

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...

February 2018

Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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Upcoming events

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



February

Colusa Farm Show

February 6-7-8

Colusa County Fairgrounds
Main Exhibit Hall

March

Landscape Tree Workshop

Saturday March 3, 10am to noon

10th and Parkhill, Colusa

This workshop is FREE.

April

Plant Clinic @ Griff's Feed and Seed

Saturday April 7, 10-2 pm

7th and Sioc, Colusa

Monarch Butterfly/Milkweed workshop

Saturday April 14, 10 –noon

Colusa Wildlife Refuge

Colusa County Family Fair

Egling Middle School

Saturday April 21, 10-2 pm

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





Landscape Tree Workshop

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

and

**Garden Club of Colusa County, City of Colusa Tree
Commission, City of Colusa Heritage & Preservation
Commission Sesquicentennial committee**

When: Saturday, March 3

10 am to noon

Where: Parkhill & 10th St., Colusa

Pavilion at the pool



Schedule of talks

(every 20 minutes)

- **The Value of a Tree Canopy (10:05)**
 - \$ Value
 - Benefits of Trees
- **What Tree to Plant (10:25)**
 - Recommended Trees for Colusa County
 - City of Colusa Tree List
 - Selectree
- **Maintenance of Trees (10:45)**
 - Watering
 - Fertilizing
 - Pruning
- **Is My Tree in Trouble? (11:05)**
 - Recognize Hazards
 - When & Who to Call
- **Tree Planting and Staking (11:25)**
 - Tree Planting Demonstration



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Book of the Month

Tulipomania:

The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower & the Extraordinary Passions it Aroused

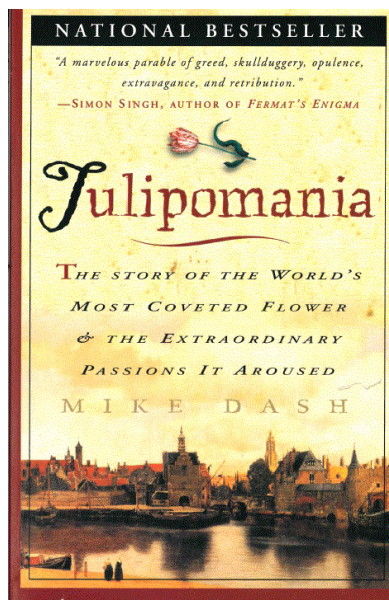
Mike Dash

Recently I am noticing the leaves from my tulip bulbs poking through the soil. In a few weeks I will be blessed with some of my favorite flowers. I do not have nearly enough space in my yard to indulge my love for these plants.

On a visit to the Netherlands some years ago, I was able to see the beautiful fields of tulips in bloom and also visit the wonderful Keukenhof Gardens with displays of blooming tulips in gorgeous settings with other springtime blooms. Those experiences are definitely highlights from my travels.

I had heard a little about the history of tulips, and how, at one point in time the bulbs were bought and sold for enormous sums of money. I was able to learn much more about the history of tulips from the book, *Tulipomania: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower & the Extraordinary Passions it Aroused* by Mike Dash.

Tulips were first found in mountainous areas of Russia and China and did not reach Europe until the sixteenth century. The tulip boom reached its height in 1637 in the part of Europe we now know as the Netherlands. A single bulb sold for 5,200 guilders while the typical yearly earnings of a mid-level merchant was 1,500 guilders. In that same year, the market for tulip bulbs and flowers collapsed and many families lost fortunes because of their speculative investments. There is much more to the story in this detailed and well researched book published in 1999 by Three Rivers Press.



Submitted by Peggy Townzen

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Ox Heart Begonia, a.k.a, Mrs. Montague

When my children were babies the neighborhood babysitter was 80 year old Mrs. Montague. The kids loved going to her house and her 88 year old husband would take them to the garden and let them pick items that Mrs. M would then prepare for lunch. The children always called her 'Monty'. They ate whatever she cooked. When she sold her house in 1970 she gave me her beautiful ox heart begonia that she had cared for inside for over 30 years. The true name for the species is Beefsteak Begonia. The scientific name is *Begonia x erythrophylla*. The end of its name, Erythro, means red and "phyla" means leaf. It has been a treasure and one my children still argue about the next progression.

