



A Garden Runs Through It

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

March 2020

UCCE Master Gardener Program

Colusa County

UC Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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- **Safety Notes**
- **Meet Your Master Gardener**

Upcoming events

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



March

Second Saturday at the Library

& Plant Exchange (11 am)

March 14, 10 am to noon

Landscape Tree Workshop

March 21, 10 am to Noon

Downtown Arbuckle

Garden Chat

& Plant Exchange

March 24, 1 pm, Arbuckle Library

Plant Clinic

March 27, 10 am to 2 pm, Colusa

April

Family Fair

April 4, 10 am to 1 pm

Egling Middle School, Colusa

Second Saturday at the Library

& Plant Exchange (11 am)

April 11, 10 am to noon

Topic: Roses

Colusa County Library, Colusa

Garden Chat

& Plant Exchange

April 29, 1 pm, Arbuckle Library

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





Second Saturday at the Library

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

Colusa County Free Library

When: Second Saturday every month

10 am to noon

Where: Colusa County Free Library

Colusa

- **March 14 – Pest Management**
- **April 11 – Roses**
- **May 9 - Salvia and Agastache for Hummingbirds!**

IPM

Integrated Pest Management



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Colusa County



MG Event



UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM OF COLUSA COUNTY

Plant Clinic

@

Griff's Feed & Seed



UC Statewide IPM Program
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What

Let us help you re-pot your plants!

Bring your plant and a container.

- Do you have gardening questions?
- What weed is this?
- What insect is this?
- What are some good water wise plants?

When

Friday, March 27
10am to 2pm

Where

Griff's Feed and Seed
851 7th St
Colusa



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UCCE Master Gardener Program



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Book of the Month

Epic Tomatoes

by Craig LeHoullier

How to Select and Grow the Best Varieties of All Time

It is almost tomato planting time and I am determined to make this the Best Year Ever! For that to happen I want to be sure I am armed with knowledge. This book is so much more than information on how to grow healthy plants.

It is a wonderful history of tomatoes in the world and the early beliefs. The focus is on the past 200 years in the U.S. and the heirloom varieties. There are great stories about how, for instance, Mortgage Lifter and Cherokee got their names. There are so many great historical reprint pictures from seed catalogs and newspapers.

It takes you through seed starting and transplanting and ends with seed preservation and storage. He recommends SSE (Seed Savers Exchange) for some rare heritage/heirloom varieties.

The pros and cons of staking, cages, containers and sprawl planting are discussed. There are even methods I've never heard of such as the Japanese ring, the Florida weave and over-head suspension. I have wondered about pruning suckers and topping a plant to increase size and/or production and he addresses both of those issues.

It is a large, 250 page book with recipes, canning information, and so many photographs of tomatoes!



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich



Landscape Tree Workshop

Presented by
UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

When: Saturday, March 21

10 am to noon

Where: LaVanche Hurshe Park

Downtown Arbuckle



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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Ornamental Plant of the Month

WHAT IS THE PLANT?

Magnolia x soulangeana

Beautifully in bloom right now. Is it a tulip tree, which most people call it, or a MAGNOLIA?.. It is a member of the Magnoliaceae family, variety soulangeana, which by common name is known as Saucer Magnolia. A deciduous magnolia, it has fragrant flowers, blooming from late winter into spring before leaves emerge and as they open. The shrub (or sometimes pruned as a tree with a single trunk) grows to 25 feet tall and wide. It is a good lawn plant; and does well in our zones 8-9. Many people call this a tulip tree because of the shape of the flowers, but a true tulip tree has leaves that resemble the shape of a tulip with an insignificant greenish bloom. This tree usually is only a single stemmed trunk rather than a multi stemmed shrub-like tree. As a deciduous plant it naturally drops its leaves during the winter dormant season, but is rather disease free and easily grown.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

UCCE Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Plant Exchange



What

- Bring a plant, take a plant!
- Plant selection depends on what people bring to the exchange.

When

March 14, 11 am to noon, Colusa

March 24, 1 – 2 pm, Arbuckle

Where

Colusa, Colusa County Free Library, Colusa

Arbuckle Branch, Colusa County Free Library, Arbuckle



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Edible Plant of the Month

Edible Landscaping

Having “human roots” from the very small country of the Netherlands, we have learned to make every space count. Gardens are pristine and tidy, when there is sunny day (which isn’t a daily occurrence by any means), people are out working in the sunshine; planting, hoeing, weeding and smiling from ear to ear (while we in the Sacramento Valley are trying to find shade and a cold beer).

