



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County



A Garden Runs Through It

May 2023

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

UCCE Master Gardener Program, Colusa County
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UC Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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Upcoming events

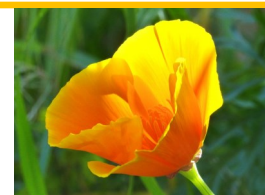


June

Colusa County Fair
June 8—11
Colusa County Fairgrounds
Etchepare Hall



Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED



LET'S #GIVEBACK!

GIVING DAY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

MAY 18-19, 2023 | NOON TO NOON
DONATE.UCANR.EDU



24 hour on-line giving campaign supporting our mission to extend sustainable gardening practices in thousands of community, school and demonstration gardens across California.

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

Vegetables

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

We finally planted the summer garden. I know it's a little later than usual but our winter was so wet and so long. It's amazing how wet the soil is in an old rice field. Our summer vegetable garden has not been as successful so we have our fingers crossed. We planted 48 pepper plants (bell, jalapeno, Fresno & Anaheim). The peppers will be distributed at the Ministerial food distribution. We will be planting squash and melons in the raised beds soon.

Landscape

The 10 x 10 water-wise landscape was planted in November 2022. The warm weather has prompted the plants to grow. We are looking forward to seeing it fully mature. Every time we look at the landscape garden it gets bigger! We are so happy with it.

The 14 salvia plants have been planted in the landscape area. We have lots of colors and species of plants. Come to the garden and check them out.

Raised beds

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



Listen to our podcast

visit: theplantmasters.com



May podcast

In this episode of "A Garden Runs Through It", Myra and Jeannie talk about mental health.



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Ornamental Plant of the Month

Rhaphiolepis indica Indian hawthorn

Indian hawthorn (*Rhaphiolepis indica*) is a relatively small shrub that naturally grows in a neat, rounded shape but can grow up to 3 to 6 feet tall. Despite its common name, it doesn't solely grow in India. It comes from China and grows in other parts of Asia and Australia.

It's a great landscaping choice for warmer climates to grow as hedges, foundation plantings, and more. It even does well as a container plant. Like other hawthorn plants, it is not toxic to humans or pets. It is also not an invasive species.

This evergreen shrub features slightly bronze foliage that matures to a deep green color. Its oblong leaves are roughly 2 to 4 inches long with a leathery texture and serrated edges. In the spring, the shrub bears showy, fragrant, light pink or white flowers that grow in clusters. The blooms are star-shaped with five petals. Indian hawthorn shrubs are relatively easy to care for as long as you plant them in the proper growing conditions. They prefer a sunny spot with well-drained soil and good airflow. Damp conditions can promote disease in the shrubs.

Plan to water young shrubs regularly to maintain even soil moisture. Mature Indian hawthorn shrubs only need water if you have a stretch without rainfall. Moreover, fertilizing and pruning will typically only be annual tasks.

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Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

Here are some pictures from Annelie's trip to The Netherlands.



Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen

Book of the Month

GARDENER'S DESK REFERENCE

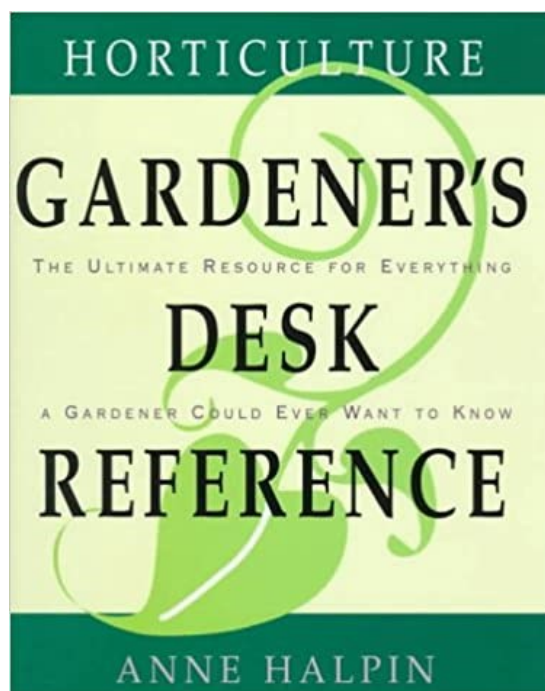
The ultimate resource for everything a gardener could ever want to know

This book by Anne Halpin claims to be everything anyone could ever need to know to be successful in the garden. If you don't have any other references this could be a great find and addition to your home library. It is packed with information on everything from testing your soil to tips on predicting the weather. In addition to list after list of plants happy to grow in every possible permutation of soil and sun.

In addition the appendix section has list after list of plant societies, public gardens and mail-order seed and nursery companies from all over the world. The best feature is that it provides information for gardeners of all skill levels.

