University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

A Garden Runs Through It

May 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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In This Issue

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Colusa

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THIS EPISODE:

Let's buzz around - 04.30.2021
UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County, Gerry Hernandez, and Amber Vinchesi-Vahl discuss native and solitary bees, their biology, and habitats. They give great tips on how to attract bees to your garden.

PREVIOUS EPISODES:

Camellias, Soil, & Pruning - 03.26.2021
UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County, Gerry Hernandez, and Donna Critchfield discuss soil tips, garden maintenance and pruning, and camellias in a spring garden.

Spring Garden Hints - 02.27.2021
UC Master Gardener's of Colusa County, Gerry Hernandez, and John and Diane Vafis discuss hints, tips, and tasks you should be doing for a successful spring garden.

"A Garden Runs Through It" podcast is produced in partnership with:

Pioneer Review | Radio colusa.com | University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources | UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Cotinus
Smoke Tree -Smoke Bush

The Smoke Tree/Bush is a member of the Sumac family; highly desirable for high drama in the garden. Few plants make such a dynamic show in the garden. The most notable attribute are the large, showy flower panicles in late spring and summer, creating the smoky, ethereal effect for which the shrub is named This deciduous shrub or small tree is also valued for its carefree growing nature and multi seasonal interest.

This popular shrub adds textural quality to the landscape and has been a favorite in English gardens since the 16th century. Cut out dead, diseased and crossing wood branches in late winter or early spring. Since the blooms are on the previous year's growth, refrain from any sever pruning until after blooming.

Plants can be kept smaller if cut almost to the ground. This will promote more side branching and larger leaves but will sacrifice blooms.

The Smoke Tree tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions, including heavy clay, poor draining soil, and even lean rocky soils. Slightly acidic pH is preferable but the plants tolerate both acidic or alkaline soils.

Little or no fertilizer or soil supplements are needed once the plants are established. In spring mulch with wood chips or bark mulch to suppress weeds and retain moisture.

Once established the Smoke Tree is drought tolerant; however keep moist, not soggy until established.

This landscape plant is considered deer-resistant, but extreme conditions can result deer grazing on plants they would otherwise avoid.

Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

Preparing Home Landscaping for Fire

(click on the blue words for more information)

Most Colusa County residents do not live in a fire zone but you may have a friend who does or you may have a cabin in the forest. Please pass this article to a friend.
Wildfire will always be a part of the California landscape, but it is possible to design and maintain homes and property in ways that reduce vulnerability to wildfire. A key component of this protection is the proper placement and maintenance of plants around the home. While many are seeking plants that have a label that assures some level of fire resistance, it is important to recognize that **any plant will burn under the right conditions** and thus regular plant maintenance is critical.
To be able to reduce ember, radiant heat, and direct flame contact exposure to a home, develop and implement a three-zone strategy whereby the highest priorities and most restrictive measures are incorporated in the area closest to the home or other building of interest.
Incorporating these strategies does require some adjustment from the ways of the past, but with some small changes to the approach, **it is possible to have both a beautiful landscape and a home that is more resilient to wildfire**. Work from the house outward to make sure the structure itself is hardened against fire, then implement the guidelines here in concentric circles moving away from your structures.

To create a fire-resistant landscape:

1. **Design and implement defensible space**
- Create fuel breaks surrounding your house and within your garden.
- Create space vertically and horizontally via plant placement and pruning.
- Use hardscape and noncombustible materials around structures and to separate individual plants and groups of plants.
- Use the right plants in the right places with fire, climate, and irrigation needs in mind.
- Create plant islands that have similar sun, nutrient, and water needs.
- Replace combustible gates that attach to the house with materials that will not burn.

2. **Maintain your landscape**
- Keep your garden free from dry and dead wood, dry grasses, and leaf litter, especially near any structures.
- Prune plants to provide horizontal and vertical space throughout your garden and surrounding structures.
- Eliminate fire ladders. A grass fire can move up into shrubs and then into trees.
- Hydrate plants with a water-wise irrigation system. Use non combustible mulches near to the house.

Defensible Space is only part of a larger landscape management strategy, designed to protect your home and property. The general surroundings leading up to your home must be considered as part of your wildfire preparedness planning.

Continue on the next page...

