

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...

March 2018

Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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Upcoming events

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



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!



UCCE Master Gardener Program of Colusa County & Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Monarch Butterfly & Milkweed



What

Don't miss it!
Learn about Monarch
Butterflies and why milkweed is
important.

Fee: \$5, [click here to pay](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu) or in
the office or cecolusa.ucanr.edu

When

Saturday April 14
10am to noon

You can pay at the event but we
prefer if you pre-pay.

Where

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Located on Hwy 20 between
Williams and Colusa



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Book of the Month

The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias

Written by John Whittlesey

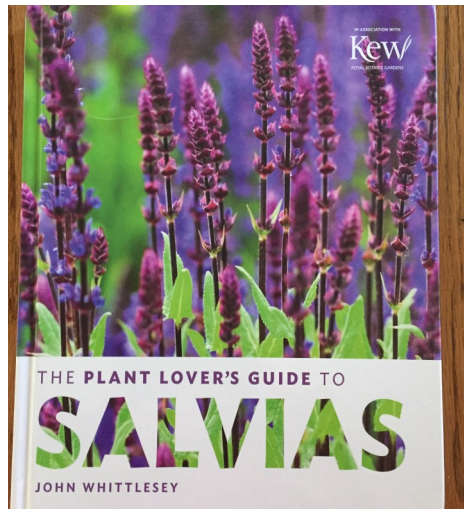
Salvias and Butterfly bushes are 2 of my favorite plants for our climate. As a bonus: They look great together and share the same growing criteria.

In milder areas like ours these hardy perennials provide year-round interest of foliage, form and flower. They are available in just about any color you like and come in cultivars ranging in size from the large 4~6 foot Mexican bush sage (salvia leucantha) to the shrubby 2~4 foot Desert Blaze (Salvia greggii)

The range of plant size, flower size, flower color, foliage, form and hardiness within the genus is tremendous. It includes annuals, perennials, and both evergreen and deciduous woody species.

I purchased 8 of the Silver Glow salvias several years ago and put them in a side yard that catches moonlight. They look so pretty at night! Each plant is 4 ft x 4 ft by early summer and really loves the heat.

The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias has really wonderful pictures of 150 different salvias. Included with each picture are the type, habit, size and hardiness.



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Garden Lilies (Lilium)



Many gardeners are confused about what really is a true lily. There are quite a number of plants commonly called lilies which are not true liliiums, such as Lily of the Valley, Day Lily, and, most often, the Calla Lily. There are others I am not going to mention in this article, so if in doubt, check either on the internet or in your plant identification book. Lilies can be distinguished from other thought to be lilies by the scaly bulb, erect stem, flowers with six perianth segments, and stamens with anthers balanced on them. Some species of *Fritillaria* resemble lilies but are seldom seen in our American gardens.

Lilies are not flowers that can be grown alone like roses, peonies, or iris beds. A lily garden should be associated with other plants, A background of green seems to show up the beauty of the flowers and so they are frequently planted in front of shrubs, in an open field of woodland or in beds among dwarf shrubs where the flowers stand up above the shrubs when in bloom and earlier in the season, the young stems are protected from cold winds. The shrubs also shade the soil around the bulbs, considered by some to be of great benefit. When choosing a planting place for lilies, avoid went-swept areas, not only for the before stated reason, but many tend to be top-heavy when in bloom and snap off easily. Staking should be avoided if possible, but some stems are just not ridged enough to stand upright, so some form of support must be provided. A thin bamboo stake of the desired height (just below the flower) and hidden among the foliage as much as possible.

Plant bulbs in fall or spring as soon as possible after you get them. Keep cool if you are not able to plant asap. Bulbs should not be dry, with withered scales. Remove any damaged scales before planting; after removal let bulbs callas in a cool place for a few hours before planting.

When planting in uncultivated ground, dig hole 1 foot deeper than the depth of the bulb. Place enough soil below the bulb to bring the bulb to proper depth. Generally, plant the bulb 2 ½ times deep as the diameter of the bulb, but depth can be flexible. It is recommended to plant too shallow than too deep; the bulbs have contractile rots that draw them down to the proper depth if the soil has been deeply loosened before planting. Ideal spacing is 1 ft. apart, but can be planted up to 6" apart for mass plantings.

Morning irrigation, by flooding rather than sprinkler is preferred. If using drip, keep 8" away from the stem. Lilies really never have a dormant season, so moisture year around when the top 2" of soil dries out. One can cut back on water when stems turn yellow, but never let the bulb dry out.

Information for specific species is available on either the Internet or in the Sunset Western Garden Book as space does not allow to cover all this information.

Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

Cilantro, Coriander

Coriandrum sativum

This western Mediterranean native grows 1 to 1½ ft. high and 9 in. wide. Delicate fernlike foliage is topped by flat clusters of pinkish white flowers in summer.

Both fresh leaves (cilantro, sometimes called Chinese parsley) and seeds (coriander) are widely used as seasoning, and roots are used in Thai cooking. You can even eat the flowers. Leaves are popular in salads and many cooked dishes. Crush the aromatic seeds for use in sausages, beans, stews, and baked goods.