I have gathered much while wondering around during trips back to ‘my roots’, let me try to paint a visual image for you. People plant fruit trees in an “espalier” fashion where not much garden space is available with a neighbor being very close by. I have seen pear, apple, plum and other fruit trees grown in this way and it works beautifully as a border. This does mean, one will have extra pruning to take care of during growing season as well as constructing guide wires for the limbs to be trained on. Under the fruit trees you might find a hedge of berries: raspberries, currants, blackberries, blueberries or gooseberries. The next step down towards the open space will bring you to observe strawberries ripening deliciously. In the other areas around the garden you notice clusters of flowers and perhaps also more strawberries surrounding the flowers.

On the perimeter off to one side you might see squash growing, no weeds, just lush growth and loads of fruit. The Dutch have figured out by integrating vegetables, flowers, berries and fruit trees, bloom-time in close sequence is important for a successful garden to occur to attract pollinators just as it is in our climate.

In other areas I have seen edibles like greens planted between bricks on the side of drive-way. One only needs to go out to trim the salad greens from time to time during our cooler months

Hopefully, you “get the picture” of how plants can work together “Dutch style” and how it can work in any other climate or capacity.



Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen



GARDEN CHAT

Garden Chat with the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County

Where: Arbuckle Library, 610 King Street

When: Tuesdays, 1 – 2 pm

**March 24, April 28, May 26, June 30, July 28,
August 25, September 29, October 27, November
24, December 29**

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.

**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**

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Recipe of the Month

Sticky Toffee Date Cake

Makes two 9 inch cakes, or about 20 muffins

- 1 pound dates, pitted and chopped
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 8 ounces butter, softened
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 1/4 tablespoons baking powder
- For the Sauce (for 1 cake):
- 1/2 pound butter
- 1 cup brown sugar (8 ounces)
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Vanilla ice cream or whipped cream, for serving



1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Butter and flour two 9-inch-round cake pans or 20 muffin tins.
2. Place the dates in large saucepan with 3 1/2 cups cold water. Bring to boil, stirring a little to break up the dates. Then leave to simmer for 1 minute before removing from the heat. Stir in the baking soda (which will cause the mixture to bubble up).
3. Cream the butter and sugar together in a food mixer until pale and creamy. Add the eggs, one at a time, occasionally scraping down mixing bowl. Add the vanilla extract and then the flour and salt and mix briefly to give a lumpy dough.
4. Next, add the warm date mixture in two batches. Scrape down the sides of bowl in between mixing. The dough will now be quite watery but don't worry! Finally add the baking powder (this will bubble up also).
5. Pour the batter evenly into the two pans or muffin tins. Bake for about 30 to 40 minutes for cake pans and about 20 minutes for muffin tins. Test if they are cooked with a small knife or toothpick, it should come out clean when cakes are done.
6. Meanwhile, to make the sauce, combine the butter, brown sugar, heavy cream and vanilla extract in a medium saucepan. Bring to boil and then reduce to simmer gently for a minute or two until thickened and well blended.
7. When the cakes are done, poke little holes all over with toothpick, this will enable the sauce to be absorbed more easily. Pour the caramel sauce over cakes while both are still warm and leave to soak for about 10 minutes. Turn the cakes out upside-down onto serving plates (the bottom is the most sticky bit!).
8. Serve with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

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.

March

- ☐ Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as caterpillars and scales.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Frost](#) - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.
- ☐ Implement [disease and insect control](#) for apple, pear, stone fruits, nut trees, and deciduous landscape trees and shrubs such as roses.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Oak pit scale](#) - Spray terminals with oil or apply another insecticide if scales are causing tree decline.
- ☐ [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Avoid pruning olive and oleander during wet weather if stem galls are a problem.

Seasonal IPM Checklist

☐

[Olive psyllid](#) - Take action now if it was intolerable last year.

☐

[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.

☐

[Petal blight of azalea, rhododendron](#), and [camellia](#) - Remove and discard old flowers. Apply fresh organic mulch beneath plants.

☐

[Powdery mildew](#) - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits.

☐

[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.

☐

[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.

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. Early in the month you can still plant bare-root trees and shrubs if the garden center still has any. Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil. It is early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers. Nights should be above 55°. 	<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. Watch for aphids on new growth on the roses; spray with a strong spray of water, or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray. 	<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. 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"> Continue the battle against slugs and snails. Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small. 



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



#18

BITING AND STINGING INSECTS

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



Information available from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases indicates more than 40 fatalities annually can be attributed to severe venom allergic reactions (called anaphylaxis) from insect bites or stings. Common California biting and stinging insects include ticks and chiggers, centipedes, mosquitoes, black, deer, and horse flies, spiders including black widow and brown

species, fire ants, midges, scorpions, bees including Africanized honey bees, wasps, and hornets.

