



# A Garden Runs Through It

April 2024

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

UCCE Master Gardener Program, Colusa County  
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## Upcoming events

[Listen to our Podcast](#)



### April

Family Fair  
Saturday April 13, 10 to 2 pm  
Colusa County Fairgrounds

### June

Colusa County Fair  
June 6, 7, 8, 9  
All day  
Colusa County Fairgrounds

## Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



# Listen to Our Podcast

visit:

[theplantmasters.com](http://theplantmasters.com)

In this episode of “A Garden Runs Through It”,  
Master Gardener Bonnie talks about  
wildflower trails.



 University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  UCCE Master Gardener Program  
Colusa County



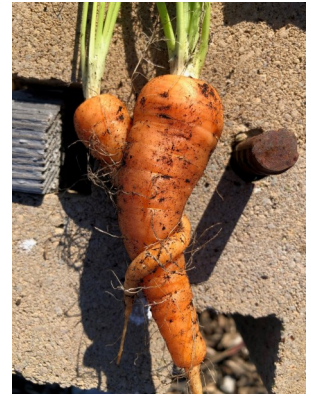
“A Garden Runs Though It” is produced in partnership with:  
Stitches Embroidery and Customs & UC Master  
Gardener Program of Colusa County

# Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite St., Williams

## Vegetables

We have started planting the summer garden. We are looking to plant, in the raised beds, tomatoes, cucumbers, and green beans. In the ground, we want to plant peppers, eggplant and melons. Goodbye winter. We are so excited for spring!



## Landscape

We pruned the water-wise landscapes and they are looking good. Some plants need to be replaced and we will do that soon.

The blue Adirondack chairs are in the salvia area and they look awesome. A bench is in the landscape area, so you can enjoy the garden while sitting.

## Garden Sign

This will be our new garden sign. It will be 3 feet x 18 inches and aluminum. The sign has been sent to the printer! After the sign is installed we will have a sign ceremony!!

# Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

UCCE Master Gardener Program

Colusa County

530-458-0570



## Ornamental Plant of the Month

### *'Aureola' Hakonechloa macra*

#### Japanese Forest Grass

#### Family Poaceae

The first time I saw this was when a friend bought it at a plant sale – within a year it was an absolutely gorgeous specimen that lit up a shady portion of his yard. There are several varieties that range from brightest green to gold to one that has variegated strappy leaves with streaks of white and magenta. The plant is hardy in zones from 5 – 9 and creates mounds that are one to one and one half feet tall and wide. It will grow in partial to heavy shade especially in our hot valley but need to set up a bit high so they always drain well. If your soil is a bit soggy then put some mulch in to increase the drainage.

On the coldest day of the year you should give it a serious haircut nearly to the ground to get rid of all the previous year's foliage. In spring chartreuse blade will shoot from its suddenly red crown. By mid-spring you won't be able to believe the amazing bright fountain of foliage.

The plant is native to various regions of eastern Asia, with the largest diversity in Japan and China. I can be found growing mostly in shady and moist woodland and mountain areas, such as wet rocky cliffs. As the seasons change you will notice that the color of the foliage changes. If you have pets or children there are no known toxic issues with the plant if ingested or touched. Because they like to be in well-drained soil it is a good choice for the base of trees like maples and such, or along border paths, in shaded patio areas, or even as a potted plant. You might even consider it as a ground cover or accent plant.

They are relatively slow growing so even though they form clumps with their rhizomatous root system, they work well in an area where you can hear their leaves rustle with a distinctive sound. The leaves almost look like bamboo. In the fall the foliage turns into exquisite copper-orange, red, and purple shades. It has an insignificant blossom and is great to use near lilies that don't have much to show once the flowers are done.



Submitted by Cynthia White





**FREE  
EVENT**



**FAMILY**

**FAIR 2024**

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 13TH  
10AM TO 2PM**

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Petting Zoo
- Face Painting
- Arts and Crafts
- And much more!

