

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County



March 2023

A Garden Runs Through It

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

UCCE Master Gardener Program, Colusa County

County Director, Franz Niederholzer





Arbor Day Landscape Tree Workshop

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County City of Colusa, Parks, Recreation & Trees Garden Club of Colusa County

When: Saturday, March 18

10 am to noon

Where: 10th & Parkhill

Colusa, Ca



Schedule of talks

(every 20 minutes)

- The Value of a Tree Canopy
 - \$ Value
 - o Benefits of Trees
- What Tree to Plant
 - Recommended Trees for Colusa County
 - **o** City of Colusa Tree List
 - Selectree

- Maintenance of Trees
 - Watering
 - Fertilizing
 - Pruning
- Is My Tree in Trouble?
 - Recognize Hazards
 - When & Who to Call
- Tree Planting and Staking
 - Tree Planting Demonstration



University of **California** Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

UCCE Colusa County, Master Gardener Program 100 Sunris

100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa 530-458-0570 cecolusa.ucanr.edu

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

Vegetables

The winter garden is coming to an end but we are still picking broccoli, kale, beets, chard, radishes, lettuce and carrots. Our April 5th harvest will be the last of the winter garden. We have been donating the vegetables to the Ministerial Food Distribution at the College. April will be our third donation. The winter garden has been very prolific. Next year, we are going to expand it. Next year, think about growing a winter vegetable garden at home, it will be worth it!

Potatoes have been in grow bags. Come out and see them. The potatoes should be ready to harvest in June.

We are planning the summer vegetable garden. Our summer vegetable garden has not been as successful. We are looking at several options such as peppers, melons and squash.

Landscape

The 10 x 10 water-wise landscape was planted in November 2022. When the weather warms up it will start to grow. We are looking forward to seeing it fully mature.

As you know, the weather has been very wet. We purchased 15 salvia plants and are waiting for the soil to dry before planting.

Also, we are looking at planting a 10 x 10 native landscape.

Raised beds

In April, we will purchase lumber for 2 more raised beds. Raised beds are great if you cannot get on your knees to garden.



Plant Clinic April 7, 10 to 1 pm

Griff's Feed and Seed 851 7th St., Colusa

Insect questions? What do I plant questions? Have a question? Ask us!

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UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Grow Lemongrass

Lemongrass is a key ingredient in plenty of Asian cuisines and it is also useful in a wide range of other ways.

Lemongrass, also known as Citronella grass, goes by the Latin name *Cymbopogon citratus*. It probably originated in Sri Lanka or Malaysia. This is a tropical, evergreen perennial grass that is commonly cultivated outdoors in the tropics, subtropics, and warmer temperate climate zones

When it is grown in ideal conditions, the plant can reach a size of 1.5m high and 1.5m wide. When grown in containers it is unlikely to get that large.

Lemongrass is a plant that really does require as much sun and warmth as possible. Lemongrass grows at its best at temperatures between 75F and 86F, though it can tolerate temperatures down to about 64F. Be warned – it can be killed by temperatures lower than 50F. It cannot tolerate shade. It does not like to have 'wet feet'.

If you cannot source lemongrass plants easily you can use stems from the stores to regrow lemongrass. Simply place the stems into some water (root end downwards) and after a week or so, new roots should begin to appear. As soon as the roots appear, you can plant these into a suitable free-draining growing medium to grow the plants on.

Once the roots have formed, you can plant into your container.

Once you have some lemongrass growing in your garden, it is easy to get more plants simply by dividing clumps. It does tend to be a relatively trouble-free plant and is a relatively drought tolerant plant, that likes freedraining conditions, it can thrive even where water is scarce. Watering can always be more of a challenge when gardening in containers, so it can often be a good idea to choose plants with lower water requirements. Lemongrass also works well as a companion plant near ginger, turmeric or taro, for example. And it can thrive alongside Mediterranean herbs such as thyme, marjoram or oregano in a container herb garden. Whether you are able to grow lemongrass in the ground, or must grow it in containers, undercover or indoors, another reason to grow it is for its delightful fragrance. Place lemongrass close to a seating area and you can enjoy its citrus scent. The aroma can be a delightful, relaxing one, which can enhance living areas, whether they are outside or indoors.

If you are living in a climate zone where it is possible to grow lemongrass outdoors in the ground, lemongrass can be incredibly useful as a landscape plant.