The leaves are glossy green and a lovely red underneath. From the best I can determine it is a native of Brazil and I've no idea how it got into the parlor of the lovely Mrs. M! It has travelled with our family from its beginnings in Tennessee, then to the east coast and finally back to our home here in California. Many leaves have produced new plants for friends and it is one of the easiest plants to care for. It will stay happy as long as the minimum temperature doesn't go below 55 degrees.

The begonia sits in a north facing window in my laundry room and gets a bit of Miracle Gro about once a year. It has a large pot to accommodate its size and only gets watered when it is dry. Wet feet and cold would be its demise. Right now it has sent up two long waxy stems covered in light pink blossoms and will continue to bloom until sometime in April. I must admit it is very forgiving as a houseplant. Many times I have let 'dry' become wilted and collapsed but Mrs. M always returns after a thorough soaking and gives me another chance!!

If you stop by I will gladly give you a leaf and you can start your own family history. Mrs. M lives on!!



Submitted by Cynthia White

Edible Plant of the Month

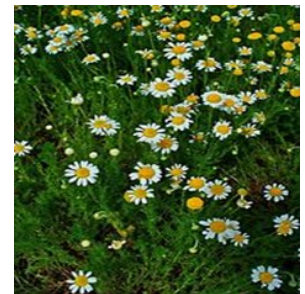
Planting a Tea Garden

You may already be growing some of these herbs to attract butterflies and bees to your garden or for seasoning your food, but have you thought about planting a tea garden? Here are a few plants you can plant for teas.

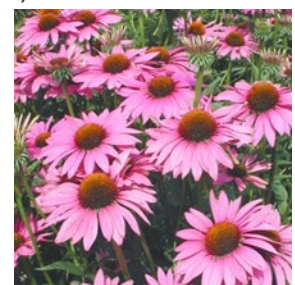
There are many mints, spearmint, *Mentha spicata*, peppermint, *Mentha x piperita*, pennyroyal, *Mentha pulegium*, pineapple mint, *suaveolens 'Variegata'*, a variegated version of Apple mint, *Mentha suaveolens*, as well as other varieties. They can be invasive, but you can put a barrier around it to keep it from getting out of hand, but well worth growing, as it aids in your digestion as well as a calming tea. Lemon balm, *Melissa officinalis*, (grow in a pot if you don't want it to take over your garden) also has calming properties. You steep the leaves for tea. It also has many other uses as well.



Chamomile buds calm a sour stomach, as well as have a relaxing effect. There are two types of Chamomile, Roman and German. The Roman chamomile, *Chamaemelum nobile*, grows in a mat form along the ground and has daisy like flowers. The German chamomile, *Matricaria recutita*, is a very similar flower, but grows upright to about 2 feet tall and reseeds annually. Many people swear by homegrown chamomile tea to calm their nerves. This cheery herb can add beauty to a garden and may have sedative qualities. Chamomile growing in the garden is both useful and visually appealing.



Another plant that has daisy like flowers that many grow in their butterfly garden is Echinacea. The buds are steeped for a tea that is good for your immunity system. They grow to a height of 5 feet, so be sure to plant accordingly. The good news for gardeners is that echinacea is not only useful, it's also a beautiful addition to your perennial beds and borders, and is hardy even in very cold climates. The only thing echinacea can be somewhat fussy about is too much moisture. It likes a fairly dry soil, and should never have to sit very long with its roots in wet, soggy soil.



See next page for more!

Planting a Tea Garden, continued.