**Located at Colusa County Fairgrounds  
Main Exhibit Building:  
1303 10th ST. Colusa, Ca 95932**

 **530-458-0350**

**If interested in joining as a vender please contact Ashlyn Ferreira:  
aferreira@ccoe.net**



**EVENTO  
GRATUITO**



**FERIA**

**FAMILIAR 2024**

**SÁBADO  
13 DE ABRIL  
10AM TO 2PM**

**ACTIVIDADES:**

- Animales de granja
- Pinta caras
- Proyectos de arte
- ¡Y mucho más!

**En los terrenos de la feria de Colusa  
Edificio Principal de Exposiciones:  
1303 10th ST. Colusa, Ca 95932**



**530-458-0350**

**Si está interesado en unirse como vendedor, comuníquese con  
Ashlyn Ferreira: [aferreira@ccoe.net](mailto:aferreira@ccoe.net)**



## Gardener's Corner

### Catchweed Bedstraw

Our wet and now warm weather has encouraged this weed to have explosive growth.

Such a silly name for a bad, bad weed.

This weed seemed to appear overnight in 2010. It is invasive!

Be vigilant! It seems to grow over night.

Catchweed Bedstraw is a summer annual broadleaf plant that is starting to show in your gardens now! Its bristles attach to people's clothing and the hair of animals, aiding in its dispersal. If you have this plant, get rid of it now. It is very distinctive with a square stem and very sticky feeling.

Stems are square and have tiny down-curved prickles. Mature plants reach up to 3 feet long. Leaves whorl around the stem in groups of six to eight. Individual leaves have a rounded tip, and tiny curved prickles on the leaf edges and midveins that, under a lens, are seen pointing toward the leaf base giving the leaves a sticky touch.

Flowers bloom from March through July. Two to nine tiny, greenish to white or yellowish, four-petaled flowers cluster on long stalks from the main stem above the leaf whorls.

If left alone it will form a solid mat of untenable plants.

*Source: University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. Visit [cecolusa.ucanr.edu](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu) [ipm.ucanr.edu](http://ipm.ucanr.edu)*



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

## Gardens I Have Visited

### RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN

Ruth Bancroft 1908-2017

Several years ago the Garden Club of Colusa County did a field trip to the Bancroft Garden and were surprised at the scope and variability it offered. I've been back once since that time and encourage all to take it in when you are in the area. You can get the open times on a Google search. On our first outing there Ms. Bancroft was actually in the area. She died in 2017 at the age of 109.

Gardening really is the key to a long life!!

The Ruth Bancroft Garden is now among the best examples of dry-adapted residential landscapes. By 1998 she had realized that it might serve as an important community resource. "Having children visit the garden is most valuable," she said. Some may have never been to a larger garden, and it could affect their futures."

Ruth Bancroft began imagining and planting her Walnut Creek landscape in the 1970s when she was already in her sixties. Surrounded by suburban single-family homes and green lawns, the life-long plant lover explored and planted a variety of wildflowers, irises, roses, and yes, cacti and succulents. Together with Brian Kemble—her garden cohort almost from the beginning—Ruth cultivated a growing collection of dry garden plants arranging their architectural forms and many colors and textures to exquisite effect. Ruth's garden flourished, garnering the attention of gardeners near and far.

I encourage all to take the time to visit this gem – not too far and a pleasure from beginning to end.



Submitted by Cynthia White



## Recipe of the Month

### Nigella Lawson's Roast Chicken -- Adapted from NY Times

This recipe was posted about 5 years ago with both rave reviews and good suggestions from readers. I have included most of those suggestions so you can pick and choose.

I have also made this myself recently using chicken breasts (boneless, skin on) and made some adjustments.

1. If you use the lemon, do not add lemon juice. It makes the marinade too acidic and turns the chicken mushy.
2. Fresh rosemary is important. I used dried because that was all I had on hand and it was blah.
3. If you add the potatoes and/or carrots, and put them under the chicken, you may need to cook them longer than the chicken.

