



A Garden Runs Through It

June 2024

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

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

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Upcoming events

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Facebook

June

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

July

Family Fun in the Garden
Saturday July 20, 10 am
Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden
Education Village
499 Margurite, Williams

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM
OF COLUSA COUNTY

Family Fun at the Garden

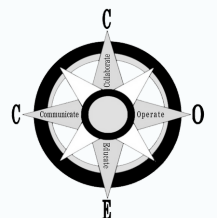
Kids activity!
Adult activity!

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

Saturday, July 20, 10 to 11 am

Farm to School
Demonstration Garden

Education Village
499 Margurite St.
Williams, CA



Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite St., Williams

Vegetables

We have planted the summer garden, yeah! We planted, in the raised beds, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, and green beans. In the ground, we planted peppers, and basil. We will be picking vegetables soon. I know it's really hard to see but we have a baby bird in the chard and 2 more eggs!



Landscape

The water-wise plants have leafed out and growing big. They look fabulous. We need to replant a couple of plants and find 1 more for the landscape.

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 is being put up at the garden. Come and check it out!

Thank you to our donors. We love you!

Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden



UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County 530-458-0570



Listen to Our Podcast

visit:

theplantmasters.com

In this episode of “A Garden Runs Through It”, Clancy from Griff’s Feed and Seed talks about plants at the store.



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

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Sneezeweed

You have to love a plant called Sneezeweed!!

When you see a plant with a name like this it has to be able to hold up its head and make you smile!! That's exactly what will happen with this one that is considered a wildflower in many areas. This is a hardy and worthy specimen to plant in the back of your garden where it can shine over it's smaller counterparts.

Also known as helenium, sneezeweed is a tall, gorgeous perennial topped with colorful daisy-like flowers in a range of warm shades. They attract many pollinators, and aren't fussy about soil. Plant them in a sunny spot at the back of the border and give them plenty of water. The root system is woody but not too dense, and can be divided in spring as soon as green shoots appear. Try one of these vibrant cultivars: 'Red Jewel' (rose pink), 'Moerheim Beauty' (bright red and bronze), 'Mardi Gras' (orange with yellow edges), and 'Mariachi Salsa' (light to dark orange). Generally you can count on them to get to at least 30-40 inches tall.

When the plant has imploded itself with flowers and starts looking scraggly go ahead and cut it back by about one half and it may just give you another modest flair. I don't have any patience in the summer with wimpy plants. The helenium will never shrink away with the heat – plant some and expand your garden past the usual ho-hum stuff. Mostly enjoy the intensity that it gives your life! Even though it may look delicious it is considered to be toxic – leave it out of your summer salad.



Submitted by Cynthia White

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!

Gardener's Corner

Hot Weather Tips for You and the Summer Garden

California is hot all summer. Many gardeners wonder how their plants, trees or shrubs can survive. With a little extra planning, your plants can survive the hot summer weather.

Don't fertilize plants or trees during hot weather. Fertilizers increase the plant's growth. An increase in growth means an increase in water and nutrient needs. Plants have a hard time pumping water to all parts of the plant during the heat.

Water trees deeply and frequently. You want to consider the roots below the ground and encourage a network of deep roots. How do you do this, especially if your tree is in the lawn. In a nutshell, circle your tree with a drip line or soaker hose. Turn the water on for about 2 hours. Check the depth of the water by using a measuring stick. The measuring stick will easily push through wet soil. When the measuring stick stops at 2 feet then you can turn off the water. Next week check the depth of the water using your measuring stick again. Once the level of wet soil reaches 1 foot, irrigate again. Keep up this cycle over the summer.

Mulch, mulch and more mulch. A good layer of mulch prevents soil from heating up and moisture leaving. Apply a 4-inch layer of medium bark mulch to the soil. This protects the plants' fine roots. Mulch decomposes so you will have to add mulch every year.

Wait to introduce new plants or trees until the fall. Timing is everything. New plants have smaller root systems than mature plants and need time to develop. New plants have a high rate of failure during hot summers. In California, the best time to establish a new plant is in the fall. Winter rains can help keep new plants watered while their roots grow.

Precautions to Prevent Heat Illness Disorders for You

Gardeners and others should acclimatize themselves to the prevailing weather conditions.

Always drink plenty of fluids such as water and sports drinks. During warm weather, plan to have at least one quart of water available per person per hour of outdoor activity. Avoid caffeinated drinks.