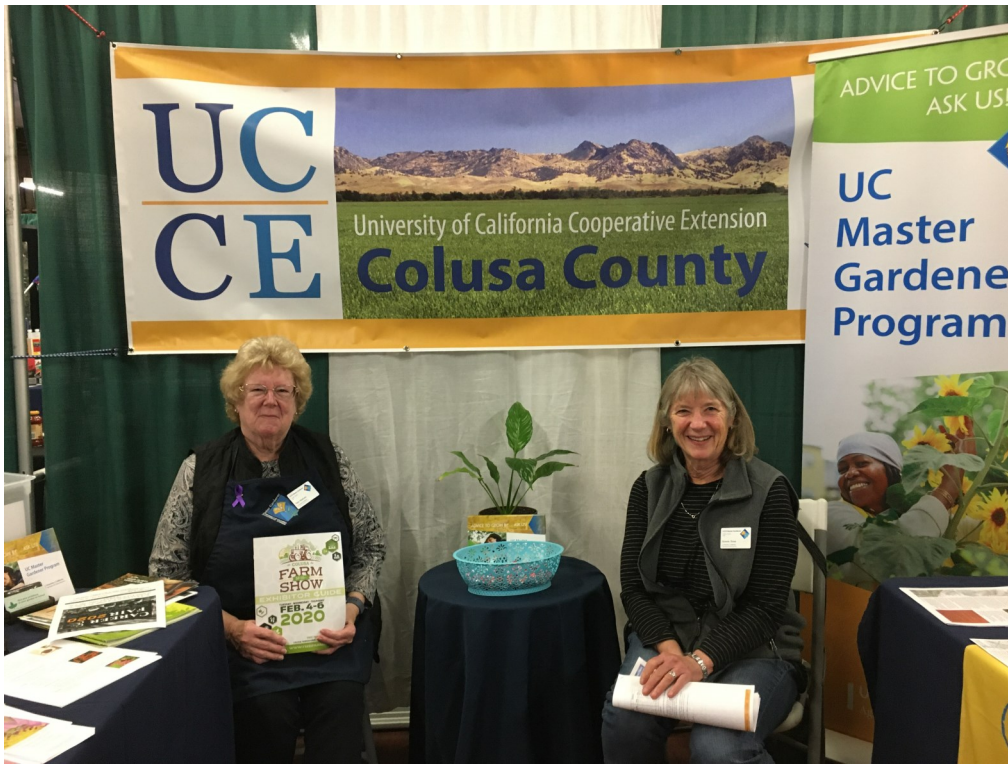
Aside from allergic reactions, biting and stinging insects cause nuisance bites and stings that can result in tissue swelling, infections of bite and sting sites, skin lesions, itching, dermatitis, and pain or burning sensations.

Symptoms of a severe venom allergic reaction include large areas of itching and hives, difficulty breathing, dizziness, excess sweating, nausea, swelling of the tongue or throat, and possibly a rapid decrease in blood pressure resulting in loss of consciousness.

The following precautions should be taken for preventing insect bites and stings:

- The best defense against biting and stinging insects is to not be bitten by one. Therefore, avoid conducting Master Gardener activities during peak biting or stinging insect activity times (usually early morning and evening hours) and in favorable biting or stinging insect habitat such as wetlands, along streams, lakes, or oceans, and moist shaded portions of wooded, brush-covered, or grassy areas. Also, avoid contact with insect nests, swarming insects, and ant mounds.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants with boots when outdoors. Tucking your pants into your boots or socks helps prevent biting and stinging insect access to your skin.
- Use insect repellants containing compounds such as DEET (repels insects) on exposed skin and permethrin (kills many insects on contact) on clothing only.
- Closely look for insects or insect activity before placing your hands on objects such as rock outcrops or trees or picking up objects from the ground (i.e., rocks, plants, leaves, remote monitoring equipment, etc.)
- Thoroughly inspect the area where you intend to sit, particularly around stumps, logs, boulders, or rock outcrops.
- If you experience an insect bite or sting, wash the wound with soap and water, apply an antiseptic, and cover the wound with a band aid or clean dressing. Carefully remove stingers from skin by using tweezers and then clean and dress sting wounds.
- Never scratch an insect bite or sting.
- Promptly seek professional medical attention if you suspect you are experiencing severe venom allergic reaction symptoms.
- Let your Master Gardener colleagues and program coordinator know in advance if you are allergic to insect bites or stings so they can respond appropriately if you are bitten or stung.

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

Loam—A soil that contains 7 to 27 percent clay, 28 to 50 percent silt, and less than 52 percent sand, which has an ideal structure for cultivation and 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!*

PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

March 23, 6:30
St. Stephens Church
642 Fifth St., Colusa

Did a friend send you this newsletter?

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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
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