

Are you looking for a shade plant that is not water heavy? Well, *Bergenia* might be for you.

Bergenia is best in shade, maybe be a little bit of sun. But our sun is very strong and in my experience does not do well in sun. They can endure neglect and some drought. *Bergenia* can also take the valley cold.

The plants have glossy green leaves that are evergreen. The flowers bloom in the spring with graceful clusters of flowers on a leafless stalks.

The plants are great in borders and under trees. *Bergenia* pairs well with ferns.

Many homes in my area have *Bergenia*. My guess is that the builder planted them.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Recipe of the Month

Mississippi Pot Roast Adapted from several sources

3-4 lb beef chuck roast, trimmed of exterior fat and any gristle

leave the roast whole OR cut into smaller serving-sized portions - up to you

if you want individual portions, tie each piece with kitchen twine

salt and pepper - careful! not too much,

the mixes below have plenty of salt, you can always add more salt and/or pepper later

flour to dredge the meat

season the meat, dredge in flour, brown in hot oil in a Dutch oven 4-5 min per side

1 12-14 oz jar pepperoncini with liquid - rings break down, whole let you know they are there - you choose

1 stick of butter

1/2 lb fresh mushrooms, sliced

1 large onion, sliced

1 envelope of au jus mix

(or substitute an envelope of onion-mushroom soup mix for onions, mushrooms, and au jus)

4 cloves garlic minced

1 packet of dry ranch dressing mix (or ~1 cup of bottled dressing, or make your own)

2 cups of chicken or beef stock or wine

add to the pot, put on the lid

roast in the oven at 300 degrees, about 45-60 min per pound

check that it is not drying out, turning the meat now and then for even browning

add 1/2 cup wine, a beer, or beef broth, if needed

Once the meat is fork tender... (don't forget to remove the strings if you tied individual portions)

Either leave whole or chunky and serve with noodles or potatoes and peas or green beans

OR Shred and serve on toasted buns, maybe with some coleslaw, potato salad or mac and cheese.

If you want a thicker gravy, remove the meat with a slotted spoon to a serving dish, keep warm.

Measure the remaining liquid and for each cup stir 1 tsp of cornstarch with 1 TBS of cool water to a slurry.

Blend into the liquid, whisk, and bring to a simmer to thicken the gravy. Pour over the meat and serve.

This can also be done in a crock pot or Instapot, but I don't use either one! No advice there...

One source said 6-8 hours in a slow cooker, but did not specify high or low setting... sorry.

I made this and added a jar of my home-made pickled roasted red

peppers, It was great!

I also threw in 4-5 thickly sliced peeled carrots once, and that was good, too.

If you like spicy, you could substitute pickled sliced jalapenos or chipotle peppers in adobo, but start with less, just in case.





Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	February	March	April
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant in vegetable garden by direct seeding: radishes, beets, chard, and peas. Start tomato, pepper and eggplant seeds indoors. Flowers to transplant or direct seed: snapdragon, candytuft, larkspur, coral bells, and stock. Plant bulbs for summer bloom: dahlias, begonias, gladiolus, lilies, etc. Plant potatoes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare garden beds by incorporating compost before planting spring vegetables. You can plant lettuce, carrots, and cilantro directly in the vegetable bed. Mid-March is a good time to plant potatoes. You can plant canna, gladiolus, and crocosmia for summer blooms. Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a shady spot early in the month you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses. 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. (Cilantro will go to seed quickly as the weather warms up.)
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell. Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts. Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight. Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials. Mulch 3 inches deep to conserve soil moisture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for aphids on spring blooming bulbs; remove with a strong spray of water. As the weather warms prepare to battle slugs and snails with traps or pet-friendly baits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance. Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them. Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants. Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.

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.

February

- ☐ Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, 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.
- ☐ [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid soggy.
- ☐ Continue [rainy-season prevention of diseases](#), [earwigs](#), [snails and slugs](#), and [weeds](#).
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Grape diseases](#) - Monitor for powdery mildew, Eutypa dieback, Phomopsis cane and leaf spot, and others. Prune, remove, or treat as appropriate.
- ☐ 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. Reduce irrigation frequency or turn off systems if rainfall is adequate. Irrigate deeply but infrequently if the winter is dry.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Plant](#) bare root deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines e.g., caneberries, fruit and nuts, grapes, and roses. Plant seedlings of cedar, fir, pine, and spruce. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site.

Seasonal IPM Checklist



[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.



[Sycamore scale](#) - Check for presence of pest. Difficult or impractical to control on large trees.



[Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps.



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



#13

POWER LAWN MOWER SAFETY

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



Consumer Product Safety Commission data indicate approximately 4,500 people were treated in hospitals for rotary power lawn mower injuries during 2006. Common injuries were lacerations to fingers, hand burns, foreign objects in the eye, and contusions and abrasions to the feet and legs. Many of these injuries were due to operator error and could have been prevented by using several simple precautions.

