

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...

May 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.](#)



May

Second Saturday at the Library
Saturday, May 11, 10 am to noon
Colusa County Library, Colusa

Garden Chat with the Master Gardeners
Tuesday, May 28, 1 to 2 pm
Arbuckle Library

June

Colusa County Fair

June 6-9
Etchepare Hall & Main Exhibit Hall

Second Saturday at the Library
Saturday, June 8, 10 am to noon
Colusa County Library, Colusa

Garden Chat with the Master Gardeners
Tuesday, June 25, 1 to 2 pm
Arbuckle Library

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





GARDEN CHAT

Garden Chat with the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County

Where: Arbuckle Library, 610 King Street

When: Tuesdays, 1 – 2 pm

April 30
July 30

May 28
August 27

June 25
September 24

Calling all garden lovers! Garden Chat is a roundtable chat about gardening. It's a place to share your gardening stories, successes, challenges and learn from your neighbors. See what happens when you unplug, slow down, enjoy, and meet with fellow gardeners.



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**This is a
roundtable chat
about gardening!**

**Share your
experiences.**

**This is a good
place to ask
questions.**

**Garden Chat is
open to the
public!**

**At the
Arbuckle Library**

**UC MASTER
GARDENER PROGRAM
OF COLUSA COUNTY**

100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E
Colusa, CA 95932

530-458-0570

cecolusa.ucanr.edu

glhernandez@ucanr.edu

Book of the Month

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life

Written by Barbara Kingsolver

On the surface this is a book about Barbara Kingsolver and her family growing, raising and using food from their own farm or food from local farms and farmers market. It is really so much more because it examines the consequences of large corporate agricultures and the long-term effects on the soil and how it affects peoples' choices and their dollars spent on food.

It moves, month by month, to show what they planted on their Virginia farm and how much it takes to feed their family of 4. That alone is worthy of a book. However, it is the facts and figures part of the book that makes you want to become a locavore.

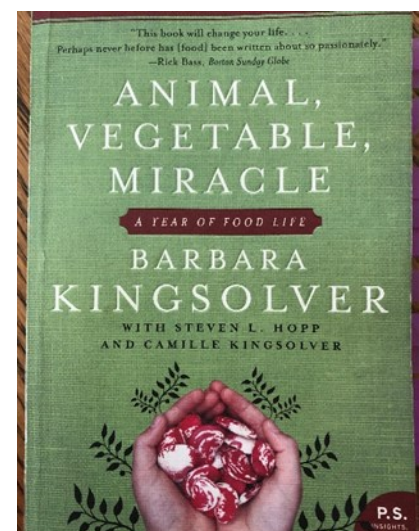
- We consume about 400 gallons of oil per year per citizen for agriculture. Getting the crop from seed to harvest takes only 1/5 of the total oil used for our food. The lions share is consumed during the trip from the farm to your plate.
- More than a quarter of all farm energy goes into synthetic fertilizers.
- Each food item in a typical US meal has traveled an average of 1500 miles.
- If every US citizen ate just 1 meal a week composed of locally and organically raised meat and produce, we would reduce our country's oil consumption by over 1.1 billion barrels of oil each week.
- 6 companies (Monsanto, Syngenta, Dupont, Mitsui, Aventis and Dow) now control 98% of the world's seed sales. These companies sell package deals of codependent seeds and chemicals.

Sources and references are provided for the information contained in the book.

The Kingsolver family did manage to prepare healthy meals throughout the year with a combination of fresh, canning, freezing and cold storage. By reaching out to their community they found sources for the foods they were not able to raise or grow on their own 40 acres.

