

A Garden Runs Through It

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program



Colusa County

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

May 2018

Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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Upcoming events

[Click here to read our blog.](#)



May
Native Bee workshop & Bee Nests
May 12, 10 –noon
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa
\$10
See flyer for details



Garden Chat
May 22, 1-2pm
Arbuckle Library, Arbuckle

June
Colusa County Fair
June 7-10
Visit us in Etchepare Hall!
See our booth about landscape tree watering in
the Main Exhibit Hall

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





Native Bees and Bee Nests

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

When: Saturday May 12

10am to noon

Where: Colusa Industrial Properties

100 Sunrise Blvd, Colusa

- We will learn about native bees.
- We will also learn how to attract native bees to your garden.
- You will also make a bee house.
- Fee - \$10, prepayment is required.
Deadline is May 7 – Limit 20 people
- [Click here to pay](#)
- Or go to
cecolusa.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners or
pay in person at 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E,
Colusa



Best Practices to pay online

- To pay online, use Firefox browser.
- Payment boxes do not line up correctly when using your smartphone.



University of California
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Colusa County

Book of the Month

The Lavender Lover's Handbook

The 100 Most Beautiful and Fragrant Varieties for Growing, Crafting and Cooking

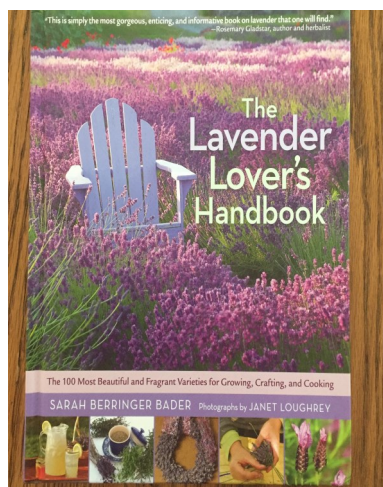
Written by Sarah Berringer Bader

Lavender is a beautiful addition to just about any garden. When it is placed in the right spot – where it has full sun, good drainage and plenty of room to grow – it will thrive with very little care, even through the hot summers of Colusa County.

This book has some beautiful photos showing entire fields of lavender and patches with good companion plants. It also contains lists by color (purple, blue & pink) and names which varieties have the strongest scent (Fat Spike, Grosso and Hidcote). Pruning of lavender is so simple but a chapter is dedicated to that and the harvesting and drying processes also.

I, myself, am not a very adventurous cook but I know a lot of you really enjoy cooking so may like some of the recipes. There is a herbal infused vinegar with lavender, lavender syrup and lavender sugar that even I may be able to tackle. The lavender chocolate truffles look awesome!

I have quite a bit of lavender in my yard and have always wanted to try making a wand and a wreath. This book has step by step instructions for both of these as well as a herb swag.



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich



MAY 22, 1-2 PM GARDEN CHAT

Garden Chat with the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County

Where: Arbuckle Library, 610 King St.

When: April 24, 1-2 pm

Calling all garden lovers! Garden Chat is a roundtable chat about gardening. It's a place to share your gardening stories, successes, challenges and learn from your neighbors. See what happens when you unplug, slow down and enjoy! Future date, June 26.



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Colusa County

THIS IS A ROUNDTABLE
CHAT ABOUT
GARDENING!

SHARE YOUR
EXPERIENCES.

THIS IS A GOOD PLACE
TO ASK QUESTIONS.

GARDEN CHAT IS OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC!

ARBUCKLE LIBRARY

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Ornamental Plant of the Month

Gerbera Daisy

I became so excited last fall when I visited the Sunset Gardens located near Sonoma and saw the most beautiful, vigorous blooming Gerbera daisies, also known as Transvaal daisy, (*Gerbera jamesonii*), a daisy-like bloomer that comes in a variety of jewel tones. The impressive flowers, which grow on top of single, tall stems, are complemented by mounds of slightly fuzzy leaves. At maturity, Gerbera daisy reaches heights of 8 to 24 inches, depending on the variety. Although Gerbera daisies are often grown as annuals, they are perennial in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 8 to 11. I have planted mine in groups around the dripline of my orange trees, with eastern exposure and feed them lightly on a regular schedule.

It is recommended that planting is best after the chance of frost, and prepare for planting by spading the soil to a depth of at least 8 to 10 inches, and then dig in 1 or 2 inches of organic matter such as compost or manure. Although Gerbera daisies prefer bright sunlight, they benefit from afternoon shade in hot climates like we experience in Colusa county.

Plant the Gerbera daisies in the prepared location, allowing spacing of 18 to 24 inches between each plant. **Ensure that the crown of the plant - the point where the main stem meets the roots - is slightly above ground level, because covering the crown may cause the plant to suffocate.**

Water the plant regularly during the blooming season. Soak the roots thoroughly, and then allow the top of the soil and the crown of the plant to dry before the next watering.

Fertilize Gerbera daisy monthly throughout the growing season, using a balanced, general-purpose garden fertilizer. Alternatively, apply a time-release fertilizer every six to eight weeks.

Spread 1 to 2 inches of natural mulch, such as shredded bark or compost, around the plant in spring. Apply mulch carefully, allowing a span of bare ground around the crown.

