



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County



A Garden Runs Through It

July 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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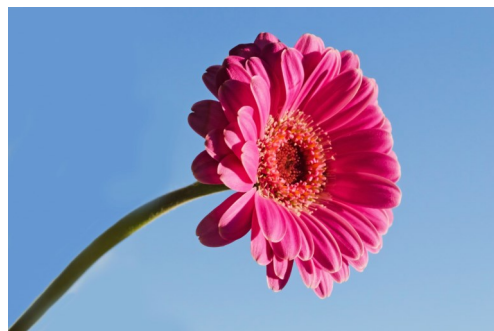
Upcoming events



July

Open Garden
Saturday July 29, 10 to 11 am
Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden
499 Margurite St.
Williams

Come and pick some pepper, squash and cucumbers.



Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite St., Williams

Vegetables

We planted 48 pepper plants (bell, jalapeno, Fresno & Anaheim). The jalapeno peppers are not jalapenos. What you ask? It appears that the seed company mislabeled the peppers. This is happening region wide. I've read on several gardening threads about this problem. The peppers, squash and cucumbers will be distributed at the Ministerial food distribution.

We will be starting our winter garden in late August!!



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

Open Garden

Saturday July 29, 10 to 11 am

Pick some peppers, squash and cucumbers.

Saturday August 26, 10 to 11 am

Open Garden and Winter Vegetable workshop.

UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM
OF COLUSA COUNTY

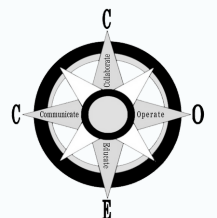
Open Garden

Pick peppers,
squash &
cucumbers Have a
question?
Ask Us ...

Saturday, July 29, 10 to 11 am

Farm to School
Demonstration Garden

Education Village
499 Margurite St.
Williams, CA



PROGRAMA DE JARDINEROS MAESTROS
DE LA UC DEL CONDADO DE COLUSA

Jardín Abierto

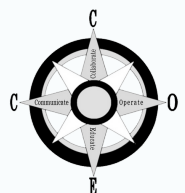
Recoge pimientos, calabazas y
pepinos.

¿Tiene una pregunta sobre
jardinería?
Pregúntanos...

*Sábado, 29 de Julio a las
10 para 11 am*

Jardín comunitario del
Programa de "Farm to School"

Education Village
499 Margurite St.
en Williams, CA



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Crepe Myrtle *Lagerstroemia*

Crepe myrtles (*Lagerstroemia*) deliver showy summer flowers, attractive bark, and brilliant fall color, making them year-round garden performers. Although native to China, crepe myrtles have set deep roots, becoming a part of both our landscape and our traditions. The vaunted crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) arrived in England from its native China in 1759. It impressed very few people, though, because it refused to bloom. England just wasn't hot enough.

These easy-to-grow trees possess many outstanding features. Sinewy and strong, crepe myrtles have gray, tan, or cinnamon-hued branches that bear glorious clouds of colorful, long-lasting blooms starting in June. In the fall, they dependably produce radiant foliage in reds, oranges, and yellows. Winter reveals their exfoliating bark, which makes their naturally sculpted trunks look like living works of art.

Crepe myrtles boast year-round appeal, but in the heat of summer they show their true colors, from red and pink to lavender, purple, and white. Widely available, they can be found at most any nursery or garden center, and this is a great time to purchase them because you can see exactly what color you're getting. Just remember that if you plant them in summer months, you'll need to give them lots of water to help them adjust to the garden and promote new root growth. Crepe myrtles (*Lagerstroemia*) deliver showy summer flowers, attractive bark, and brilliant fall color, making them year-round garden performers. Get our guide to the best practices, pruning tips, and planting suggestions to help you care for this classic Southern tree.

Although native to China, crepe myrtles have set deep roots in our Southern soil, becoming a part of both our landscape and our traditions. The vaunted crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) arrived in England from its native China in 1759. It impressed very few people, though, because it refused to bloom. England just wasn't hot enough. These easy-to-grow trees possess many outstanding features. Sinewy and strong, crepe myrtles have gray, tan, or cinnamon-hued branches that bear glorious clouds of colorful, long-lasting blooms starting in June. In the fall, they dependably produce radiant foliage in reds, oranges, and yellows. Long, cool autumns yield the best leaf display; sudden frosts following warm, humid fall weather often freeze leaves while they're still green, ruining the show. Winter reveals their exfoliating bark, which makes their naturally sculpted trunks look like living works of art.

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Crepe myrtles—also known as crape myrtles and crape myrtles—boast year-round appeal, but in the heat of summer they show their true colors, from red and pink to lavender, purple, and white. Widely available, they can be found at most any nursery or garden center, and this is a great time to purchase them because you can see exactly what color you're getting. Just remember that if you plant them in summer months, you'll need to give them lots of water to help them adjust to the garden and promote new root growth. Crepe myrtles are low-maintenance trees that thrive with very little fuss if given the basics: sun, water and a light trim now and again.