Wear a summer hat with a brim and loose-fitting, light-colored, and lightweight clothing like cotton.

Schedule vigorous activities such as gardening, during the coolest portions of the day and take frequent breaks on hot days.

If someone is feeling symptoms of heat illness, they should take a rest period in a shaded area. Find access to shade – this may be any area where the affected person is protected from direct sunlight, such as under an umbrella, a portable structure, or inside a ventilated building or vehicle.

Heat Exhaustion - profuse sweating results in dehydration. Characterized by fatigue, dizziness, and nausea; pale and moist skin; and possibly slightly elevated temperature.

Heat Exhaustion - have victim rest in shaded and cool place and drink fluids. Do not serve caffeinated fluids such as soft drinks, iced tea, or coffee.

Heat Stroke - sweating stops and the body fails to regulate its temperature. Victims may die if they don't receive immediate medical treatment. Characterized by mental confusion, fainting, or seizures, hot dry skin usually reddish in color; and high body temperature. Call 911 immediately, soak victim's clothing with cool water, move victim to shaded and cool area, fan victim to increase cooling of their body.

By Gerry Hernandez

Recipe of the Month

One Pan Orzo Dinner

4-6 tablespoons butter

1 medium onion, chopped

2-3 cups sliced mushrooms

2-4 cloves garlic, minced or grated

half a 16-ounce package of orzo (rice shaped pasta)

Melt the butter in a 4 quart pan

Sauté everything until onions soften and orzo toasts, stirring often, 5-10 minutes

If things start to stick, turn down the heat and add a little more butter

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

2 cups chicken or vegetable broth

OR 2 cups water and 2 tablespoons Better than Bouillon

OR 2 cups water and 2 bouillon cubes (dissolved in the water)

OR 1 1/2 cups broth and 1/2-3/4 cup half and half or cream

Stir to blend, reduce heat to a low simmer and cover

Cook about 15 minutes, stirring once or twice

You might need another 1/4 cup of broth or other liquid

8 cups baby spinach OR thinly sliced Swiss chard or kale (stems removed)

Stir into the orzo mixture

Cover and cook another 5-10 minutes, stir once or twice

Greens should wilt (kale will take the longest) and orzo should be tender

Remove pan from the heat

4 ounces feta cheese, diced or crumbled

Sprinkle over the top, cover for 5 minutes to melt

Serve



OPTIONS:

-- Swap out the feta for any other cheese you like, or just add more cheese!

-- No orzo?

Spaghetti or linguini broken into 1/2-3/4" lengths would also work

The little pastas in the Hispanic section of the market will also work

-- Add a protein

Saute cubed boneless chicken breast or thighs, or bacon or sausage, with the onions

Add leftover chicken or ham or meatballs or cooked bacon with the greens

Add cubed firm tofu with the spinach or other greens - but stir very, very gently!

-- Add more veggies with the spinach

A cup of frozen peas or mixed vegetables, or coarsely grated carrots, asparagus in 1" slices

-- Amp up the flavor!

Add 1/4 tsp. grated nutmeg, always good with dark greens

Add 1 cup of diced bell or 1/2 cup spicy peppers to the onions and mushrooms

Open your spice drawer and sniff... what smells good? Try it!

-- Top with something crunchy - nuts, seeds, chips?

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Penny Pinching Tips from a Master Gardener's Kitchen -- 1 A

Planting Tips

Pots

Plan for the size that your plant will become.

Dark pots absorb the heat of the sun more than light colored pots.

Clay pots that are not glazed (shiny) on the outside dry out way faster than other pots.

Be sure your pot has plenty of drainage. Drill or pop out the holes, drill extra holes if necessary.

Plan to put something between your pot and your patio or deck so the holes you have can drain.

The space also prevents staining of the patio surface.

Trendy things like fabric pots and hanging baskets are just that -- trendy. Skip them.

Potting Material

Watch for sales and bigger bags are usually a better value.

Moisture control components can be helpful in retaining the water you put on for longer periods.

Fertilizer

A balanced formula is best - look for three numbers (for example, 10-10-10, or 30-30-30).

These represent the amounts of Nitrogen - Phosphorus - and Potassium (NPK) in the product.

The higher the numbers, the stronger and more concentrated the product.

A little fertilizer is good, a lot is **NOT** better. Always read the label and follow instructions.