Although not widely cultivated, Angelica, *Angelica archangelica*, will add interesting variety and flavors to ones tea garden. You use the root as a tea for a digestive or dry the leaves. The dried leaves can also be used as a seasoning. It is closely related to carrots and is in the parsley family. Angelica is a simple rosette in its first year with a small stalk that may grow 1 to 3 feet tall. In the second year the plant abandons the rosette form and grows larger three sectioned leaves and a 4- to 6-foot stalk. The often used root is a thick fleshy piece of vegetation that reminds one of a huge pale carrot. Provide Angelica with plenty of room in the garden as it can spread 2 to 4 feet wide.



Passion flowers, *Passiflora* spp , are another great plant for your garden. Their vibrant colors and heady fragrance make the passion flower plant a welcome addition to any garden. Unfortunately, because of its origins, most species of passion flower plant can't overwinter in many gardens in the United States, although there are a few that will survive up to USDA plant hardiness zone 5. Most varieties will grow in Zones 7-10. Because they are vines, the best place for growing passion flowers is along a trellis or fence. Use the leaves of the vine for relaxation or a sleep inducer.



These are just a few, but ample to get started with your tea garden!

Submitted by Lynne Spivak

Recipe of the Month

We have all been reading what a bad flu season we're having. This easy, quick and delicious soup can boost your immune system and satisfy your hunger at the same time.

Detox Immune - Boosting Chicken Soup

Serves 8

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Tlbs. olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 large celery stalks, chopped
- 1 cup of mushrooms, sliced
- 10 gloves of garlic, minced
- 8 cups of chicken broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 tsp. turmeric
- 1/2 tsp crushed red pepper
- 1 1/2 tsp seal salt
- 1 (15 oz) Chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 3 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 2 cups baby kale leaves



INSTRUCTIONS

In a large pot or Dutch oven, heat oil over medium-high heat and sauté onion, celery and carrots for about 5 minutes. Add mushrooms and garlic, cook another 3 minutes (don't burn the garlic).

Stir in the chicken stock, bay leaves, turmeric, crushed red pepper, salt and chickpeas. Bring to a boil and mix in shredded chicken, cover, lower heat to simmer for 15 to 20 minutes.




Add kale and simmer another 5 minutes. Discard bay leave before serving.

Submitted by Sherry Maltby

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	February	March	April
P L A N T I N G	<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. Nights should be above 55°. Prepare garden beds with compost before planting. You can plant lettuce, carrots, and cilantro directly in the vegetable bed. 	<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.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts. Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight. Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials. Mulch 3 inches deep around plants (without touching stems) to conserve soil moisture. Finish pruning roses. Prune summer blooming shrubs now. 	<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. Prune and fertilize spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they finish blooming. Fertilize the lawn with a slow release fertilizer. 	<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.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil.  

Meet Your Master Gardener!

Gerry Hernandez

- Master Gardener and Coordinator since 2009.
- Graduated Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo



Grandma's quilt



Working an event. It's cold outside.



The other part of my job, harvesting almonds.



Colusa County State Fair Coordinator



Solar Eclipse

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

Xylem—Vascular tissue primarily responsible for transporting water and mineral nutrients from the roots to the shoots; the primary component of wood.

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!*

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Upcoming events

- Landscape Tree workshop
 - March 3, 10 to noon, 10th and Parkhill, Colusa
- Plant Clinic
 - April 7, 10 to 2pm, Griff's Feed and Seed, Colusa
- Monarch Butterfly/Milkweed workshop
 - April 14, 10 to noon, Colusa National Wildlife Refuge
 - \$5 fee
- Colusa County Family Fair
 - April 21, 10 to 2pm, Egling Middle School
- Gourd workshop
 - May, TBD, Fee
- Colusa County Fair
 - June 7-10, Etchepare Hall, Colusa County Fairgrounds
- Native Bee workshop
 - June TBD, Fee

Watch for details in our newsletter, Facebook or website!



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PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- February 26, 6:30
- Deep Root Irrigation Systems
- Jeff Ciuda

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.