



A Garden Runs Through It

January 2021

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

UCCE Master Gardener Program, Colusa County

County Director, Franz Niederholzer

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Upcoming events

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



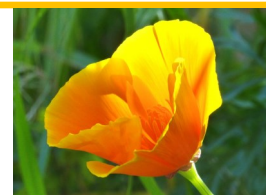
January

STEAM kits
Available at our office
100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E
Colusa

Kits will be available at the first of every month.

If you join our Facebook page you will see educational videos in place of in person workshops.

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



ENJOY

PODCAST

A Garden Runs Through It



12/26/20

[HTTPS://WILLIAMSPIONEER.COM/PODCASTS/](https://williamspioneer.com/podcasts/)

EARLY MORNING
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UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM OF
COLUSA COUNTY

Ornamental Plant of the Month

TOO MUCH SHADE?

I recently was presented with the question “what can I plant with only a few hours of sunlight?” This is a challenging question; however, there are many candidates that serve as great foundation plantings.

One beautiful, easy to grow is the *Aucuba japonica* Gold Dust, sprinkled with golden, fairy dust atop oblong, shiny green leaves. The Gold Dust Aucuba is a real gem for the shade garden, beautiful, variegated to view up closely and a lovely blend of yellow-green from a distance, both stand out in the landscape.

The nice part of this slow growing plant is an evergreen and when neighboring plants are dormant and may have lost their leaves, the Aucuba can be a shining star providing bright color and texture. Flowers are not strongly visible, but the red berry fruit are visible in fall and winter. Usually both sexes are required for the berry production. As a floral designer, I love to use this plant in arrangements. I have even rooted cuttings in the foam used in fresh arrangements.

The Aucuba can serve well as a screen, growing to a height of 6 ft in most soils and in some cases to 15 ft., however, height can be controlled by pruning back to a leaf joint.

Watch for mealy bug and scale insects.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

Good Grief Gardening

I became a MG in the first group in Colusa County, and how excited I was! To be with like-minded people, to share our education from UCD, to learn new things, explore and help others. My kids were now out of the house, and I was tasting a bit of freedom as my husband and I were full partners in our ag ventures. Normally you would find me running farm equipment, managing employees, running down parts, delivering fuel, on the phone or managing the office. At one time we had up to 6 agricultural exchange students living in the bunkhouse, and it was also my job to prepare dinner for them all as well as my own crew, so it was run, run, run...a remarkably busy life. Our son Hans decided to move back home while looking for another place to live, he was working for us and had his first crop in; 180 acres of sunflowers. He was so proud, quite an achievement for a 21-year-old. Hans was one of those "let's work and get his done", fast driving, happy, funny, compassionate, friendly sort. He loved to stop and visit if you were 6 years old or 106.... always doing his best for others.

The morning of one of first real MG meetings, after we had finished our education, our son went missing. Hans was so good at texting to let me know he would not be coming home the night prior, but there were no texts on my phone, nor my husbands'. We started calling around, no one had seen him, except for the night prior while working on a derby car. I even called the jail thinking he had been picked up for a DUI as I knew those boys would have been having a few beers while working together, but he was not there either. That is when it hit me, our son was in danger, or worse.

It turned out our son committed suicide...why? We will never know.

Through the depths of despair, I tried to remain busy...we managed to get work done but looking back we often wonder how. We were like machines, not feeling, just doing.

I had an area set aside for a flower garden but had no fortitude was left in me to figure out a plan. One day, I just started digging in the area...gathering ornamental rocks, and just started to envision a plan for the area. The ideas would ebb and flow at times, but I just kept digging and planting.... bulbs, ornamental plants, seeds. Just the pure physical work on something aside from real farming felt good, and as the results started emerging, my soul started to sing a bit. When I was thinking too much on what could have been or should have been, I would go out and start pulling weeds or planning on some other aspect of the garden. People started coming by and enjoying the beauty of the garden as much as I was. It motivated me to keep going. Pretty soon I had a garden full of bees, butterflies, hummingbirds. The grief I felt was turning into something good. I call this Good Grief Gardening.

