

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...

January 2019

UC Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

P.O. Box 180,
100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite E
Colusa, Ca 95932

530-458-0570
glhernandez@ucanr.edu

colusa@ucanr.edu

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Upcoming events

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



February

Colusa Farm Show
February 5, 6, 7
Colusa County Fairgrounds
Main Exhibit Hall

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



Book of the Month

Surviving Wildfire

by Linda Masterson

Get Prepared

Stay Alive

Rebuild Your Life

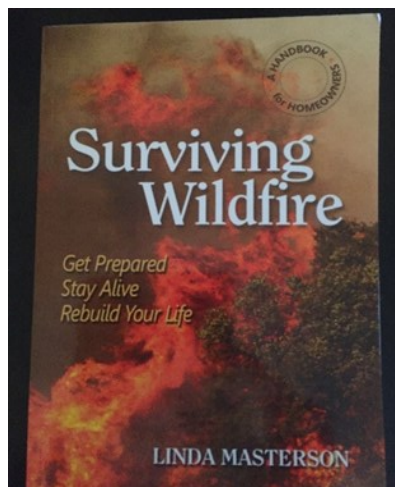
The Ranch Fire and Camp Fire are painfully fresh in our minds. Chances are good that you, your family or friends have been impacted directly or indirectly by the destruction.

Linda Masterson has written an important handbook drawing on her personal experiences from a 2011 fire in Fort Collins, Colorado that destroyed her family home. From that experience she shares what they should have done beforehand and what they would now do differently.

Now is a good time to re-evaluate your property to be sure you have the proper defensible space and are using safety precautions in regards to location of propane tanks, roofing material, accessibility of water hoses and water storage.

The next step is to prepare your family for disaster. Chapter 6 provides details on how to document your belongings and structures for a worse case scenario. There are several free software programs that will produce an electronic version of your inventory that can be up-dated periodically. A recommended one is www.knowyourstuff.org from The Insurance Information Institute. Keep this in your emergency evacuation kit for a quick grab when you have only minutes to leave your property.

There is an important chapter on what to do – and not do – if you become trapped by the fire. Staying calm and remembering your emergency plan is tough to do when the order comes to evacuate and you have just a few minutes to execute.



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Snapdragons

Snapdragons come in every color of the rainbow except blue. They bloom from winter to spring and now is a good time to plant seeds.

Children love snapdragons (I know I did). They gently pinch the sides of the flower, forcing its floral lips to open wide before letting go as if to talk.

In the garden, snapdragons are bushy, erect plants with lush green, lance-shaped foliage that contrasts nicely with floriferous spikes. The flowers tend to start opening from the bottom up.

If you are planting by seed, read the seed packet for planting directions. Garden Centers will have snapdragons in stock soon. Snapdragons thrive in cooler temperatures of spring and early summer. Water them once a week (at least). Deadhead regularly to extend blooming.

Snapdragons are beautiful in cut flower gardens, borders or in large containers as vertical accents.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Edible Plant of the Month

Peas

Peas are native to southern Europe. They come in two general types: shelling peas and edible-pod peas. The later includes snow peas (my favorite), which are eaten when pods are young, before the peas inside mature; and snap peas, which are eaten when pods are filled out.

All peas are easy to grow when conditions are right. They need coolness and humidity and must be planted at just the right time.

If you have the space and don't mind the bother, grow tall (vining) peas on trellises, strings, or chicken wire; they climb by tendrils to 6 feet or more and bear heavily. Bush types are more commonly grown in home gardens; no support is required.

How to grow peas

Best site: Full sun.

Planting: In our area you can sow seeds from fall to spring. Most varieties are ready to pick 60 to 80 days from planting. Now is a good time to plant peas if your garden is ready. If not wait until the soil dries up a little bit. Peas also do well in containers.

Spacing: Leave 2 feet between rows for bush types, 5 feet for tall vines and 2-3 inches apart in containers.

Water: Moisten ground thoroughly before planting; then hold off on watering until seedlings are up. Use furrow irrigation because overhead watering encourages mildew.

Fertilizer: Peas are nitrogen fixing plants and need very little fertilizer.

Harvest: When peas are harvesting size, pick all pods that are ready; if seeds are allowed to ripen, the plant will stop producing. Shelling peas: begin harvesting when the pods have swelled to almost a cylindrical shape but before they lose their bright green color. Edible-pod peas: pick snow peas when they are 2-3 inches long. Snap peas: pick after pods have filled out.

Challenges: Powdery mildew, aphids, cucumber beetles, and a number of viruses and wilts. Look for resistant varieties.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Recipe of the Month

BLUEBERRY WHITE CHOCOLATE BREAD PUDDING

This recipe came from our friends in Louisiana. It is great for a crowd and can easily be doubled for a big group.

