



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County



A Garden Runs Through It

June 2023

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

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

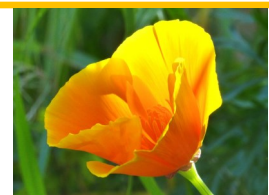


June

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



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May podcast

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



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Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

Vegetables

Potatoes are flowering! Next the vines will die. Then we can harvest. Yippee! Come out and see them.

We planted 48 pepper plants (bell, jalapeno, Fresno & Anaheim). The bell peppers have peppers on them! The squash and cucumbers are sprouting in the raised beds. The peppers, squash and cucumbers will be distributed at the Ministerial food distribution.

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. The blue Adirondack chairs are in the salvia area and they look awesome. 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. In the fall we will plant winter vegetables such as radishes, spinach, kale, lettuce, carrots and beets in them.

Activities

2 Open Gardens are being planned. We will send out the dates soon.



Ornamental Plant of the Month

DWARF BOTTLEBRUSH

Callistemon viminalis 'Little John'



The Little John Bottle Brush bush is a great choice for California gardening. This little plant looks amazing in the winter/spring. It does great in full sun to partial shade. It has little bottle brush shaped flowers that bloom repeatedly all over the bush. Once established, the Little John is a very hearty plant. It is a nice ground cover that grows 3'x3' and will give your desert or tropical landscape some nice color. It is an evergreen shrub, so you do not have to worry about cutting it back. However, in a very cold winter you will want to cover it. The bottle brush is hearty to 20-25 degrees. Drought-tolerant; suitable for xeriscaping, average water needs; water regularly but do not over water, low litter, and is suitable for growing in containers. It is great around pools, loved by hummingbirds, deer resistant, but may be poisonous to animals. If you are looking for a slow growing, low maintenance plant, this can be a good choice.

Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

TOO MUCH WATER, TOO LITTLE WATER

My personal contribution to last month's newsletter was pretty much a photo dump of our recent trek back to The Netherlands. Sorry to not have explained what all those pictures were related to, so will try to explain a bit of what was noticed this time around.

In our area of California, we worry about not having enough water, hence lawns are for some, being tossed aside and transformed using xeriscaping. Natives, water-wise plantings are swapping out these once lush green water-demanding lawns and going to drip irrigation in vegetable gardens and /or providing water for fruit bearing trees/shrubs.

In The Netherlands, however, too much water is an issue due to year-round heavy rains. Lawns would need mowing twice a week. Small engines are not looked upon in a friendly demeanor, just as they have become here. Instead of lawns, people are using a heavy layer of SAND to use as weed control. It makes a lot of sense when you think about it, as the rain can still percolate down, and be absorbed by the earth underneath. French drains are also used, being placed down a foot or two, which then carries the water into ditches and on into canals. Landscapers also use bricks or pavers atop the sand for larger areas which can then be used as patios, with often trees/buses scattered about to give it a focal point or to break up the "plainness appearance" of the paved areas. These areas can also be driven upon. It's a phenomenal idea. This type of landscaping would take a lot of work to initially lay it down on the sand to make it neat and even. Pavers and brick are tightly laid together in patterns so there is no wiggle room where weeds could eventually try to take hold. The Dutch are so neat and tidy with the appearance of their homes and gardens, everything is so meticulously maintained. Espalier of the outer trees in a landscape, especially using Linden trees, is and has been very popular for centuries. Fruit trees are also espaliered in rows using this method. (Speaking of growing fruit trees, a cousin who grows acres and acres of espaliered cherries uses rolling tarps he lays out atop the trees, and along the perimeters. Once the cherries are nearly ripened, the tarps are rolled out to keep the rain and birds at bay, very ingenious!). Back to landscaping, the trend these past few years with ornamental bushes and trees seems to be grooming them into round or square shapes, making them look so perfect. This is not a look I would go for in my own landscape, but for the ever so overly tidy Dutch people, the look is perfect.

Whenever the sun is shining, the Dutch are out working in their gardens. For me, it is the contrary, when the sun is out especially during excessive heat waves, you will find me happily working in the office or driving around in some air conditioned vehicle.

Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen

Book of the Month

IRELAND

by Frank Delaney

Ireland is a land that can only be imagined if you haven't had the pleasure of first hand viewing of the lush countryside and a green that has its own definition. I read this Frank Delaney novel several years ago and remember vividly the weaving of colors and also enjoying a wonderful story that is on the periphery of a time that is amazing.

This *New York Times* bestselling epic is an unforgettable tour de force that marries the intimate, passionate texture of the Irish spirit with a historical scope that is sweeping and resplendent. Storyteller extraordinaire Frank Delaney takes his readers on a journey through the history of Ireland, stopping along the way to evoke the dramatic events and personalities so critical to shaping the Irish experience.