Lemongrass is also a good companion for other plants due to its insect repellent properties. The citronella in lemongrass repels mosquitoes, stable flies and a range of other insect pests like whiteflies and aphids.

Of course, a great reason to grow lemongrass is for culinary use. The heart of the young shoots is cooked and eaten as a vegetable. Leaves are used in cooking, or in brewing a healthy tea. Basal portions of the shoots are used to impart a lemon-like fragrance and flavor, and older leaves are placed in dishes (like bay leaves) and then removed before consumption.



Submitted by Cynthia White



1303 10TH ST. COLUSA, CA 95932



JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Games
- Art Projects
- Snacks/drinks
 - Petting Zoo
 - Magic Show
- Entertainment
 and much more!





Colusa County Office of Education -Children's Services 345 5th Street Colusa, CA 95932 530-458-0350



If your agency or group would like to participate contact Joe Moye at jmoye@ccoe.net or (530)458-0350

CCOE-Servicios de Niños Presenta

FERRIA

15 de Abril del 2023 10am a 2pm SALON ETCHEPARE TERRENOS DE LA FERIA DEL CONDADO DE COLUSA

1303 10TH ST. COLUSA, CA 95932



¡ÚNETE A LA DIVERSIÓN!

- · Juegos
- Proyectos de Arte
- Bebidas y Bocadillos
- · Animales de Granja
- · Espectáculo de Magia
 - ¡Diversión y mucho más!





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Si su agencia desea participar por favor contacte a: Joe Moye al (530)458–0350 o jmoye@ccoe.net

Edible Plant of the Month

Horseradish

Annelie will be back in April with fabulous stories!

This large (3 ft.), coarse, weedy-looking plant is grown for this large white roots. The roots are peeled, grated, and mixed with vinegar or cream to make what we know as horseradish. It's native to Europe and Asia but grows anywhere but best in cool regions. The roots is the size of a large carrot, will grow mainly in the late summer and early fall. Even though horseradish is a perennial it should be treated like a annual.

Our summers are hot and it may not grow here but if you have a shady area, it might grow.

Site: An out of the way corner.

Soil: Like carrots, it likes a deeply well cultivated soil.

Planting: In late winter or early spring, set pencil sized roots horizontally in a trench 3-4 inches deep and cover with 2 inches of soil.

Spacing: For multiple plants, space them 2.5 to 3 feet apart.

Water: Keep evenly moist.

Fertilizer: Top dress with 5-10-10 fertilizer once in early summer.

Harvest: Through out the fall, winter and spring, harves pieces from the outside of the root clump as you need it.

Good Luck!





Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Recipe of the Month

Quinoa and Broccoli Salad

adapted from Bon Appetit and NY Times

Kosher salt

½ cup dried white or red quinoa, or a mixture, rinsed
2 small or 1 large head of broccoli, (about 1 pound)
6 pitted dried dates chopped
3 scallions, thinly sliced
4 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, cut into 1/4-1/2" pieces (about 1 cup)
½ cup salted, dry roasted almonds, chopped
1½ teaspoons crushed red pepper flakes (optional)
¼ cup olive oil
3 tablespoons (or more) fresh lemon juice

Bring a medium saucepan half full of salted water to a boil over high heat.

Add ½ cup quinoa and return to a boil, then reduce heat, simmer, uncovered, 12–15 minutes.

Taste quinoa and make sure it's tender.

Drain quinoa in a fine-mesh strainer, shake off as much excess water as possible.

Immediately dump drained quinoa back into saucepan.

Cover, placing 2 layers of paper towels underneath lid, return to stove, heat off, allow to steam.

Prep the broccoli into small floretts, peel the stalk and chop into1/2" pieces

Toss in dates, scallions, cheese, almonds, 1½ tsp. red pepper, and quinoa.

Add salt and toss to combine.

Add ¼ cup oil and 3 Tbsp. lemon juice and toss to combine.

Taste and add more salt, if needed.

Cover salad with plastic wrap, pressing it directly onto the surface.

Let salad sit at least 30 minutes before serving

See next page for more!

Continued from previous page.

NOTES: You could...

Substitute cooked orzo or rice for the quinoa.

Substitute 1/2-3/4 cup dried cranberries, chopped dried apricots or mango for the dates.

Substitute diced fresh apple or pear or pineapple tidbits for the dates.

Substitute diced red onion for the scallions.

Substitute swiss, gruyere or feta for the cheddar cheese.

Substitute dry roasted peanuts, cashews or toasted pecans for the almonds.