Mine needed an extra 20 minutes or so after the chicken was at 165 degrees. I am inclined to cook the potatoes and carrots in a separate pan or start them 15 minutes before I put the chicken on top of them.

- 1 whole chicken OR your choice of parts - breasts, thighs, quarters, legs\*
- 2 cups buttermilk OR whole fat Greek yogurt, either work
- 2 cloves garlic, minced or grated, or more, up to you
- 1 tablespoon crushed black peppercorns OR 2 teaspoons coarse black pepper OR white pepper
- 1 tablespoon Maldon or other sea salt (might be a little salty for some) OR 1 teaspoon table salt
- 1 lemon, zested but NO juice
- 1-2 tablespoons hot sauce or siracha or sambal, optional
- 2 tablespoons fresh rosemary leaves, roughly chopped OR substitute tarragon, thyme or sage
- 1 tablespoon honey OR maple syrup

Optional add-ins:

thickly sliced or wedged gold or red potatoes (some even used sweet potatoes!)

and / or sliced onions and/or celery, optional

thickly sliced carrots (1/2" but no more) or 3/4-1" cubes of butternut squash

halved Brussels sprouts

sprinkle of paprika, or cumin, Old Bay, cayenne

bread the chicken in panko or other seasoned bread crumbs (especially if you use skinless parts)

Butterfly the whole chicken. This is called SPATCHCOCKING and the butcher can do it for you.

Place breast side down and, using heavy-duty kitchen shears, cut along both sides of backbone.

Save the backbone and wings and wing tips to make stock.

Turn the chicken over and press gently on the breast bone to flatten it. Done!

Continue on the next page...

## Continued from the previous page

Mix buttermilk, garlic, pepper, salt, rosemary, lemon zest and honey, etc., in a large freezer bag. Add the chicken, seal and refrigerate overnight or up to two days, turning the bag now and then. The marinating time is really important.

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Use a cast iron skillet or substantial roasting pan.

Use a roasting rack if you do not plan to include the potatoes and/or optional add-ins. Otherwise...

Toss the potatoes, etc. in a little olive oil and season, lay the potatoes, onions, celery, etc. in the pan. The drippings from the chicken will season the potatoes as everything roasts together.

Remove chicken from marinade and place skin sided up directly on the potatoes, onions and celery.\*\*

If you are using chicken parts, put breasts in the center and legs and thighs around them.

Sprinkle chicken with paprika if you want a little extra color or with extra seasonings - up to you.

Put the carrots and/or squash around the sides of the pan.

Roast for ~30 minutes, turn the carrots or squash, put sprouts in around the side. Reduce oven to 350.

Continue roasting until chicken is browned and thighs temp at 160-165, 20-30 min, trust your thermometer!

You can run the chicken under the broiler for a few minutes if skin is not crisp enough for your taste.

Serve directly from the skillet or remove to a platter.

\*This recipe also works for pork loin roasts or pork tenderloin! Just adjust the cooking times.

\*\*Save the marinade, simmer it down with some shallots, mushrooms, butter and wine, whisk it thoroughly, and made a sauce!

If you do this, be sure to cook the sauce well - it had raw chicken in it!!

One reader added some garam masala and minced jalapeno chili to the sauce for an Indian twist to the flavors. Another saved the carcass and made stock with it plus the backbone and wings that she then turned into great soup.

Afterwards, I bone out the carcass and repeat the process with the turkey bones so I have more stock to use for turkey casserole or pot pie with the leftovers.



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

## HOW TO MAKE STOCK

I usually buy whole chickens when they are on sale and break them down myself. I leave thighs bone in and bone out some of the breasts, leaving some bone in, so I have choices later. Legs, backs, wings, bones and necks all go into the stock pot. I hate the little slivery things in legs!