In the winter of 1951, a storyteller, the last practitioner of an honored, centuries-old tradition, arrives at the home of nine-year-old Ronan O'Mara in the Irish countryside. For three wonderful evenings, the old gentleman entralls his assembled local audience with narratives of foolish kings, fabled saints, and Ireland's enduring accomplishments before moving on. But these nights change young Ronan forever, setting him on a years-long pursuit of the elusive, itinerant storyteller and the glorious tales that are no less than the saga of his tenacious and extraordinary isle.

Take a trip along with this lovely tale and enjoy the possibility of discovery witnessed in the adventure.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Recipe of the Month

TANDOORI LAMB OR CHICKEN WITH RICE PILAF

I made tandoori with chicken thighs back in the late 70's on the Weber. YUM!

I made this recently with leg of lamb, it was GREAT!!

This makes a bunch, so cut everything in half for smaller families.

Marinade:

2 cups plain full fat yogurt

1 tablespoon ground cumin

1 tablespoon ground coriander

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

2 teaspoons paprika

2 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons honey

2 teaspoons garam masala (found in the spice section)

1/4 tsp ground cloves

4-6 big cloves of garlic, minced or grated

1 tablespoon of chopped fresh ginger

1/4-1/2 cup sliced green onions

1/2-3/4 cup chopped cilantro leaves and stems (parsley is OK if you don't like cilantro)

Optional: 1 tsp cayenne pepper or chili flakes - OK to reduce or omit if you don't do spicy!

Combine all of this in the food processor or blender, blend smooth

It will be quite thick

Set aside 1/2-3/4 cup, cover and refrigerate

Put the rest of the marinade in a big zip bag

1 boneless leg of lamb, about 4 pounds

Cut your meat of choice into 1 1/2 or 2 inch chunks

Trim most of the fat and any silverskin or grissly bits from the lamb

Try to keep the pieces of lamb or chicken the same size so they will cook evenly

Add the meat to the zip bag and smoosh it around so all pieces are well coated

Refrigerate overnight, turning and smooshing several times

Recipe continues on the next page!

Recipe continued

Thread meat close together on flat metal skewers, or doubled round ones

The flat skewers or doubled round ones keep the meat from rolling as you turn them on the grill

Cook on a well oiled medium grill to desired doneness, turning frequently

Smaller pieces cook faster than larger ones

Use an instant read thermometer to check for doneness

120-125 for medium rare lamb; 135 for medium lamb

160 for chicken

Serve with the extra marinade you set aside and rice pilaf.

You may want to thin out the marinade with a little milk to serve.

Chutney is a classic condiment, Major Grey's is always a good choice.

For more veggies, grill skewers of zucchini slices, bell pepper squares and mushrooms,

Thread one variety per skewer so you can control how done each gets.

A cucumber and tomato salad with green onions would be great, too

Mom's Pilaf

1/2 stick of butter in a big skillet

1 big onion, diced

2-3 ribs of celery, sliced

As many mushrooms as you want, sliced

Optional: diced red, yellow or green bell pepper

Saute all this up to begin to soften, they will finish as you cook the rice

Add 1 1/2 cups white rice and 1/2 stick more butter

Toast the rice, stirring often so it does not scorch

Optional: add about 1 cup of spaghetti, broken into 1" pieces, and toast it too.

The spaghetti makes the pilaf like Rice-A-Roni

3 cups chicken stock, add 1 cup more if you use the spaghetti

Pour over the sizzling rice and veggies

Cover and cook on low, low heat about 15-20 min

Watch that it does not dry out, especially if you added the spaghetti

You can also put this in the oven for about 30 min

Makes enough for a crowd



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Seasonal Landscape 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.

June



- ☐ 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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Clean up](#) mummies and old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests.
- ☐ [Clearwing moths](#) - Look for signs of boring in ash, birch, pine, poplar, and willow; less often in oak, sycamore, and stone fruits.
- ☐ [Coast redwood dieback](#) - Check for drought-stress related maladies such as abiotic disorders, bark beetles, fungal diseases, and spider mites. [Deep water trees](#) and apply mulch.
- ☐ [Codling moth](#) of apple and pear - Bag fruit. Promptly remove infested and dropped fruit. Apply insecticides only if precisely timed.
- ☐ [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist.
- ☐ Cover fruit trees 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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Leaffooted bug](#) - Look for feeding on fruit and nuts such as almonds, pistachios, and pomegranates.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Redhumped caterpillars](#) - Monitor trees such as liquidambar, redbud, stone fruits, and walnut. Cut off shoots infested with groups of young caterpillars. Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* or spinosad.
- ☐ [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- ☐ [Rose pests](#) - Manage or take preventive actions, 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.
- ☐ [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.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	June	July	August
P L A N T I N G	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can plant directly in the garden seeds of carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach and turnips. Indoors you can start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, kale, bunching onions, and radicchio.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut off spent flowers of perennials and annuals for continued bloom. Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers.
P R E V E N T I O N	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to weed. Be especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds. Check the mulch you have spread around and be sure it is thick enough to suppress weeds. (3 to 4 inches)



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

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#18

BITING AND STINGING INSECTS

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



Information available from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases indicates more than 40 fatalities annually can be attributed to severe venom allergic reactions (called anaphylaxis) from insect bites or stings. Common California biting and stinging insects include ticks and chiggers, centipedes, mosquitoes, black, deer, and horse flies, spiders including black widow and brown

species, fire ants, midges, scorpions, bees including Africanized honey bees, wasps, and hornets.