Light

Crepe myrtles thrive in full sunlight, so your planting location should receive sunlight most of the day but also have enough room for the tree to grow to its intended height properly. Shaded areas will likely result in crepe myrtles not blooming, and partial sunlight will yield poor results. Leave enough horizontal space for the crepe myrtle's roots to expand but be aware of the varieties' maximum height because porch ceilings or other overhanging elements could prevent its proper growth. It's best to have an unobstructed space, such as a driveway or fence line, to plant these trees because it receives sunlight while not competing for space.

Soil

Crepe myrtles grow best partly acidic soil. year. If you are a coffee drinker, regularly sprinkle coffee grinds around the base of your crepe myrtle trees to slowly lower the ph of the soil. This soil should be well-drained.

Water

The best recipe for crepe myrtle success is to start with wet soil and water consistently throughout the first year of the growing season to prevent air pockets or to dry out the roots. After initial growth, you don't want to over-water these plants, which can be reasonably drought-resistant, if it sees water about once every other week..



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

‘Peppergate’

Did you purchase jalapeno plants this year? Did they turn out to be jalapeno?

People coast to coast are finding out that there was a huge mix up at the seed supplier. It appears that Hungarian Wax peppers, banana peppers and purple bell peppers were mislabeled as jalapeno. Somehow at the seed supplier large amounts of seed were mislabeled. ‘Peppergate’ has also hit some commercial growers. Can you imagine 100 acres of the wrong crop? They think this is also effects retail seed packages. It may take years to clean up this mess.

Online gardening communities have been blowing up the internet with this problem. Yes, even the Master Gardeners have been hit with the problem. We purchased 18 jalapeno plants locally and they ended up being Hungarian wax peppers. At least we substituted one hot pepper for another hot pepper.

The good thing has been the peppers have been very prolific.



Book of the Month (well not really this month)

Fertilize Fruit Trees for Best Production

I know that this space is generally for a review of a book but I'm fresh out of ideas right now and thought it was a great time to talk about something that is still within the current range for our area and your fruit trees. Ideally one should fertilize before the buds start to open but it's still alright to add nitrogen through the month of June, especially with the lovely spring we have been experiencing. If your tree doesn't seem to see as perky as it once was you might consider a little boost right now.

Too much fertilizer means lots of leaves and shoots, and not a lot of fruit. Luckily, fruit trees are pretty good at telling you what they need.

You should compare and evaluate your tree's annual growth with this general chart:

- * Non-bearing peaches and nectarines should grow 18"-24".
- * Bearing peaches and nectarines should grow 12"-18".
- * Non-bearing apples and pears should grow 18"-30".
- * Bearing pears and bearing non-spur type apples should grow 12"-18".
- * Bearing spur apples should grow 6"-10".
- * Non-bearing plums and sweet cherries should grow 22"-36".
- * Bearing plums and sweet cherries should grow 8".
- * Non-bearing, tart cherries should grow 12"-24".
- * Bearing tart cherries should grow 8".

If your tree's growth is satisfactory then you might want to fertilize each year.

Use an organic, high nitrogen fertilizer. Blood meal, soybean meal, composted chicken manure, cottonseed meal, and feather meal are good, organic nitrogen sources.

Continued on the next page!

Book of the Month

Continued...

In general – follow the instructions on your fertilizer bag to gauge how much to apply. If the soil is fairly compacted you may want to use an aerator to loosen things up and allow the nutrients to reach the roots of the plant. The NPK numbers on fertilizer show the percentage of nutrients per pound of fertilizer. N, P and K refer to actual nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

Trees need 1/10th of a pound of actual nitrogen per year of age, or per inch of trunk diameter (measured 1 foot above the ground). The maximum you should give a fruit tree in a year is 1 lb. of actual nitrogen.

There are two ways to apply fertilizer to your trees.

The easiest way is just to spread the fertilizer on the ground, rake it in, and then water.

Don't start fertilizing next to the trunk. Start a foot from the trunk and spread fertilizer evenly all the way out to the drip line.

The *drip line* is at the perimeter of the tree's furthest reaching branches.

Digging a series of small holes is another method of applying fertilizer. It is a bit more work, but it ensures the fertilizer is getting to the tree roots.

To make the digging job easy you can use an auger attachment with a cordless drill.

Dig the holes six inches down and 12"-18" apart. Start drilling the holes a foot outward from the trunk and continue on to the drip line.

Take the fertilizer you've measured out according to the recommended rates and sprinkle a little in each hole until it is used up.

This is great for making sure less water soluble nutrients like phosphorus or beneficial mycorrhizae in the fertilizer make it to the tree roots.

Once you have finished fertilizing, spread an inch of compost over the top and water well. This will prevent your nitrogen from escaping to the air and not helping the plant it was intended for!!

Submitted by Cynthia White

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Leslie J. Nickels Trust
Arbuckle, California

HELICOPTER BALL DROP FUNDRAISER

Thank you
Yerxa Farms!