Plant Selection

Select potted starts in 3-4 inch pots, bigger sizes are more expensive, probably not worth the \$\$.

If you are teaming up with others, see if you can find "six packs" and share.

Watch for sales at big box stores; be sure you are charged the sale price!

Hunt for pots with two plants instead of only one. I call these "twofer's" - two for the price of one!

If you are a patio or deck planter, choose compact varieties.

Refer to the "When to Plant" guide provided by Master Gardeners. [Planting Guide](#)

If you decide to plant cool season or fall crops in the spring or summer (out of their best season), plan to give the plants afternoon shade and don't expect miracles.

Continue on the next page...

Continued from the previous page

Tomatoes

Read the label so you know what to expect - size of fruit, time to maturity (ready to pick).

Look for "indeterminate" on the label. This means you will have an extended harvest, compared to "determinate" which means most of the fruit will be ready at the same time.

When you plant, snip off the leaves and any little sprouts on the lower half of the plant.

All of those tiny hairs will become roots and give your plant a big head start.

Loosen the roots a little, too, so they branch out into your potting material quickly.

Support

Plan to support what you are growing. Choose wisely.

Tomato towers come in many sizes and strengths; less expensive equals less support, waste of money.

Unless you have a really small tomato plant, I think they are generally pretty useless.

I do use them to support pepper plants, bush beans, and eggplant when fruits are maturing, getting heavy.

My favorite for patios are the square, folding wire supports, about 4' tall and 18-24" on each side.

For in-ground plantings, I like a 4' x 6' piece of concrete reinforcing wire, tied in a cylinder to a big stake.

You can reach through the 6"x6" wire spaces to tuck in the tomato branches as they grow.

You can pick off grasshoppers and tomato horn worms, and then pick your beautiful tomatoes later.

Either the square support or the reinforcing wire works very well for cucumbers, too.

Gently weave vines through the wires as the vines grow, and reach in to pick. No dirt, no slugs.

Watering

Water your pots thoroughly when you plant. The plants need time to send roots into the potting soil.

You may have to water daily for a while. Feel the soil with your finger. If in doubt, let your plants tell you!

Wilty in the afternoon? Give them a drink. Wilty in the morning? Probably should have watered yesterday.

OR they have been way, way too wet for quite a while. Catch 22!!

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach





MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN



**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#3

HEAT ILLNESS AWARENESS

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

According to the National Weather Service, an average of 235 heat-related fatalities occurred annually between 1975 and 2004. Moreover, about 25,000 heat-related illnesses or injuries occurred from 1991-2000. Children are at greater risk for heat stress because their bodies have a larger surface area per pound of weight. Youth that are vigorously exerting themselves in summer heat are at higher risk for contracting heat illness. By taking several simple precautions, people can control and/or reduce exposure to conditions that may cause heat illness. **English and Spanish language safety videos on heat illness are available for loan from the ANR Environmental Health & Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.**



Heat Illness Disorders and Symptoms

1. Heat Stroke - sweating stops and the body fails to regulate its temperature. Victims may die if they don't receive immediate medical treatment. Characterized by: mental confusion, fainting, or seizures; hot dry skin usually reddish in color; and high body temperature.
2. Heat Exhaustion - profuse sweating results in dehydration. Characterized by: fatigue, dizziness, and nausea; pale and moist skin; and possibly slightly elevated temperature.
3. Heat Cramps - cramping thought to be due to loss of salt through sweating. Characterized by muscle spasms in arms, legs, and abdomen during or following physical activities.
4. Heat Syncope - dehydration while standing still causes blood pooling in lower portions of the body. Characterized by fainting while standing still.
5. Heat Rash - occurs under hot and humid conditions where sweat does not evaporate readily. Characterized by irritated/itchy skin with prickly feeling and small red bumps on skin.

Treatments for Heat Illness Disorders

1. Heat Stroke - call 911 immediately, soak victim's clothing with cool water, move victim to shaded and cool area, fan victim to increase cooling of their body.
2. Heat Exhaustion - have victim rest in shaded and cool place and drink fluids. Do not serve caffeinated fluids such as soft drinks, iced tea, or coffee.
3. Heat Cramps - have victim rest and drink non-caffeinated fluids.
4. Heat Syncope - have victim rest in a shaded and cool place, and drink non-caffeinated fluids.
5. Heat Rash - wash and dry skin. Wear loose clothing and keep skin dry.