Serves 10 to 12

3 Eggs beaten

1 quart heavy whipping cream

1 cup white sugar

1/2 cup brown sugar

2 tsp. vanilla

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1/4 tsp. nutmeg

Mix all together in a large bowl and set aside

8 large croissants - tear into bite size pieces and tossed with the cream mixture. Let sit for 20 to 30 minutes.

1 - 12 oz of White chocolate chips

2 cups frozen blueberries

Fold gently into bread and cream mixture and pour into a buttered 9X13 dish.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to one hour. Cover the top lightly with foil if it gets to brown before the center is firm.

Sauce

1 cup heavy whipping cream

1 - 12 ounce package white chocolate chips

Mix together over low heat, stirring until the chips are melted. Pour over bread pudding. Or serve it with just whipped cream. We like to serve it warm.



Submitted by Sherry Maltby

Bonus Recipe

Pomegranate Braised Short Ribs

Recipe courtesy of marthastewart.com

INGREDIENTS

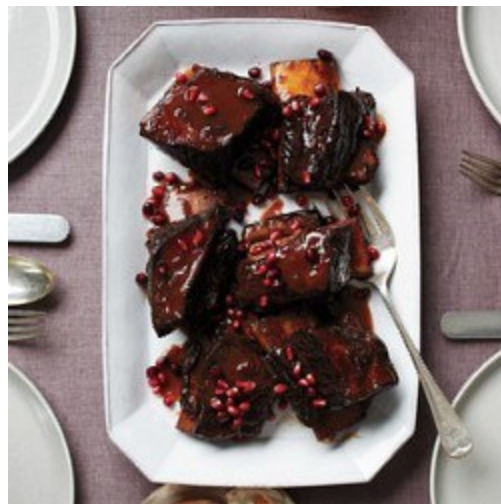
- 5 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 4 pounds bone-in beef short ribs, cut into 3-inch pieces (8 to 12)
- Salt and pepper
- 1 large yellow onion, cut into wedges
- 3 cloves garlic, smashed and peeled
- 10 sprigs thyme
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 cups pomegranate juice
- 1 cup dry red wine, such as Merlot
- 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 275 degrees. In a large heavy pot with a tight-fitting lid, heat 2 tablespoons oil over high. Season short ribs with salt and pepper. In batches, brown ribs on all sides. Transfer to a plate, pour off oil, and wipe loose bits out of pot.

2. Reduce heat to medium-high and add remaining 3 tablespoons oil to pot. Add onion, garlic, and thyme. Cook, scraping up browned bits with a wooden spoon, until onion is softened, 5 minutes. Add flour and stir to coat. Whisk in pomegranate juice and wine and bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Return ribs to pot, cover, and transfer to oven.

Bake until ribs are easily pierced with the tip of a paring knife, about 3 hours. With a slotted spoon, carefully transfer ribs to a large platter. Strain liquid into a fat separator, let sit briefly, and return to pot, discarding fat (or, skim off fat with a spoon). Bring to a boil over medium-high and cook until reduced to a sauce-like consistency, 10 minutes. Strain through a fine-mesh sieve, season with salt and pepper, and pour over ribs. Top with pomegranate seeds.



Submitted by Sherry Maltby

Another bonus recipe

Radicchio Salad with Turkey, Pear, and Pomegranate

Recipe courtesy of bonappetit.com

INGREDIENTS

- 4 ounces roasted turkey breast
- 3 cups radicchio
- 1 pear
- 2 tablespoons toasted chopped hazelnuts
- 2 tablespoons pomegranate seeds
- 2 tablespoons Whole Grain Mustard Walnut Vinaigrette
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 tablespoons whole grain mustard
- 2 tablespoons Sherry vinegar
- ½ cup olive oil
- ½ cup walnut oil

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make vinaigrette: In a medium bowl, whisk together Dijon and whole grain mustards, vinegar, olive oil, and walnut oil; season with salt and pepper. Alternatively, place ingredients in a 1-pint jar with a lid and shake vigorously to combine. Refrigerate until ready to use.



Toss radicchio, sliced pear, and turkey with vinaigrette. Top with hazelnuts and pomegranate seeds.