JULY 31, 2023 - 9AM

(WATCH FROM THE UCCE OFFICE, 100 SUNRISE BLVD., COLUSA)

\$40.00 PER TICKET OR 3 FOR \$100

[HTTPS://MYAGLIFE.COM/FUNDRAISER/](https://myaglife.com/fundraiser/)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS CONTINUING RESEARCH AT THE
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Four chances to win!

Closest to the hole - Prosteel Theftgard Gun Safe

Donated by: Beeler Tractor & Air-O-Fan Products

2nd closest to the hole - \$600 gift card to Kittle's

Donated by: Simplot Grower Solutions

3rd closest to the hole - Tiffany & Co. Bracelet

Furthest from the hole - Yeti fully loaded

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT WEBSITE [HTTPS://MYAGLIFE.COM/FUNDRAISER/](https://myaglife.com/fundraiser/)
OR CONTACT 530-458-0570**

Need not be present to win

Recipe of the Month

BBQ'd Marinated Shrimp and/or Chicken

I found frozen EZ peel shrimp on sale for under \$4 per pound!! What a deal!!

As you shop for frozen shrimp, look for ones that have ONLY shrimp and salt, NO other additives. Hard to find, but worth it.

I wanted to BBQ some and was hunting around for a marinade when I came up with this, a combination of several recipes I ran across.

Adjust the spice level to your liking with more or less siracha and/or hot sauce.

Keep the gochujang for it's blend of flavors without scorching heat.

1/4 cup soy sauce

1/4 cup lime juice and the zest of the lime(s)

2-3 Tbs molasses or honey

2 Tbs siracha or Frank's Red hot sauce

2 Tbs gochujang (Korean chili paste)

2 big cloves garlic, grated

1 Tbs grated fresh ginger

Whisk the ingredients together until smooth.

I found that this was plenty for at least 2 pounds of shrimp.

Divide in half and freeze half in a zip bag for another time.

1 lb shrimp - whatever size fits your budget.

Defrost in the fridge if frozen, peel and devein, take the tails off, too.

Marinate about 15 minutes (more time is too much).

Thread onto flat metal skewers.

That way the meat does not roll around as you turn the shrimp.

If you only have round skewers or bamboo, soak the bamboo in hot water and "double skewer" the shrimp.

While the shrimp marinate, heat up your grill and generously oil your grates.

BBQ shrimp about 3-5 minutes per side. Do not overcook!

Continued on the next page!

OPTIONS:

Make it a "surf and turf" and add some chicken breasts or thighs

I happened to have some chicken tenders on hand

so I cut them into 1 1/2" chunks and marinated them, too.

Chicken needs to cook 5-8 minutes per side, so start the chicken first!

Use an instant read thermometer to be sure your chicken is done.

Add veggies!

Squares of red, yellow or green bell pepper and/or red or yellow onion

Slices of zucchini and/or whole mushrooms

Skewer each of these individually as they cook at different rates.

I cook the veggies first and keep them warm while I cook the shrimp and/or chicken.

Make it a sheet pan dinner in a 425-450 degree oven.

Line the pan with parchment for easy clean-up.

Use a rack, too, for extra crispness.

Start with the chicken and veggies, add the shrimp after about 10 minutes.

DON'T WASTE!

Make shrimp stock from those shells.

Put the shells, some parsley, celery, onion, carrot, and bay leaf

in a pot with water, salt and pepper and the leftover lime halves.

Simmer 15-20 minutes, strain and freeze



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

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visit: theplantmasters.com



June podcast

In this episode of "A Garden Runs Through It", Bernice talks about summer pruning of fruit trees.



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UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	July	August	September
P L A N T I N G	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cool-Weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale can be planted this month. Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September is a good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. Put your spent annual and vegetables in your compost pile. Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting. This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming.
P R E V E N T I O N	<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) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.

Seasonal Landscape IPM Checklist

July

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ [Bacterial blast, blight, and canker](#) - Inspect apple, citrus and especially *Prunus* spp. (e.g., stone fruit). Remove entire affected branches in the summer, making cuts several inches away in healthy wood.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as leafminer.
- ☐ [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 and grapes with netting to [exclude birds](#) and other [vertebrate pests](#).
- ☐ Cypress, or Seridium, [canker](#) - Prune dying branches at least 6 inches below any apparent cankers. Irrigate appropriately. Replace severely affected trees.
- ☐ 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.

- ☐ [Eutypa dieback](#) - Prune apricot and cherry.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Green fruit beetle](#) in fig and stone fruits - Plant varieties that mature early or late in the season, avoid varieties that mature midseason.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ Oak [gall wasps](#) - Usually do no serious harm to oaks. Control is very difficult.
- ☐ [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Prune off galled branches if intolerable.
- ☐ [Powdery mildew](#) - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits.
- ☐ [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 for powdery mildew.
- ☐ [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.

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

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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.

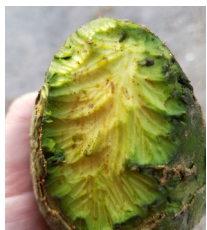
M Dimson, UCE

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.



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

N Quina, UCIPM

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.