Add cubed ham, crumbled bacon or diced leftover rotisserie chicken.

Replace olive oil and lemon juice with 1/4-1/2 cup vinegarette or a creamy dressing.

You can make ahead, cover and chill up to 3 days (unless you use fresh fruits).



Picture may not be the exact recipe!

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach



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







University of **California** Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	March	April	Мау
P L A N T I N G	 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. 	 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.) 	 Direct seed in the garden cucumbers, melons, summer squash, beans, corn, and annual herbs. Plant sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and aster in the flower garden.
M A I N T E N A N C E	 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. 	 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. 	 Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Continue the battle against slugs and snails. Deadhead (cut off spent flowers) to get continuing bloom on annuals and perennials. Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits.
P R E V E N T I O N	 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. 	 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. 	 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.



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM THINKING SAFE AND GREEN

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY #12



BASIC PESTICIDE EXPOSURE AWARENESS

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



Information available from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) indicates approximately 4,000 agricultural field workers suffered illness or injury from exposure to pesticide residues between 1982 and 2004. The number of pesticide residue illnesses or injuries has decreased from about 250 per year during the 1980s to an average of 65 since 2000. This decrease (roughly 75%) in cases of pesticide residue exposure may be attributed, in part, to a greater awareness of pesticide hazards by agricultural field workers and their

supervisors coupled with decreases in the use of particularly harmful pesticides.

DPR data from 2004 indicates about 38% of pesticide exposures occurred at farms and crop or livestock processing facilities. Other locations where pesticide exposure frequently happened included service establishments such as restaurants or laundries (16%), schools (9%), and medical facilities (8%).

Working Safely With Pesticides

Although there is a risk of pesticide exposure when handling pesticides or entering areas where pesticides have been used, the risk may be reduced to a negligible level by becoming knowledgeable about working safely with pesticides and following good work practices as described below:

- Working safely with pesticides requires an awareness and understanding of how pesticides can enter the body (i.e. routes of exposure).
- Always use personal protective equipment appropriate for the type and concentration of
 pesticide to be used and the manner in which the pesticide is applied, The label will
 indicate what protective clothing must be worn but will usually include long sleeves, pants,
 eye protection, and closed shoes. Follow the directions on the pesticide label including
 those that describe personal protective equipment.
- Always wash your hands after using pesticides, even when gloves have been used.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke when using pesticides.
- Further information about pesticide glove use and selecting appropriate pesticide protective clothing, and agricultural field worker training is available in Thinking Safe and Green notes #4 and #11, respectively.
- Wash pesticide contaminated clothing separately from regular wash.

The DPR Pesticide Safety Information Series provides additional safety information for pesticide use and is available for downloading or reviewing online at: <u>http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/psisenglish.htm</u> or by reviewing the UC IPM pest note online at: http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74126.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

Alternate Bearing: The bearing of heavier and then lighter crops of fruits in successive years.

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

March 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 <u>clicking here</u>.



Additional Links

Integrated Pest Management ipm.ucanr.edu					
UC Davis Arboretum	arbor	<u>etum.ucda</u>	<u>vis.edu</u>		
Invasive Plants	www.cal-ipc.	org			
Plant Right	www.plantright.org				
Save Our Water	<u>saveourwate</u>	r.com			
California Garden Web <u>cagardenweb.ucanr.edu</u>					
McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens <u>turtlebay.org</u>					
UCANR Colusa County <u>cecolusa.ucanr.edu</u>					
UC Master Gardener Program (statewide) mg.ucanr.edu					
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ANR publications <u>anrcatalog.ucanr.edu</u>

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

March Sacramento Valley Seasonal Check list

Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.

<u>Anthracnose</u> e.g., on ash and sycamore - Fungicides are generally not options for large trees other than ash.

<u>Ants</u> - Manage around landscape and building foundations, such as using insecticide baits and trunk barriers.

<u>Aphids</u> - 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.

<u>Asian citrus psyllid</u> - Look for it and if found where not known to occur report it and other new or <u>exotic pests</u> to your local county agricultural commissioner.

<u>Carpenter bees</u> - Paint or varnish and seal wood in which they nest. If intolerable, treat tunnels during fall or early spring.

<u>Carpenterworm</u> - Protect trees from injury and provide proper cultural care, especially appropriate irrigation.

<u>Citrus</u> - Monitor for damage and pests such as caterpillars and scales.

<u>Codling moth</u> of apple and pear - Bag fruit. Promptly remove infested and dropped fruit. Apply insecticides only if precisely timed.