The book also includes many recipes and they are available at www.AnimalVegetableMiracle.com

Submitted by Carolyn Froelich





Second Saturday at the Library

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

Colusa County Free Library

When: Second Saturday every month

10am to noon

Where: Colusa County Free Library

Colusa



- **May 11 – Roses**
- **June 8 – Irrigation for lawns and flowers**
- **July 13 – Irrigation for vegetables**
- **August 13 – Building your soil**



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Ornamental Plant of the Month

ALSTROEMERIA

It is such a joy to have multiple blooms of Alstroemeria as I look over my back yard garden beds, blooms of yellow, pink, and deep wine colors. It was just a year or two ago that I was able to see a few small blooms. Often called Peruvian Lily, Alstroemeria is native to South America and likes well drained soil, but blooms well with moisture, but not wet, but moist soil. It does well in full sun, partial sun, and even shade. Plant and enjoy, not only in the garden, but light up your home with beautiful bouquets, mixed with other flowers or just alone.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer



Demonstration Garden

The UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County is excited to announce we are starting a demonstration garden!

We will be using a few garden plots located at the Visitor's Center in Colusa.

Our vision is to start small and work our way up to more garden plots. The garden has several preexisting raised plots, a shade structure, picnic tables and benches. It also has a compost pile.

Eventually, we will be able to conduct workshops at the site.



We Need Your Help to be Successful!



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100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa, Ca 95932 530-458-0570
Cecolusa.ucanr.edu glhernandez@ucanr.edu

We need funds for:

Soil

Plants

Seeds

Irrigation supplies

[Click here to donate.](#)

(Use the dropdown menu and choose
UCCE Master Gardener Program.)

Edible Plant of the Month

Unusual Herbs

Fresh herbs add depth of flavor to food. We're all familiar with parsley, sage, rosemary and dill. But there are many less-common herbs you can grow to add some new flavor to your life.

A favorite is *Stevia rebaudiana*. You are likely familiar with the sugar substitute Stevia, a refined version of this plant. The leaves alone are quite sweet and can be added to drinks and desserts to contribute sugar-free sweetness. Stevia is a perennial and will overwinter. It does not like soggy soil so make sure the soil drains well and dries out between watering. The leaves can be eaten fresh or dried for future use. For a decorative and edible addition to your garden, try the annual *Perilla frutescens*. Commonly known as shiso, it can be found in red and green varieties. The leaves are wide and attractive, somewhat resembling Coleus.

P. frutescens grows well in full sun and likes moist, well-draining soil. It has a mild flavor and can be used raw as a garnish. Shiso has recently experienced a boost in popularity in the United States, and one can find dozens of recipes using it.

For a bit more zing, try *Dysphania ambrosioides*, an annual known in the Mexican kitchen as epazote. It is native to Central America. Epazote is a leafy green with a flavor often described as pungent. It can be an acquired taste, but you may find the effort worthwhile as epazote is said to reduce flatulence caused by eating beans and some vegetables. The central valley has a prime climate for this herb. It prefers heat and lots of sun, and it isn't picky about soil quality.

If your culinary options have been getting stale, I encourage you to explore the many alternative herbs out there. You are certain to find new flavors to reinvigorate your meals.

Stevia



Shiso



Epazote



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Recipe of the Month

This seasonal recipe is perfect as the berries and peaches get ripe in our area this month.

This recipe was taken from the Perfect Peach cookbook, written by the Masumoto Family of Fresno County.

BLACKBERRY-PEACH BREAD PUDDING

2/3 loaf stale French bread, cut or torn into 3/4 inch cubes (about 7 cups)

1 1/3 cups peeled and diced fresh peaches

2/3 cup fresh or frozen blackberries or boysenberries

Toss the bread, peaches and berries to mix and put in a lightly greased 9X9 baking Pan.

2 tablespoon butter

2 cups milk

2 eggs

2/3 cup half & half

2/3 cup sugar

1/2 cup light brown sugar

1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 tablespoon Grand Marnier (optional)

Ground cinnamon for sprinkling



In a saucepan, combine the butter and milk, heat over medium-low heat just until butter melts. Do not allow the milk to boil.

In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, half & half, both sugar, vanilla and Grand Marnier. Slowly whisk the warmed milk mixture into the egg mixture to make a batter. Pour the batter evenly over the bread mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to overnight.