So, if you are feeling down, (I can imagine many of you are during this pandemic), try digging in your garden, pulling a few weeds, sketching out a plan to redo your garden. I can guarantee you will start feeling not only productive but mentally better. Good Grief Gardening is the way to go. If you need some help with organizing your planting thoughts, contact a Master Gardener to help with ideas. That is what we are here for.

Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen

Recipe of the Month

Cashew Chicken and Pineapple Rice

1 T vegetable oil
2 eggs, beaten
2 T sesame oil
1 small onion, thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 T minced or grated fresh ginger
1 1/2 cups pineapple chunks in juice, drained, reserving juice
1 red bell pepper, sliced
1 cup thinly sliced or julienned carrot
4-6 mushrooms, sliced
1 T chili garlic sauce / Sambal
1 cup frozen peas
2-3 cups of cooked brown rice, cooled
1 1/2 - 2 cups boneless cooked chicken, cubed or shredded
1/2 cup cashews (or peanuts)
1/2 cup green onions
1/2 cup chopped parsley or cilantro, optional
3 T soy sauce

Cook your brown rice ahead of time or use leftover.

You could also do this with leftover white rice.

In a large, non-stick skillet, scramble eggs gently in oil, remove and set aside.

In the same skillet, in the sesame oil, saute onion, garlic, ginger, bell pepper, carrots, mushrooms, and pineapple. You may need a little more vegetable oil.

You want these ingredients to soften and begin to brown a bit on the edges.

Then add the chili garlic sauce or sambal, peas, rice, chicken and nuts.

Increase heat and press rice to the bottom of the pan to crisp up, if desired.

Top with eggs, green onions, parsley or cilantro if you are using it, and drizzle with soy sauce.

Serve from the skillet.

See next page for variations.

Continued from previous page.

Variations:

Adjust the spice level to suit your family by adding more or deleting the chili garlic sauce.

Similarly, you could add seeded and sliced jalapeno or poblano peppers with the red bell peppers.

For more crunch, add sliced water chestnuts when you add the peas.

For more veggies, you could always saute sliced zucchini, celery, kale and/or spinach with the pineapple.

For a vegetarian version, swap out the chicken for extra firm tofu, but treat it gently!

Replace the chicken with leftover turkey, ham, roast pork or even some cooked shrimp.

For more complex flavor, before drizzling the soy sauce, blend it with 2 T of sherry and 2 T of hoisin sauce, oyster sauce, or kung pao sauce before you dress the dish.

If you think the dish is a little dry as you are ready to serve, moisten with a couple tablespoons of the reserved pineapple juice.



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

STEAM KIT (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)

Let's have some fun and make a flower bracelet and necklace!

Pick up your free kit at our office.

100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E

Colusa, Ca

Kits will be available starting January 4

Kits are first come first served, only 20 kits are available.



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

Gophers

Gophers are small burrowing rodents that feed on roots of many types of plants.



Adult gopher.

A single gopher can ruin a garden in a short time, and gopher gnawing can damage irrigation lines and sprinkler systems. In lawns, their mounds are unsightly and interfere with mowing.

Early detection is critical

to prevent damage. Use both traps and underground fencing to manage gopher problems. Toxic baits are available but can pose threats to wildlife, pets, and children, especially in backyard situations.

Keep your eye out for gopher mounds.

- Gophers spend almost all their time underground in their burrow and aren't commonly seen.

- Look for mounds of loose dirt that are half circles or crescent-shaped with a plugged hole that is off to one side of the mound.



Typical crescent-shaped gopher mound.

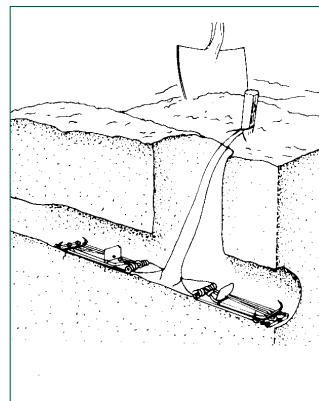
- Fresh mounds are the sign of an active gopher. A single gopher can create several mounds a day.
- In contrast to gopher mounds, mole mounds are circular with a plug in the middle, and ground squirrel holes are unplugged without a mound.