Pre-Use Activities

- Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the power lawn mower operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect the power lawn mower for damage or disrepair and make sure all shields and guards are securely in place.
- If a power lawn mower fails the pre-use inspection, remove the mower from service.

Operating Precautions

- Always wear safety glasses or goggles when using a power lawn mower. In addition, hearing protection should also be used since engine noise from a power lawn mower is at about 90 decibels.
- Wear long pants and sturdy shoes (i.e., no sneakers or sandals) when using a power lawn mower. Do not wear loose clothing.
- Always start a power lawn mower outside. Do not operate a power lawn mower inside an enclosed space (i.e., sheds or garages) where carbon monoxide exhaust gas can accumulate.
- Prior to starting, inspect the area to be mowed and pick up all loose objects (i.e., sticks stones, pieces of glass/metal, etc.) that could be thrown by the power lawn mower.
- Never fuel the power lawn mower when the engine/muffler is hot. Use a rag to wipe up fuel spills.
- Shut off the power lawn mower engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before performing mechanical adjustments, maintenance, or repairs or clearing/unclogging the discharge chute or underside of the mowing deck.
- Exercise caution when mowing near trees or shrubs with low hanging branches.
- Always shut the power lawn mower off before emptying the grass clippings catch bag.
- Never pull a power lawn mower behind you. Always push the power lawn mower.
- Mow across the slope of a bank or hill.
- Always shut off a power lawn mower before leaving it unattended.

For more information on lawn care and mower safety go to "The UC Guide to Healthy Lawns" at:
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/TOOLS/TURF/MAINTAIN/mowequip.html>

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

Palisade layer—A layer of tightly spaced, elongated cells lying under the upper epidermis of leaves. Photosynthesis is most active in these cells.

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!*

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Garden Club of Colusa County activities

February 27, 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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Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.

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

Weeds in Landscapes

Nothing disturbs tidy gardeners more than a weed-filled flower or landscape bed.

Weeds will invade any bare or thin area in a landscape. Prevent invasions in new beds with good site preparation. Keep weeds out with an integrated program that includes competitive plants, mulches, and hand removal. Be particularly vigilant about removing aggressive perennial weeds. You should rarely need herbicides in established landscape plantings.

Before and right after you plant:

- ◆ Prepare the site and control existing weeds.
 - Dig out weeds or remove by hand. Follow up by irrigating then removing newly emerged weed seedlings right before planting.
 - Solarize the soil if conditions allow.
 - If necessary, use glyphosate or other systemic herbicides for difficult-to-control perennial weeds.
- ◆ Evaluate your soil and amend if needed. Make sure new soil comes from a reputable source and doesn't contain weed seeds.
- ◆ Establish new plantings as quickly as possible to cover bare areas and shade out weeds.
- ◆ Consider drip irrigation in permanent plantings.
- ◆ Apply mulches.

Mulch is the key to weed-free landscaping.

- ◆ Mulches prevent weed seed germination by blocking sunlight. Be sure to properly apply mulch and replenish it to maintain its effectiveness.
- ◆ Organic mulches (e.g., wood chips, bark chips, compost): attractive but must be replenished. Choose a medium-sized mulch ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch) and maintain it at an adequate depth (3 to 4 inches).
- ◆ Natural inorganic mulches (e.g., sand, gravel, pebbles): more stable than organic mulches, but difficult to keep clean.
- ◆ Landscape fabrics: porous and long lasting; vary in how long they remain effective. Cover with organic mulch.
- ◆ Black plastic: not preferred since it can restrict air and water movement and promote root rots.



University of California
Statewide Integrated Pest
Management Program

When weeds invade your landscape:

- ◆ Remove small weeds by hand before they flower and set seed.
- ◆ Use a dandelion knife or similar tool to dig up and destroy all roots and underground parts of perennial weeds without disturbing the soil.
- ◆ Use shallow cultivation or hoeing to remove annual weeds from ornamental plantings.
- ◆ Consider devices such as string trimmers for large landscapes.
- ◆ Apply mulch to weed-free areas to prevent further invasions, and regularly remove new weeds as soon as they emerge.

When are herbicides necessary?

- ◆ In general, existing landscape plantings don't need herbicides; hand weeding and mulching usually provide adequate control.
- ◆ Use herbicides for special-problem situations before establishing new plantings or for difficult-to-control perennial weeds.
- ◆ Herbicides can injure desirable plants in the landscape, so use these products with great care.

See Pest Notes: *Weed Management in Landscapes* at ipm.ucanr.edu for more details.



Spotted spurge



Bermudagrass

Minimize the use of pesticides that pollute our waterways. 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, contact your **University of California Cooperative Extension office** listed under the county government pages of your phone book, visit the UC IPM website at ipm.ucanr.edu, or scan the QR code with a smartphone.



What you use in your landscape affects our rivers and oceans!

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Integrated Pest Management

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