Precautions to Prevent Heat Illness Disorders

1. Master gardeners and others should acclimatize themselves to the prevailing weather conditions.
2. Always drink plenty of fluids such as water and sports drinks. During warm weather, plan to have at least one quart of water available per person per hour of the outdoor activity. Avoid caffeinated drinks.
3. Wear a summer hat with a brim and loose-fitting, light-colored, and lightweight clothing like cotton.
4. Schedule vigorous activities during coolest portions of the day and take frequent breaks on hot days.
5. If someone is feeling symptoms of heat illness, they should take a rest period in a shaded area. Master gardeners should help find access to shade – this may be any area where the affected person is protected from direct sunlight, such as under an umbrella, a portable structure, or inside a ventilated building or vehicle.



Example of shade area to reduce chance of heat illness. Courtesy of Calaveras County CE.



If a treated victim does not recover from heat illness in a reasonable amount of time, promptly seek medical attention. Plan ahead to know how to summon medical assistance and direct emergency responders to your location or how to transport the heat illness victim to a medical service provider.

Any incidents of heat illness shall be promptly reported to the master gardener's county Cooperative Extension office.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	June	July	August
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the flower garden you can still plant seeds of marigolds, zinnias, cosmos and sunflowers. You can set out transplants of perennials like yarrow, verbena, black-eyed Susan, and dahlias. In the vegetable garden you can plant seeds of pumpkins, squash, and corn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can still plant seeds of annuals: zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers and alyssum will grow and bloom this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can plant directly in the garden seeds of carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach and turnips. Indoors you can start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, kale, bunching onions, and radicchio.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Dig and divide spring-flowering bulbs when the tops have died down. Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. You can prune by half to keep the plant in bounds. 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"> Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers. Check the mulch you have spread around and be sure it is thick enough to suppress weeds. (3 to 4 inches) Cut off spent flowers of perennials and annuals for continued bloom.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure to water early in the day to conserve water and minimize plant disease. Regularly check your sprinklers and drip emitters for needed repairs and adjustments. Monitor soil moisture in hot weather to be sure you are irrigating enough. (Use a metal rod to push into the ground. If it goes in easily, the soil is moist.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to weed. Be especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds.

Seasonal Landscape IPM Checklist

June

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, herbicide, salinity, soil pH, sunburn, wind, and too much or little water.
- [American plum borer](#) - Check for frass and gum on lower branch crotches and graft unions of young trees such as almond, mountain ash, olive, sycamore, and stone fruit.
- [Ants](#) - Manage around landscape and building foundations, such as using insecticide baits and trunk barriers.
- [Aphids](#) - On small plants, spray a strong stream of water or apply insecticidal oils and soaps. Look for and conserve [natural enemies](#) such as predaceous bugs, lacewings, lady beetles, and syrphids.
- [Asian citrus psyllid](#) - Look for it and if found where not known to occur report it and other new or [exotic pests](#) to your local county agricultural commissioner.
- Camellia, citrus, gardenia, grape and other plants adapted to acidic soil - If leaves are yellowing (chlorotic) between green veins, plants may benefit from foliar or soil [application of iron and zinc](#) chelate and mulching.
- [Carpenter bees](#) - Paint or varnish and seal wood in which they nest. If intolerable, treat tunnels during fall or early spring.
- [Carpenterworm](#) - Protect trees from injury and provide proper cultural care, especially appropriate irrigation.
- Cherry [spotted wing drosophila](#) - Harvest early, apply spinosad as soon as fruit begins to develop any pink color.
- [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as leafminer and scales.
- [Clean up](#) mummies and old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests.
- [Clearwing moths](#) - Look for signs of boring in ash, birch, pine, poplar, and willow; less often in oak, sycamore, and stone fruits.
- [Coast redwood dieback](#) - Check for drought-stress related maladies such as abiotic disorders, bark beetles, fungal diseases, and spider mites. [Deep water trees](#) and apply mulch.
- [Codling moth](#) of apple and pear - Bag fruit. Promptly remove infested and dropped fruit. Apply insecticides only if precisely timed.
- [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist.
- Cover fruit trees with netting to [exclude birds](#) and other [vertebrate pests](#).
- Deter [borers](#) - Deep water trees adapted to summer rainfall e.g., fruit and nut trees. Protect trunks and roots from injury and avoid pruning, except for hazardous trees and certain pests and plants that warrant summer pruning. [Paint trunk and scaffolds with white](#) interior latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water.
- [Fire blight](#) - Look for oozing and dead limbs on pome plants such as apple, crabapple, pear, and pyracantha. If a problem in the past, apply blossom sprays to prevent new infections.
- [Irrigation](#) - Adjust watering schedules according to the weather and plants' changing need for water. Check systems for leaks and broken emitters and perform maintenance as needed. Consider upgrading the irrigation system to improve its water efficiency.