Obviously this book couldn't list all the new varieties of plants that one might see in catalogs etc. but it certainly will guide the selection of possibilities so you don't waste time and resources on the wrong plant in the wrong place.

You can find this book in the reference section of the Colusa County Library and as you thumb through the pages you will quickly see what an opportunity it provides for the curious.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Recipe of the Month

Egg Bites

adapted from Allrecipes.com

Oven 400 degrees

Spray a 12 cup muffin tin with cooking spray

One reviewer used muffin papers for easy clean up!

Another had a non-stick coated muffin tin, another used silicon molds.

Line the bottoms of the cups with very thinly sliced Yukon Gold potatoes

You could also substitute frozen hash browns

Drizzle 1/4 tsp melted butter over potatoes in each cup

Pre-bake 5-10 minutes

Mix up in a big measuring cup so it is easy to pour, and set aside

8-10 eggs and a little milk or cream

season with salt, pepper, or seasoned salt

and your choice of thyme, dill, parsley, garlic, taco sauce, etc...

Divide your choice of any or all of the following evenly into the cups

frozen chopped spinach, squeezed dry, or chopped fresh spinach

chopped peeled and seeded tomato or sliced cherry tomatoes

chopped bell pepper - any color, or sliced jalapeno peppers, or canned green chilies

sliced mushrooms

finely diced or grated onion, or sliced green onion

diced ham, or cooked sausage or bacon, or leftover taco meat

Pour the beaten egg mixture evenly into muffin cups over potatoes and fillings

Top with grated cheese, something melty to compliment the fillings you selected

Bake until eggs are set, 15-20 min

Eat as is or make a sandwich in a toasted English muffin

Store leftovers in the fridge, reheat in microwave ~ 40 seconds





Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	May	June	July
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the flower garden you can still plant seeds of marigolds, zinnias, cosmos and sunflowers. You can set out transplants of perennials like yarrow, verbena, black-eyed Susan, and dahlias. In the vegetable garden you can plant seeds of pumpkins, squash, and corn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can still plant seeds of annuals: zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers and alyssum will grow and bloom this year. 
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure to water early in the day to conserve water and minimize plant disease. Regularly check your sprinklers and drip emitters for needed repairs and adjustments. Monitor soil moisture in hot weather to be sure you are irrigating enough. (Use a metal rod to push into the ground. If it goes in easily, the soil is moist.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have blackberries in your garden, cut the canes that bore fruit to the ground. Tie up 3-5 of the new canes and fertilize. Deadhead blooming plants as they finish flowering to promote continuing bloom. Cut back lavender after flowering to promote a second bloom. You can prune by half to keep the plant in bounds.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Continue the battle against slugs and snails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dig and divide spring-flowering bulbs when the tops have died down. Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure everything is well mulched for the heat of summer. Water before 10 am to avoid fungal infections and to minimize water loss to evaporation. If you have fruit trees, be sure to pick up dropped fruit to prevent brown rot from developing and leaving spores for future infection.

Seasonal Landscape IPM Checklist

This monthly guide will help landscape professionals, gardeners, and others use integrated pest management (IPM) to avoid and manage common pests of landscape trees, shrubs, and vines.

Sacramento Valley

Counties in this region have elevation less than 2000 feet.

May

- 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.
- [American plum borer](#) - Check for frass and gum on lower branch crotches and graft unions of young trees such as almond, mountain ash, olive, sycamore, and stone fruit.
- [Anthracnose](#) e.g., on ash and sycamore - Fungicides are generally not options for large trees other than ash.
- [Ants](#) - Manage around landscape and building foundations, such as using insecticide baits and trunk barriers.
- [Aphids](#) - On small plants, spray a strong stream of water or apply insecticidal oils and soaps. Look for and conserve [natural enemies](#) such as predaceous bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, and syrphids.
- [Asian citrus psyllid](#) - Look for it and if found where not known to occur report it and other new or [exotic pests](#) to your local county agricultural commissioner.
- Camellia, citrus, gardenia, grape and other plants adapted to acidic soil - If leaves are yellowing (chlorotic) between green veins, plants may benefit from foliar or soil [application of iron and zinc](#) chelate and mulching.
- [Carpenter bees](#) - Paint or varnish and seal wood in which they nest. If intolerable, treat tunnels during fall or early spring.
- [Carpenterworm](#) - Protect trees from injury and provide proper cultural care, especially appropriate irrigation.
- Cherry [spotted wing drosophila](#) - Harvest early, apply spinosad as soon as fruit begins to develop any pink color.
- [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as leafminer and scales.
- [Clearwing moths](#) - Look for signs of boring in ash, birch, pine, poplar, and willow; less often in oak, sycamore, and stone fruits.
- [Codling moth](#) of apple and pear - Bag fruit. Promptly remove infested and dropped fruit. Apply insecticides only if precisely timed.