Put all the pieces and parts in a good sized pot. Add onions, garlic, celery, carrots, a couple bay leaves, and any leftover herbs you have on hand.

Add water to cover, put on the lid, bring to a simmer. and cook for an hour or two.

Check that the meat is tender, then cool, until you can handle the contents.

Scoop out the big pieces with a slotted spoon and set aside to separate bones and meat.

Scoop out some of the stock, too, if the pot is too heavy to handle safely!

Pour the stock through a strainer to separate liquid from the smaller bits and pieces.

Pick out the nice pieces of meat and save/freeze with a little stock for use in casseroles, enchiladas or soup. Save the gristle bits for your dog or cat, they will love you!

Chuck the bones, skin and the mushy stuff.

If you chill the stock, the fat will rise to the top and be easy to remove.

Strain the stock through cheese cloth if you want it really clear and fancy.

Put stock in leftover cottage cheese or yogurt containers, label, date and freeze.

Pick container sizes based on how you expect to use the stock.

You can also use this same process to make beef stock.

Simply buy beef bones, ox tails, or save bones from a rib roast or steaks.

Roast the raw bones for an hour or two before you start.

At Thanksgiving, I make stock with the wings, neck, etc. so I have a base for my gravy.

Afterwards, I bone out the carcass and repeat the process with the turkey bones so I have more stock to use for turkey casserole or pot pie with the leftovers.



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach



**Did you know?**

**We have a**

**Facebook page!**

<https://www.facebook.com/UcceMasterGardenersOfColusaCounty>



**We post pictures, gardening information, our events and lots of fun things about gardening!**

**Join Us!**

# Gardening Guide

## UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	April	May	June
<b>P L A N T I N G</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a shady spot early in the month you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses.</li> <li>You can plant dahlia tubers and transplant most perennials.</li> <li>As temperatures warm you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers.</li> <li>You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct seed in the garden cucumbers, melons, summer squash, beans, corn, and annual herbs.</li> <li>Plant sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and aster in the flower garden.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>In the vegetable garden you can plant seeds of pumpkins, squash, and corn.</li> </ul>
<b>M A I N T E N A N C E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring.</li> <li>Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month.</li> <li>Apply (or re-apply as needed) organic mulch to all beds. Be sure to leave space around the base of the plants.</li> <li>Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal.</li> <li>Prune spring flowering shrubs to shape, removing old and dead wood.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Later in the month use a fertilizer for acid-loving plants like azaleas and camellias. Always follow the directions.</li> <li>Dig and divide spring-flowering bulbs when the tops have died down.</li> <li>Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture.</li> </ul>
<b>P R E V E N T I O N</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the battle against slugs and snails.</li> <li>Deadhead (cut off spent flowers) to get continuing bloom on annuals and perennials.</li> <li>Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.)</li> </ul>



# 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>



# Seasonal Landscape IPM Checklist

## April

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, 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 caterpillars, mites, scales, and thrips.
- [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.
- [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid sogginess.
- Deter borers in fruit and nut trees e.g., [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.
- [Fire blight](#) - Look for oozing and dead limbs on pome plants such as apple, crabapple, pear, and pyracantha. If a problem in the past, apply blossom sprays to prevent new infections.
- [Irrigation](#) - Adjust watering schedules according to the weather and plants' changing need for water. Check systems for leaks and broken emitters and perform maintenance as needed. Consider upgrading the irrigation system to improve its water efficiency.

- [Mosquitoes](#) - Eliminate standing water e.g., in gutters, drain pipes, and flowerpots. Place *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* in birdbaths and ponds to selectively kill mosquito larvae.
- [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Avoid pruning olive and oleander during wet weather if stem galls are a problem.
- [Olive pests](#) e.g., ash borer, psyllid, and scales. Blossom drop sprays on nonharvested trees. [Olive fruit fly](#) suppression on harvested trees.
- [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.
- [Plant](#) frost-tender species e.g., avocado, bougainvillea, citrus, and hibiscus. Water regularly to keep root zone moist, but not soggy.
- [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 aphids, black spot, Botrytis blight, downy mildew, hoplia beetle, powdery mildew, thrips, and rust.
- [Scab](#) of apple, crabapple, and pear - Avoid sprinkler wetting of leaves. Compost or dispose of dropped leaves. Grow resistant cultivars or apply preventive fungicides.
- [Scale insects](#) - If damage has been unacceptable, monitor the crawler stage and when abundant apply horticultural oil or another insecticide.
- [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.