<u>Compost</u> - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid sogginess.

Deter borers in fruit and nut trees e.g., <u>paint trunk and scaffolds with white</u> interior latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water.

<u>Fertilize</u> caneberries, citrus, deciduous fruit trees, palms, and heavily-flowering shrubs with slow-release product.

<u>Fire blight</u> - 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.

<u>Frost</u> - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.

Implement <u>disease and insect control</u> for apple, pear, stone fruits, nut trees, and deciduous landscape trees and shrubs such as roses.

<u>Irrigation</u> - 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.

<u>Mosquitoes</u> - 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.

<u>Mulch</u> - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.

March Sacramento Valley Seasonal Check list

Oak pit scale - Spray terminals with oil or apply another insecticide if scales are causing tree decline.

<u>Olive knot</u> and <u>oleander gall</u>, <u>or knot</u> - Avoid pruning olive and oleander during wet weather if stem galls are a problem.

<u>Olive psyllid</u> - Take action now if it was intolerable last year.

<u>Peach leaf curl</u> - Apply preventive spray once or more during late fall through bud break if leaf curl has been a problem on nectarine or peach.

<u>Petal blight of azalea, rhododendron</u>, and <u>camellia</u> - Remove and discard old flowers. Apply fresh organic mulch beneath plants.

<u>Powdery mildew</u> - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits.

Root rot - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.

<u>Rose pests</u> - Manage or take preventive actions, such as for aphids, black spot, Botrytis blight, downy mildew, hoplia beetle, powdery mildew, thrips, and rust.

<u>Scab</u> of apple, crabapple, and pear - Avoid sprinkler wetting of leaves. Compost or dispose of dropped leaves. Grow resistant cultivars or apply preventive fungicides.

<u>Stone fruit pests</u> - Monitor for pests such as aphids, borers, brown rot, caterpillars, powdery mildew, and scale insects.

Weeds - Manage weeds using nonchemical methods such as <u>cultivation</u>, handweeding, or mowing.

<u>Yellowjackets</u> - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps.

Quick Tips

UCŶIPM

Ants

Although ants are annoying when they come indoors, they can be beneficial by feeding on fleas, termites, and other pests in the garden.



Argentine ants trailing on pavement.

While spraying chemicals inside the house might seem effective, doing so will not prevent more ants from entering. Because most ants live outdoors, focus efforts on keeping ants from entering buildings. Combine several methods such as caulking entryways, cleaning up food sources, and baiting when necessary. Avoid using pyrethroids (e.g., bifenthrin and cypermethrin), especially on hard surfaces such as driveways or sidewalks or around the foundation of buildings. These products pollute waterways.

Make your house less attractive to ants.

- Caulk cracks and crevices that provide entry into the house.
- Store food attractive to ants in closed containers.
- Clean up grease and spills.
- Ant-proof kitchen garbage pails with sticky barriers such as petroleum jelly under the lip and place pet dishes in a moat of water.
- Remove or manage sweet food sources next to your house such as aphid-infested bushes and ripened fruit on trees.
- Keep plants, grass, and organic mulch at least a foot away from the foundation of buildings to reduce ant foraging and nesting.

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

When ants invade your house.

- Sponge up invading ants with soapy water as soon as they enter.
- Plug up ant entryways with caulk.
- Take infested potted plants outdoors and submerge pots in a solution of insecticidal soap and water.
- Clean up food sources by wiping up spills or placing food in tight-fitting containers.
- Rely on outdoor baits to control the ant colony.
- Insecticide sprays shouldn't be necessary.
- If you hire a pest control company, ask them to use baits and spot treatments rather than perimeter treatments or monthly sprays.

How ant baits work:

Pesticide baits work by attracting worker ants who then take the product back to the nest where the entire colony, including queens, can be killed. The pesticide must be slow acting so workers won't be killed before they get back to the nest.



Ant bait stations.

How to use baits:

- Place baits near ant trails and nest openings.
- Prepackaged or refillable bait stations or stakes are the safest and easiest to use. Active ingredients in baits may include boric acid/borate, fipronil, avermectin, or hydramethylnon.
- Liquid borate (0.5-1% borate in sugar water solution) baits in refillable bait stations are best for severe Argentine ant infestations.
- Replace baits when empty and reposition them, or try a different bait product if ants don't appear to be taking it.
- It can take 5 to 10 days to see fewer ants.

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.



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