Protect plants with underground fencing.

- Lay hardware cloth or ¾-inch-mesh poultry wire under raised beds before planting.
- Wire baskets can be installed at planting to protect individual shrubs or trees, leaving enough room for roots to grow.

Use traps to reduce the gopher population.

- Gopher traps are placed underground inside the gopher burrow, so you must use a gopher probe to locate the burrow.
- Be sure to place traps in active burrows as indicated by fresh mounds.
- Two common types of traps are pincer traps and box traps.
- Set traps in tunnels in pairs facing each other.
- Cover the hole so light doesn't get in.
- Check traps often and reset as necessary.
- Keep trapping until no new mounds are formed.
- Gopher traps don't require food baits.



Place gopher traps facing one another in tunnels.

Avoid products and methods that aren't proven.

- Although many predators feed on gophers, installing owl boxes is unlikely to reduce gopher numbers enough to prevent damage.
- No repellents currently sold successfully protect plants from gophers.
- Plants such as gopher purge, castor bean, and garlic haven't been shown to repel gophers from an area.
- Frightening devices such as vibrating stakes, ultrasonic devices, and wind-powered pinwheels haven't been effective in research trials.
- Fumigation with smoke or gas cartridges isn't effective, because gophers can seal off their burrows rapidly.

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.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	January	February	March
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant rhubarb, strawberries, and cane berries. Plant seeds for broccoli, cabbage, parsley, turnips, peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach. This is the time to plant bare root roses, trees, artichoke crowns, grapevines, and other vines. You can still plant pansies, violas, snapdragons, and fairy primroses. Plant gladiolus every 2 weeks for a succession of blooms. 	<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. 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 still early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers. Nights should be above 55°.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roses, fruit trees and other perennials can be pruned this month. Do not prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom. Prune berry canes that bore fruit last year to the ground. Prune grapevines back, leaving 2 to 3 buds per side shoot. Later in the month you can divide Shasta daisies, daylilies, chrysanthemums, and other perennials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell. Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts. Finish pruning roses. Mulch 3 inches deep around plants (without touching stems) to conserve soil moisture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prune and fertilize spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they finish blooming. Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small. 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.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spray horticultural oil on pruned fruit trees to control scale, mites and aphids. Thorough coverage will kill over-wintering eggs. Later in the month, spray neem oil on roses to control mildew, rust, and black spot. Do not apply oils unless there will be 24 hours of dry weather following application. Be sure to clean up debris (leaves and twigs) around roses and fruit trees to help prevent disease. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell. Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight. 	<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. Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance. Watch for aphids on new growth on the roses; spray with a strong spray of water to remove them, or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray.

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.

January

- ☐ Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid sogginess.
- ☐ Continue [rainy-season prevention of diseases](#), [earwigs](#), [snails and slugs](#), and [weeds](#).
- ☐ [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. Reduce irrigation frequency or turn off systems if rainfall is adequate. Irrigate deeply but infrequently if the winter is dry.
- ☐ [Mistletoe](#) - Prune off infected branches.
- ☐ [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Avoid pruning olive and oleander during wet weather if stem galls are a problem.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Pine](#) bark beetles, pitch moths, western gall rust, and wood borers - If pines need branch removal, prune during October through January.
- ☐ [Plant](#) bare root deciduous trees, shrubs, and vines e.g., caneberries, fruit and nuts, grapes, and roses. Plant seedlings of cedar, fir, pine, and spruce. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site.
- ☐ [Prune](#) deciduous trees and shrubs that need pruning such as apple, crape myrtle, pear, rose, spirea, and stone fruits. Make cuts properly to encourage good form and structure. Remove dead, diseased, and borer-infested wood. Certain pests (e.g. shothole borer) and host plants such as apricot and cherry warrant summer pruning.
- ☐ [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- ☐ [Sycamore scale](#) - Check for presence of pest. Difficult or impractical to control on large trees.

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

Coleoptile—Sheathlike pointed structure covering the shoot of grass seedlings; commonly interpreted as the first leaf of the plant above the cotyledon.