Remove blooms as soon as they wilt, as deadheading prevents the plant from setting seed early in the season. To deadhead, pinch or cut the wilted bloom, along with the stem down to the next stem, bud or leaf.

Dig up and replant Gerbera daisy in autumn every other year, when weather and repeated irrigation causes the crown to sink under the surface of the soil. Digging carefully with a garden fork presents less chance of causing damage to the roots.

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Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

Salvia Apiana

White Sage

Planting zone: 7-10

Size: 3 to 4 feet tall, 3 to 6 feet wide. Flower stems can spike to 9 feet or more.

Bloom: Light blue to white flowers in April to mid-July. The flower is a colorful corolla with 2 lips of unequal length.

Exposure: Full sun, tolerates some shade.

Pruning needs: Prune to shape and occasionally remove older stems to encourage new growth.

Water needs: Low water once established.

Snapshot: Original habitat for White Sage is our coastal sage scrub, inland chaparrals and elevations of pine forests below 4000 feet. This Sage is well adapted to droughts and fire. Plants older than one year will come back after brush fires due to their deep roots. Flowers are pollinated by bees and wasps who have to push their way deep into the flower to access the nectar. One of the best tasting honey is harvested from White Sage. The plant has been used medicinally as an astringent and for its antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. White Sage has been used for many years in spiritual ceremonies by indigenous cultures and the seeds are an ingredient in pinole, a type of flour. The leaves and stems can be consumed or used to brew teas. Give White Sage room to spread out in your garden and you will enjoy the fragrance released by the leaves every time you brush against it.

Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

From UC Master Gardener
Program of San Luis Obispo
County blog



Colusa County Fair deadlines Floriculture & Agriculture

Container plants & Design

Paper entries—May 11, 2018 by 4pm

Online entries—May 16, 2018 by 11:59pm

Cut flowers

Paper entries—May 29, 2018 by 4pm

Online entries—June 4, 2018 by 11:59pm

Agriculture/Horticulture

Paper entries—May 29, 2018 by 4pm

Online entries—June 4, 2018 by 11:59pm

Click on link to enter.

[Colusa County Fair](#)



Recipe of the Month

Pizza Meat Loaf Cups

1 large egg, lightly beaten
1/2 cup pizza sauce
1/4 cup seasoned bread crumbs
1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1 1/2 pounds ground beef
1 1/2 cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

Finely chopped pepperoni, optional
Additional pizza sauce and basil leaves for serving, optional

Preheat oven to 375°.

In a large bowl, mix first four ingredients. Add beef; mix lightly but thoroughly.

Divide into 12 portions; press each onto the bottom and up sides of a greased muffin cup.

If using pepperoni, put it in first, then top with the cheese.

Bake until meat is cooked through, 15-18 minutes.

If desired, top with additional sauce and basil before serving.

Yield: 1 dozen

Freeze option: Freeze cooled meat loaves in freezer containers.

To use, partially thaw in refrigerator overnight.

Microwave, covered, in a microwave-safe dish until heated through.






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 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 (nights consistently over 55 degrees) you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers. You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard. (Cilantro will go to seed as the weather warms.) | <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. Apply (or re-apply as needed) organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. Be sure to leave space around the base of the plants. 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"> Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring. Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants. 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have blackberries, cut the canes that bore fruit to the ground. Tie up 3-5 of the new canes. Dig and divide bearded iris that have not been divided for 3 yrs. Deadhead blooming plants as they finish flowering to promote continuing bloom. Fertilize roses after each burst of blooms. Cut back lavender after flowering to promote a second bloom. |
| P R E V E N T I O N | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the battle against slugs and snails.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have fruit trees, be sure to pick up dropped fruit to prevent brown rot from developing and leaving spores for future infection. 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. |

The list below reflects possible landscape activities to do during the selected month(s) in your region. You can use the checklist as a guide for IPM activities in your own landscape or provide it to your clients.

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.

Seasonal IPM Checklist

- [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.

Meet your Master Gardeners!



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

Intercropping—Growing two or more crops in the same planting area simultaneously, as in planting squash in between rows of corn.

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!*

PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



#13

POWER LAWN MOWER SAFETY

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



A gas powered rotary mower

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

Pre-Use Activities

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

Operating Precautions

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

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

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- Monday May 21, 6:30pm
- St Stephens Church, Colusa
- Penny Walgenbach, orchids (yes, this time)

Did a friend send you this newsletter?

- You can get your own newsletter sent directly to your inbox by [clicking here](#).



Additional Links

- Integrated Pest Management ipm.ucanr.edu
- UC Davis Arboretum arboretum.ucdavis.edu
- Invasive Plants www.cal-ipc.org
- Plant Right www.plantright.org
- Save Our Water saveourwater.com
- California Garden Web cagardenweb.ucanr.edu
- McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens turtlebay.org
- UCANR Colusa County cecolusa.ucanr.edu
- UC Master Gardener Program (statewide) mg.ucanr.edu
- California Backyard Orchard homeorchard.ucanr.edu
- ANR publications anrcatalog.ucanr.edu

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