- Cover fruit trees with netting to [exclude birds](#) and other [vertebrate pests](#).
- 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.
- [Fertilize](#) caneberries, citrus, deciduous fruit trees, palms, and heavily-flowering shrubs with slow-release product if not done in March or April.
- [Fire blight](#) - Look for oozing and dead limbs on pome plants such as apple, crabapple, pear, and pyracantha. If a problem in the past, apply blossom sprays to prevent new infections.
- [Irrigation](#) - Adjust watering schedules according to the weather and plants' changing need for water. Check systems for leaks and broken emitters and perform maintenance as needed. Consider upgrading the irrigation system to improve its water efficiency.
- [Mosquitoes](#) - Eliminate standing water e.g., in gutters, drain pipes, and flowerpots. Place *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* in birdbaths and ponds to selectively kill mosquito larvae.
- [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- [Olive pests](#) e.g., ash borer, psyllid, and scales. Blossom drop sprays on nonharvested trees. [Olive fruit fly](#) suppression on harvested trees.
- [Powdery mildew](#) - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits.
- [Prune](#) pine terminals only during candling (new shoot growth), late spring to early summer, to retard growth and in young pines direct growth.
- [Prune](#) winter-flowering shrubs e.g., camellia before next year's flower buds form.
- [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- [Rose pests](#) - Manage or take preventive actions, such as for black spot, hoplia beetle, powdery mildew, and thrips.
- [Scale insects](#) - If damage has been unacceptable, monitor the crawler stage and when abundant apply horticultural oil or another insecticide.
- [Spider mites](#) - Irrigate adequately, mist leaf undersides daily, reduce dustiness, spray horticultural oil.
- [Stone fruit pests](#) - Monitor for pests such as aphids, borers, brown rot, caterpillars, powdery mildew, and scale insects.
- [Weeds](#) - Manage weeds using nonchemical methods such as [cultivation](#), handweeding, or mowing.
- [Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps. 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

Virulence—A strong capacity to produce disease.

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

May 22, 6:30 pm
St. Stephens Church
Colusa

Did a friend send you this newsletter?

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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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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.

Ground Squirrels

Ground squirrels injure many types of plants, harbor diseases harmful to humans, and damage landscapes with their burrowing.

Although similar in appearance to tree squirrels, ground squirrels will always retreat to a burrow when frightened, while tree squirrels will climb a tree or other tall structure and never use a burrow. Traps, baits, and burrow fumigants will effectively manage ground squirrels in landscapes and gardens.



California ground squirrel.

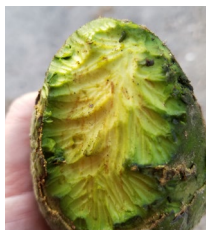
M Dimson, UCGCE

Identification and behavior:

- Brownish-gray fur.
- Body is 9- to 11-inches long, not including a 5- to 9-inch tail that isn't as bushy as a tree squirrel's.
- Live in colonies in a burrow system where they sleep, rest, rear young, store food, and avoid danger.
- Active during the day, mainly midmorning through late afternoon, especially on warm, sunny days.
- Breed once a year, averaging 7 to 8 per litter. When 6 months old, young squirrels resemble adults.

Ground squirrels cause damage by:

- Eating food-bearing and ornamental plants.
- Gnawing on plastic sprinklers and irrigation lines.
- Girdling young trees.
- Burrowing, which causes trip hazards and damages landscapes and structures.



Ground squirrel damage to avocado.

N Quina, UCIPM

How do you manage ground squirrels?

- Remove brush piles and debris that ground squirrels can use as cover.
- Destroy old burrows by deep ripping them to a depth of at least 20 inches.
- Use kill traps (such as box or Conibear traps) only when there is no chance of catching a pet or other wildlife.
- Live-catch traps are not often recommended, because they present the problem of animal disposal.
- Place traps on the ground near squirrel burrows or runways. Bait traps with walnuts, almonds, oats, barley, or melon rinds. Trap between February and October.



N Quina, UCIPM

Conibear trap set at the base of a structure to trap California ground squirrels.

What about pesticides?

- In spring, fumigate by placing gas cartridges in burrows. In dry conditions, gas cartridges can be a fire hazard. Don't use near buildings.
- Place anticoagulant baits in secure, tamper-resistant bait stations and provide sufficient product for repeated feedings. Squirrels must eat the bait multiple times over several days. Always follow label instructions for use. Take care not to poison pets or other wildlife.

For those who live next to wildlands or other infested areas, ongoing management is necessary. Periodically check the area for signs of reinfestation, such as new burrows. Start management as soon as you notice new squirrels, since it is easier and less expensive to manage a small number of squirrels.

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.