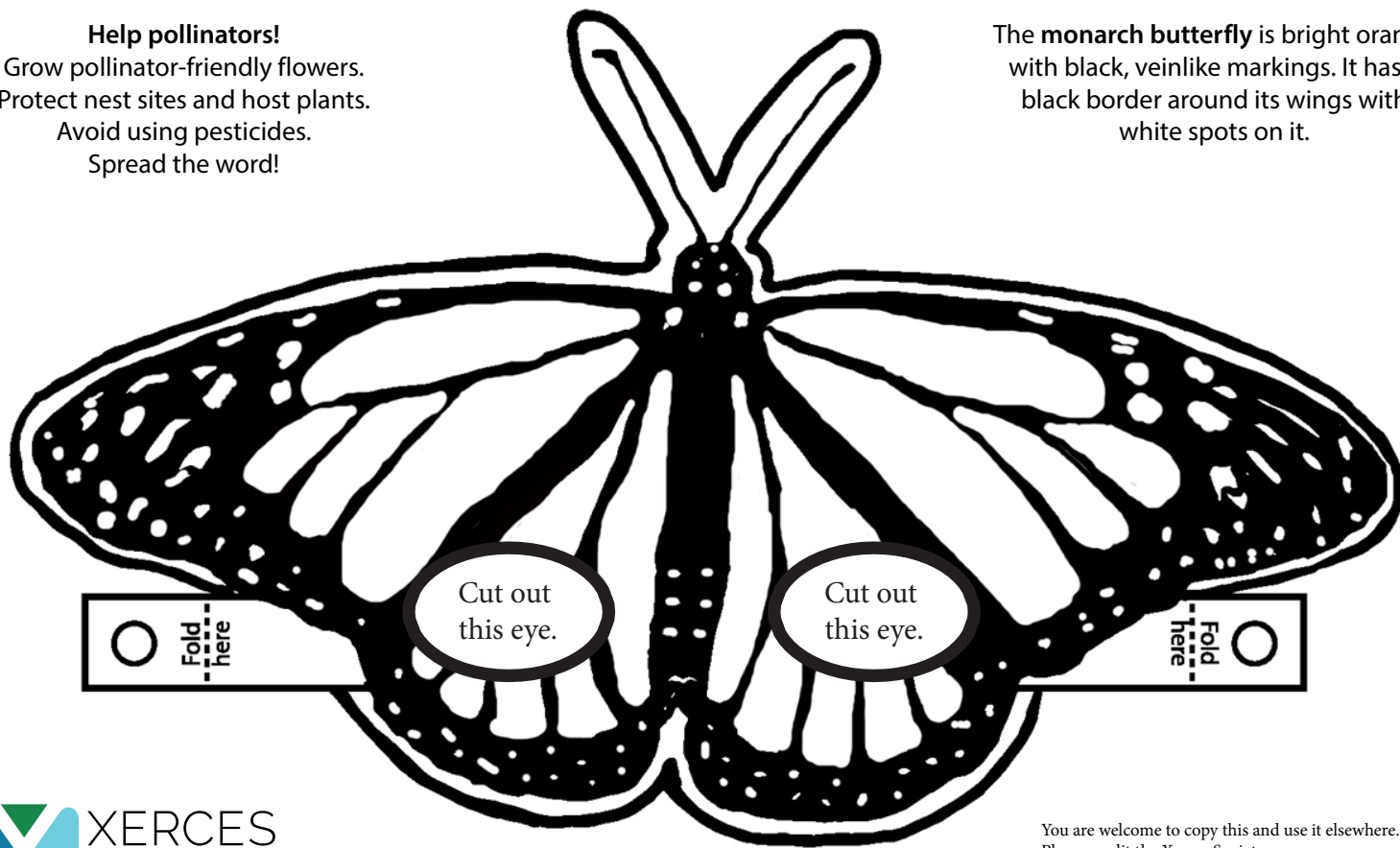
If you attended one of your workshops, you will receive an email from mgevaluation@ucanr.edu. Your input gives us the tools we need to grow and improve our program. *Thank you!*

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Help pollinators!

Grow pollinator-friendly flowers.
Protect nest sites and host plants.
Avoid using pesticides.
Spread the word!