To Bake: Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Uncover and lightly sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake for 55 minutes or until pudding is puffy and golden. When the bread pudding comes out of the oven, it should still wobble when the dish is shaken but will set as it cools. Let the pudding rest for at least 30 minutes before serving. Serve warm or room temperature.

Submitted by Sherry Maltby

Safety Note # 196

BICYCLING SAFETY AT WORK



According to CA.GOV, each year in California, more than 100 bicyclists are killed and over 10,000 are injured in collisions caused by motorist and/or bicyclist behavior, lack of skill, or attention. Bicyclists and motorists have the same rights and responsibilities and are subject to the same rules and regulations on the road. It is crucial that bicyclists pay attention to traffic rules and signs to reduce the risk of collisions, accidents, and injuries. *The California Vehicle Code (CVC)* contains laws pertaining to bicycle riders.

CVC – Section

21200: Every person riding a bicycle on a street or highway has all the rights and is subject to all the provisions applicable to the driver of a vehicle. *“Same Roads, Same Rights, Same Rules”*

Follow these Bicycle Safety Tips:

- Ensure the bicycle is in good working order including, brakes, tires, derailleur, chain, pedals, seat, lights, and handle bars. The quick release wheels should be properly tightened. You should be riding a properly fitted bicycle.
- If you are using a shared bicycle, make sure you adjust the seat so it fits you. Ensure you know how to operate the brakes and gears before starting your ride.
- Always wear a bike helmet to reduce risk of head injury. Make sure it fits correctly. Using a rear view mirror attached to the helmet or handlebar can improve your view.
- Be visible and alert. Use hand signals and eye contact to communicate your intentions to other riders and drivers.
- Follow all traffic laws. You can be cited for running stop signs, riding at an unsafe speed, riding on wrong side of road or on sidewalks, not having brakes, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, etc.
- On roadways, ride as close to the right side of the road as safely possible, except when passing, preparing for a left turn, avoiding hazards, or if the lane is too narrow. *CVC-21202*
- Bicyclists traveling slower than traffic must use the bike lane if available, except when making a left turn, passing, avoiding hazardous conditions, or making a right turn. *CVC-21208*
- Bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. *CVC-21963*
- Bicyclists may not carry items which keep them from using at least one hand upon the handlebars. *CVC-21205*
- Bicyclists may not leave bicycles on their sides on the sidewalk or park bicycles in a manner which obstructs pedestrians. *CVC 21210*. No one may stop on or park a bicycle on a bicycle path. You should pull off the path first. *CVC-21211*
- Use designated bike paths when they are available, they can be safer than riding on the road. Check with your local city or county if bicyclists may ride on sidewalks.
- Bicyclists cannot hitch rides on vehicles or streetcars. *CVC 21203*



For information pertaining to California bicycle laws:

https://www.calbike.org/go_for_a_ride/california_bicycle_laws/

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	May	June	July
P L A N T I N G	<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. 	<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.
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. Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. Later in the month prune spring flowering shrubs to shape, removing old and dead wood. Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Later in the month use a fertilizer for acid-loving plants like azaleas and camellias. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have blackberries in your garden, cut the canes that bore fruit to the ground. Tie up 3-5 of the new canes and fertilize to promote new growth. <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.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the battle against slugs and snails. 	<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. If you have fruit trees, be sure to pick up dropped fruit to prevent brown rot from developing and leaving spores for future infection.

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.

May

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ [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 leafminer and scales.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ [Fertilize](#) caneberries, citrus, deciduous fruit trees, palms, and heavily-flowering shrubs with slow-release product if not done in March or April.
- ☐ [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.

Seasonal IPM Checklist

- ☐ [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- ☐ [Olive pests](#) e.g., ash borer, psyllid, and scales. Blossom drop sprays on nonharvested trees. [Olive fruit fly](#) suppression on harvested trees.
- ☐ [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 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.
- ☐ [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. Trapping is most effective during late winter to early spring.

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

Row cover—A translucent, lightweight fabric placed over plants to protect them from insects, birds and frost while letting in light, air and water.

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

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

Monday, May 20, 6:30 pm
St. Stephens Church,
642 5th St., Colusa

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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Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.

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