- [Leaffooted bug](#) - Look for feeding on fruit and nuts such as almonds, pistachios, and pomegranates.
- [Mosquitoes](#) - Eliminate standing water e.g., in gutters, drain pipes, and flowerpots. Place *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *israelensis* in birdbaths and ponds to selectively kill mosquito larvae.
- [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- [Powdery mildew](#) - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits.
- [Prune](#) pine terminals only during candling (new shoot growth), late spring to early summer, to retard growth and in young pines direct growth.
- [Redhumped caterpillars](#) - Monitor trees such as liquidambar, redbud, stone fruits, and walnut. Cut off shoots infested with groups of young caterpillars. Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* or spinosad.
- [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- [Rose pests](#) - Manage or take preventive actions, such as for black spot, hoplia beetle, powdery mildew, and thrips.
- [Scale insects](#) - If damage has been unacceptable, monitor the crawler stage and when abundant apply horticultural oil or another insecticide.
- [Spider mites](#) - Irrigate adequately, mist leaf undersides daily, reduce dustiness, spray horticultural oil.
- [Weeds](#) - Manage weeds using nonchemical methods such as [cultivation](#), handweeding, or mowing.
- [Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps. Trapping is most effective during late winter to early spring.

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

Tilth—The physical condition of the soil in relation to its ability to support plant growth.

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!*

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

Back to meetings in August

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

Yellowjackets

Yellowjacket wasps prey on other insects and scavenge on human food and garbage.

Yellowjackets, sometimes called “meat bees,” defend their nests, as do other social wasps and bees. They are more likely to sting if disturbed while foraging. Stings generally cause pain and short-term injury, but some people suffer severe allergic responses. Prevent stings by avoiding wasps and removing food sources. Trapping or nest treatment can reduce yellowjacket populations.



Yellowjacket

Is it a yellowjacket?

- Yellowjackets are ½ to 1 inch long with jagged bright yellow and black stripes. Their narrow “waists” are barely visible. Unlike other common wasps, yellowjackets scavenge on food. They nest in holes in the ground, inside wall cavities, or in hanging nests totally enclosed in gray paper with a single entrance.
- Paper wasps have long slender waists, build paper nests with many open cells under eaves, and are rarely aggressive.
- Mud daubers are dark-colored and thread-waisted. They build small, hard mud nests and rarely sting.
- Honey bees are less brightly striped than yellowjackets and have more hair. They usually aren’t attracted to food, although they may go to sweets. Honey bees are unlikely to sting unless trapped or stepped on. They often nest inside cavities in trees or houses.



Paper wasp



Mud dauber



Honey bee

Photos by Jack Kelly Clark, UC/IPM

Stay calm to avoid stings.

- If a wasp lands on you, don’t swat it or run. Wait for it to leave, or gently brush it away.
- Try not to disturb nests. Wasps flying from a hole in the ground or a building indicate a probable nest.

Remove attractive food sources.

- Keep food, including pet food, covered or indoors.
- Outdoors, cover soda cans so wasps don’t crawl in.
- Keep garbage in sealed cans and empty regularly.
- Pick up and dispose of ripe fruit.

Use traps to reduce yellowjacket numbers.

- Yellow lure traps hung along the perimeter of a property can reduce foraging of some species around patios or picnic areas.
- Homemade traps using meat bait hung on a string just above soapy water may also be used.
- Place traps away from areas where people gather, such as picnic tables.

What should you do about a nest?

- Ask your Mosquito and Vector Control District if they treat nests, or call a licensed pest control company. Nests might be far away and hard to locate.
- If you choose to treat nests yourself, wear protective clothing on your body, hands, and head. Use an insecticide that shoots a long stream into the nest entrance and is labeled for treating yellowjacket nests.
- Paper wasp nests shouldn’t require treatment unless they are near people.

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.