Submitted by Sherry Maltby

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	January	February	March
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant rhubarb, strawberries, and cane berries. Plant seeds for broccoli, cabbage, parsley, turnips, peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach. This is the time to plant bare root roses, trees, artichoke crowns, grapevines, and other vines. You can still plant pansies, violas, snapdragons, and fairy primroses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant in vegetable garden by direct seeding: radishes, beets, chard, and peas. Start tomato, pepper and eggplant seeds indoors. Flowers to transplant or direct seed: snapdragon, candytuft, larkspur, coral bells, and stock. Plant bulbs for summer bloom: dahlias, begonias, gladiolus, lilies, etc. Plant potatoes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can plant canna, gladiolus, and crocosmia for summer blooms. Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil. It is still early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers (although you could try late in the month if it is still warm.) Nights should be above 55°.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roses, fruit trees and other perennials can be pruned this month. Do not prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom. Prune berry canes that bore fruit last year to the ground. Prune grapevines back, leaving 2 to 3 buds per side shoot. Later in the month you can divide Shasta daisies, daylilies, chrysanthemums, and other perennials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish pruning roses. Prune summer blooming shrubs now. Apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell. Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts. Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials. Mulch 3 inches deep around plants (without touching stems) to conserve soil moisture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance. Fertilize roses, annuals flowers, and berries with slow-release fertilizer when spring growth begins. Fertilize citrus and deciduous fruit trees. Prepare garden beds by incorporating compost before planting spring vegetables.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray horticultural oil on pruned fruit trees to control scale, mites and aphids. Thorough coverage will kill over-wintering eggs. Later in the month, spray neem oil on roses to control mildew, rust, and black spot. Do not apply oils unless there will be 24 hours of dry weather following application. Be sure to clean up debris (leaves and twigs) around roses and fruit trees to help prevent disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight. Watch for aphids on spring blooming bulbs; remove with a strong spray of water. As the weather warms prepare to battle slugs and snails with traps or pet-friendly baits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small. Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them. 

Seasonal 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 or provide it to your clients.

January

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.
- [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.
- [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid sogginess.
- Continue [rainy-season prevention of diseases](#), [earwigs](#), [snails and slugs](#), and [weeds](#).
- [Frost](#) - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.
- Implement [disease and insect control](#) for apple, pear, stone fruits, nut trees, and deciduous landscape trees and shrubs such as roses.
- [Irrigation](#) - Adjust watering schedules according to the weather and plants' changing need for water. Reduce irrigation frequency or turn off systems if rainfall is adequate. Irrigate deeply but infrequently if the winter is dry.
- [Mistletoe](#) - Prune off infected branches.
- [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Avoid pruning olive and oleander during wet weather if stem galls are a problem.
- [Peach leaf curl](#) - Apply preventive spray once or more during late fall through bud break if leaf curl has been a problem on nectarine or peach.
- [Pine](#) bark beetles, pitch moths, western gall rust, and wood borers - If pines need branch removal, prune during October through January.
- [Plant](#) bare root deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines e.g., caneberries, fruit and nuts, grapes, and roses. Plant seedlings of cedar, fir, pine, and spruce. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site.
- [Prune](#) deciduous trees and shrubs that need pruning such as apple, crape myrtle, pear, rose, spirea, and stone fruits. Make cuts properly to encourage good form and structure. Remove dead, diseased, and borer-infested wood. Certain pests (e.g. shothole borer) and host plants such as apricot and cherry warrant summer pruning.
- [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- [Sycamore scale](#) - Check for presence of pest. Difficult or impractical to control on large trees.

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.

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Science Word of the Month

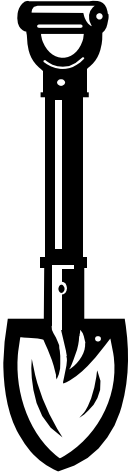
Nitrogen fixing plants: Some microorganisms that live in association with legume plant roots can fix nitrogen, converting it, which crop plants can absorb.

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

Safety Note #4

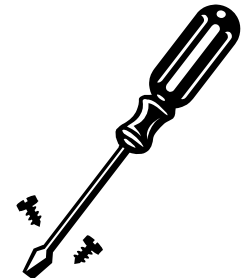
HAND TOOL SAFETY



Hand tools include axes, screw drivers, wrenches, pliers, hammers, chisels, saws, shovels, files, punches, and other hand-operated implements. Risks for injury are generally related to hand tool misuse or improper tool maintenance. **Video E-063 Hand Tool Safety in the Workplace is available from the ANR Environmental Health and Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.**

Hand Tool Precautions:

- Always inspect hand tools for defects (e.g., splintered, loose, bent, or cracked tool handles, mushroomed tool heads, sprung tool joints, worn tool teeth) prior to use.
- Any tool with defects must be removed from service by attaching a red tag that states “DO NOT USE.” Complete red tag with appropriate information.
- Wear industrial-quality safety glasses or face shield when the hand tool produces flying, crumbling, chipping, sparking, or splintering debris.
- Keep the cutting edge of hand tools sharp. When cutting, always cut away from the body.
- Always use the proper hand tool for the job.
- Never use screwdrivers for prying/punching/chiseling or to test for electric current.
- When hammering, take careful aim to strike the object and not your fingers.
- Never use a wrench for prying or hammering. Do not use sleeved extensions or “cheat bars” on wrench handles.
- Shut off electricity before working on electrical equipment (i.e., lock out, de-energize, and tag out).
- Do not use pliers on nuts or bolts. Use a wrench.
- When cutting wire, strapping, or other soft metals, do not twist or rock metal cutters from side to side.
- Do not use wrenches, hammers, or pliers to tighten clamps.
- Do not use chisels for prying or as wedges.
- When finished, clean hand tools and store in proper locations.



Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- January 28, 6:30 pm
- St. Stephens Church, Colusa

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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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