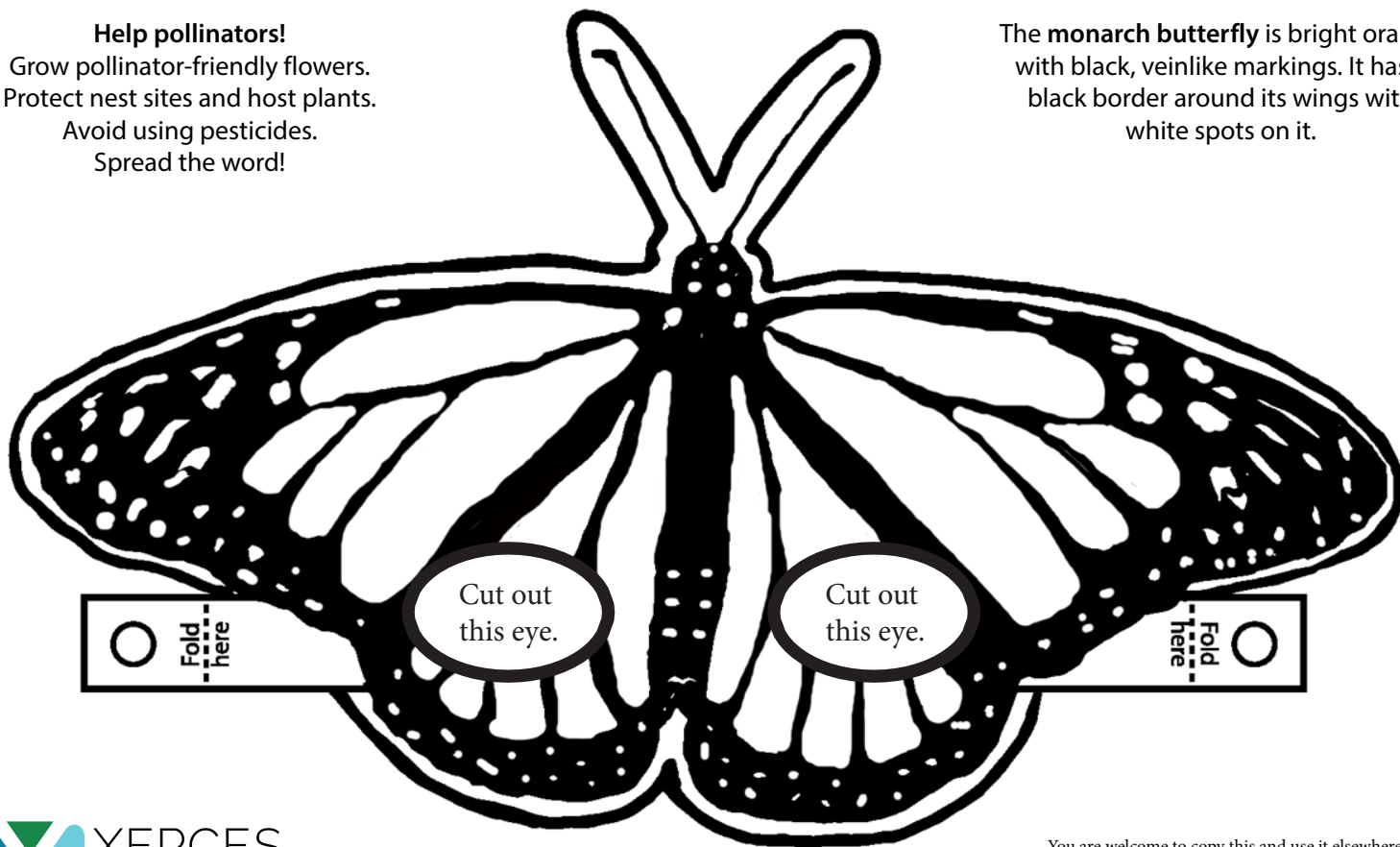
The **monarch butterfly** is bright orange with black, veinlike markings. It has a black border around its wings with white spots on it.



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Garden Club of Colusa County activities

No Garden Club meetings at this time.

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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

ANR publications anrcatalog.ucanr.edu

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