## 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

Soil—The natural medium on the surface of the earth composed of minerals, organic matter, water, air, and various organisms, in which plants typically grow.

If you attended one of your workshops, you will receive an email from [mgevaluation@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgevaluation@ucanr.edu). Your input gives us the tools we need to grow and improve our program. *Thank you!*

PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED



## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

April 22, 6:30  
Williams

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

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Website: [http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative\\_Action/](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.*

# Weeds in Lawns

**Weeds occur in all lawns but seldom become problems in well-managed, healthy turfgrass.** Poor maintenance practices — such as improper fertilization, watering, and mowing — can weaken turfgrass and predispose it to weed invasion. Total eradication of weeds isn't realistic or necessary for most lawns. With good management practices, a lawn can be vigorous and attractive with little or no herbicide use.

## Why is weed identification important?

- ◆ Different weeds require different management approaches.
- ◆ Many weed species are associated with particular lawn conditions, such as overwatering, compacted soil, or low fertility. Identifying the weed species can give an indication of the underlying lawn care problem, which can be corrected.
- ◆ Visit [ipm.ucanr.edu](http://ipm.ucanr.edu) for help identifying weeds.

## Prevent weed invasions with proper lawn care.

- ◆ Make sure to grow an appropriate turfgrass species for your area.
- ◆ Regularly check sprinkler heads and adjust if needed.
- ◆ Water deeply and infrequently.
- ◆ Mow regularly, and remove no more than one-third of the leaf blade at each mowing.
- ◆ Fertilize up to four times a year with no more than one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per application.
- ◆ If needed, alleviate soil compaction with aeration.
- ◆ Remove thatch if it is more than half an inch thick.

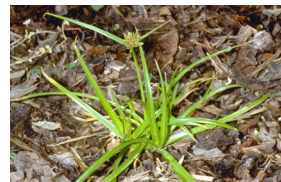
See the **UC Guide to Healthy Lawns** at [ipm.ucanr.edu/TOOLS/TURF](http://ipm.ucanr.edu/TOOLS/TURF) for complete information on lawn care.



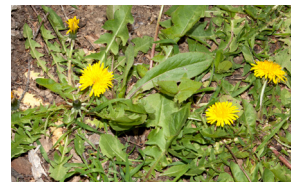
## When weeds invade:

- ◆ Identify the weed species.
- ◆ Determine if there is an underlying lawn care problem such as improper fertilizing, watering, and mowing, and correct it.
- ◆ Remove weeds by hand when they are young and before they flower, set seed, form vegetative parts, or spread into patches.
- ◆ Use herbicides as a last resort, and combine with proper cultural control.
- ◆ If used, choose an herbicide labeled for the species of weed you are trying to control and one that is safe for use on your turf type.
- ◆ Avoid fertilizer products containing herbicides.
- ◆ Renovate or replace weak areas of lawn with vigorous new turf.

See Pest Notes: **Weed Management in Lawns** at [ipm.ucanr.edu](http://ipm.ucanr.edu) for more details.



yellow nutsedge



dandelion



smooth crabgrass



bermudagrass

**Minimize the use of pesticides that pollute our waterways. 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, contact your **University of California Cooperative Extension** office listed under the county government pages of your phone book or visit the UC IPM Web site at [ipm.ucanr.edu](http://ipm.ucanr.edu).

**What you use in your landscape affects our rivers and oceans!**