Cilantro is not recommended for our hot California summers but grows well the other 3 seasons.

How to Grow it

Best Site: Light shade.

Soil: Grow in well drained soil.

Planting: Cilantro is taprooted and transplants poorly, so start from seed. Cilantro grows and flowers quickly. Keep it coming by succession planting every two weeks. Cilantro is a good container plant. March is still a good month to plant cilantro but don't wait too long.

Spacing: Thin seedlings first to 3-4 inches apart; then, then they touch, to 9 inches apart.

Watering: Regular watering encourages steady growth and delays bolting.

Fertilizer: Plants need very little fertilizer.

Harvest: Start harvesting the outer leaves of plants when they reach 8 in. tall. If you have too many leaves, chop then up and freeze them.

Information from *Sunset Western Garden Book of Edibles*.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Recipe of the Month

Cajun-style Shrimp

equal parts (like 1-2 cups each) sliced celery, coarsely chopped onion one green and one red bell pepper, chopped
1/2 cup butter (or half butter, half bacon drippings)
3 -4 large cloves of garlic, minced
1 - 2 teaspoons thyme
1/2 - 1 teaspoon oregano
1 - 2 bay leaf
zest and juice of 1 lemon
1 - 2 tablespoons Cajun seasoning, like Tony Cachere's, to taste
(if in doubt, use less, you can always add more later!)
1 - 2 tablespoons flour
1 - 2 pounds peeled, deveined shrimp
1/2 - 1 cup white wine
1 - 2 tablespoon of Worstershire sauce
1/2 to 1 cup seafood or chicken stock
1/2 cup chopped parsley
1/2 cup sliced green onions, whites and tops hot sauce to taste

- Melt butter in a large skillet
- Sauté shrimp JUST until they START to turn pink, scoop out and set aside sauté celery, onion and peppers in remaining butter/drippings you might need to add a bit more butter...
- Add garlic and seasonings once onions are just tender stir in the flour and sauté for about 1 minute add liquids slowly and stir to make a smooth sauce taste for seasoning and add salt, pepper, and more hot stuff, if desired remove bay leaf!
- Add shrimp, toss in sauce just to heat them up and serve ASAP over grits, topped with parsley and green onions pass additional hot sauce for individuals who like it HOT

NOTE: If you are using 1 pound of shrimp, use the smaller amounts of everything, if you are using 2 pounds, or just like lots of sauce, use the larger amounts.

VARIATIONS:

This recipe would also work with Kielbasa sausage instead of shrimp for Sausage and Grits.

Just replace the shrimp with sliced sausage.

OR you could use boneless chicken thighs and chunk them up for Chicken and Grits.

If using chicken, toss the pieces in a mixture of the flour and Cajun seasoning, before browning in the skillet, then leave them in the skillet while you cook the vegetables and make the sauce, and omit the flour later in the recipe.

Bonus recipe on the next page!



Cheesy Corn Grits

My friend, Nancy, loves these for breakfast topped with an egg or two and some bacon or sausage, and I always fix them when she comes to visit. I also like them for dinner as the base for Shrimp and Grits




- About 3 cups total of any combination of milk, half and half, corn liquid (below) and/or chicken stock (you can use water in a pinch, too)
 - 1 cup coarse yellow corn meal grits (NOT instant)
 - 1 12-14 oz can creamed corn
 - ~2 cups of jack, cheddar, or similar cheese, shredded
 - 1/4 cup butter
 - salt
-
- Heat the liquids to a simmer, add the corn whisk in the grits and cook, stirring almost constantly, until beginning to thicken If you like it smoother, use an immersion blender and puree - your choice here continue to cook and stir until grits are smooth and creamy, about 20 minutes total (if you like your grits softer, add more liquid and keep whisking if you like them stiffer, add more grits or less liquid next time! - hard to fix now).
 - Whisk in cheese stir in butter season with salt to taste (how much you need will depend on how salty your stock is, or if you used only milk).



Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	March	April	May
P L A N T I N G	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct seed in the garden cucumbers, melons, summer squash, beans, corn, and annual herbs. Plant sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and aster in the flower garden.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Apply (or re-apply as needed) organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. Be sure to leave space around the base of the plants. Deadhead (cut off spent flowers) to get continuing bloom on annuals and perennials. Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits.
P R E V E N T I O N	<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.  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the battle against slugs and snails. 

Meet your Master Gardeners!



In today's fast paced, social media way of life, fake news has become normal.
This includes fake gardening advice.
UC Master Gardeners use cutting edge, research-based information to help you garden better.
We are practical, connected and trusted.
Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!

Tomorrow's activities are created by today's dreamers—you can make sure that the UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County is still working to help future generations through your support.

[Click here to support us.](#)

Science Word of the Month

Bolt—to go to seed prematurely.

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

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Upcoming events

- 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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Garden Club of Colusa County activities

- March 26, 6:30
- Penny Walgenbach
- Orchids, how to keep the grocery store orchids alive!

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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