Aside from allergic reactions, biting and stinging insects cause nuisance bites and stings that can result in tissue swelling, infections of bite and sting sites, skin lesions, itching, dermatitis, and pain or burning sensations.

Symptoms of a severe venom allergic reaction include large areas of itching and hives, difficulty breathing, dizziness, excess sweating, nausea, swelling of the tongue or throat, and possibly a rapid decrease in blood pressure resulting in loss of consciousness.

The following precautions should be taken for preventing insect bites and stings:

- The best defense against biting and stinging insects is to not be bitten by one. Therefore, avoid conducting Master Gardener activities during peak biting or stinging insect activity times (usually early morning and evening hours) and in favorable biting or stinging insect habitat such as wetlands, along streams, lakes, or oceans, and moist shaded portions of wooded, brush-covered, or grassy areas. Also, avoid contact with insect nests, swarming insects, and ant mounds.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants with boots when outdoors. Tucking your pants into your boots or socks helps prevent biting and stinging insect access to your skin.
- Use insect repellants containing compounds such as DEET (repels insects) on exposed skin and permethrin (kills many insects on contact) on clothing only.
- Closely look for insects or insect activity before placing your hands on objects such as rock outcrops or trees or picking up objects from the ground (i.e., rocks, plants, leaves, remote monitoring equipment, etc.)
- Thoroughly inspect the area where you intend to sit, particularly around stumps, logs, boulders, or rock outcrops.
- If you experience an insect bite or sting, wash the wound with soap and water, apply an antiseptic, and cover the wound with a band aid or clean dressing. Carefully remove stingers from skin by using tweezers and then clean and dress sting wounds.
- Never scratch an insect bite or sting.
- Promptly seek professional medical attention if you suspect you are experiencing severe venom allergic reaction symptoms.
- Let your Master Gardener colleagues and program coordinator know in advance if you are allergic to insect bites or stings so they can respond appropriately if you are bitten or stung.

Master Gardener activities!



In today's fast paced, social media way of life, fake news has become normal.
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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.

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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

No meeting in June

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

Gophers

Gophers are small burrowing rodents that feed on roots of many types of plants.



Adult gopher.

A single gopher can ruin a garden in a short time, and gopher gnawing can damage irrigation lines and sprinkler systems. In lawns, their mounds are unsightly and interfere with mowing. Early detection is critical

to prevent damage. Use both traps and underground fencing to manage gopher problems. Toxic baits are available but can pose threats to wildlife, pets, and children, especially in backyard situations.

Keep your eye out for gopher mounds.

- Gophers spend almost all their time underground in their burrow and aren't commonly seen.
- Look for mounds of loose dirt that are half circles or crescent-shaped with a plugged hole that is off to one side of the mound.
- Fresh mounds are the sign of an active gopher. A single gopher can create several mounds a day.
- In contrast to gopher mounds, mole mounds are circular with a plug in the middle, and ground squirrel holes are unplugged without a mound.



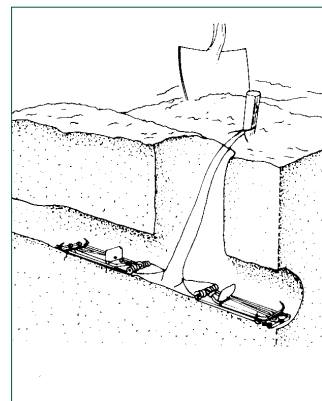
Typical crescent-shaped gopher mound.

Protect plants with underground fencing.

- Lay hardware cloth or ¾-inch-mesh poultry wire under raised beds before planting.
- Wire baskets can be installed at planting to protect individual shrubs or trees, leaving enough room for roots to grow.

Use traps to reduce the gopher population.

- Gopher traps are placed underground inside the gopher burrow, so you must use a gopher probe to locate the burrow.
- Be sure to place traps in active burrows as indicated by fresh mounds.
- Two common types of traps are pincer traps and box traps.
- Set traps in tunnels in pairs facing each other.
- Cover the hole so light doesn't get in.
- Check traps often and reset as necessary.
- Keep trapping until no new mounds are formed.
- Gopher traps don't require food baits.



Place gopher traps facing one another in tunnels.

Avoid products and methods that aren't proven.

- Although many predators feed on gophers, installing owl boxes is unlikely to reduce gopher numbers enough to prevent damage.
- No repellents currently sold successfully protect plants from gophers.
- Plants such as gopher purge, castor bean, and garlic haven't been shown to repel gophers from an area.
- Frightening devices such as vibrating stakes, ultrasonic devices, and wind-powered pinwheels haven't been effective in research trials.
- Fumigation with smoke or gas cartridges isn't effective, because gophers can seal off their burrows rapidly.

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.