Preparing Home Landscaping for Fire

Continued from the previous page

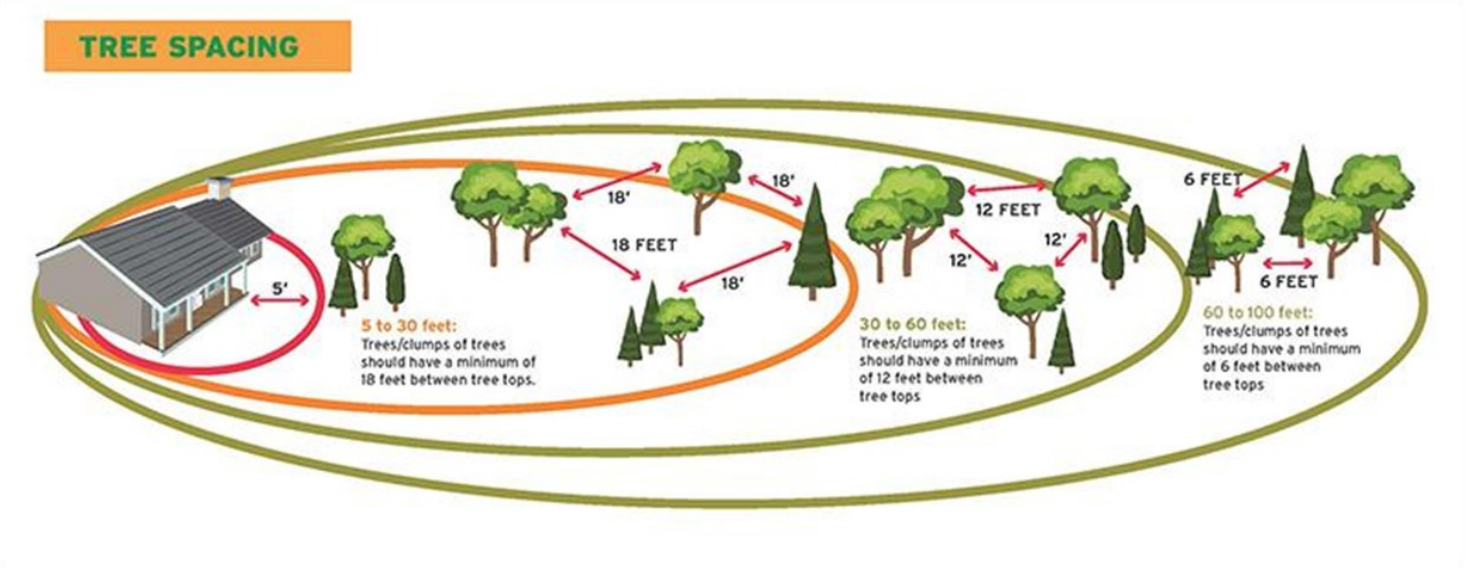
Vegetation management

Treating fuels within the first five feet of structures is one of the most important aspects of wildfire hazard mitigation.

During wildfire, structures are threatened not only by the flaming front of the fire, but also by flaming embers that are lofted ahead of the fire front and can come into contact with receptive fuels (e.g vegetation or mulch next to the house), igniting new fires. Traditional defensible space tactics are designed to mitigate threats from the flaming front of the fire but do little to address vulnerabilities to embers on or directly adjacent to a structure. Without attention to ember-related risks, defensible space efforts only address a portion of the wildfire threat—especially during wind-driven fires in which embers are the primary source of fire spread.

Helping residents achieve greater wildfire resiliency will take a coupled approach and greater awareness of ember protection. Homes survive wildfire through a combination of 1) careful design and maintenance of landscaping; 2) awareness and management of combustible materials on the property (e.g., leaf litter, wood piles, and lawn furniture); and 3) incorporation of fire- and ember-resistant construction materials with appropriate installation and maintenance.

Source: National Fire Protection Association (nfpa.org)



First responder access

Road access is crucial for your personal safety as well as those of first responders. Ensure that there is **enough space** for firefighting equipment to move onto your lot, as close as possible to your home and **multiple access points** to your parcel. During incidents, power lines or trees falling across roads are not uncommon. Work to develop:

- Two or more roads in and out of your parcel provides an alternate route in case of emergency. Dead-end roads should have a turnaround as approved by the local fire authority.
- Each road should be accessible year round and at least 20 feet wide

Road grades should be less than 5% (5 foot rise for each 100-foot distance) are more accessible for larger fire equipment.

Continue to the next page...

Preparing Home Landscaping for Fire

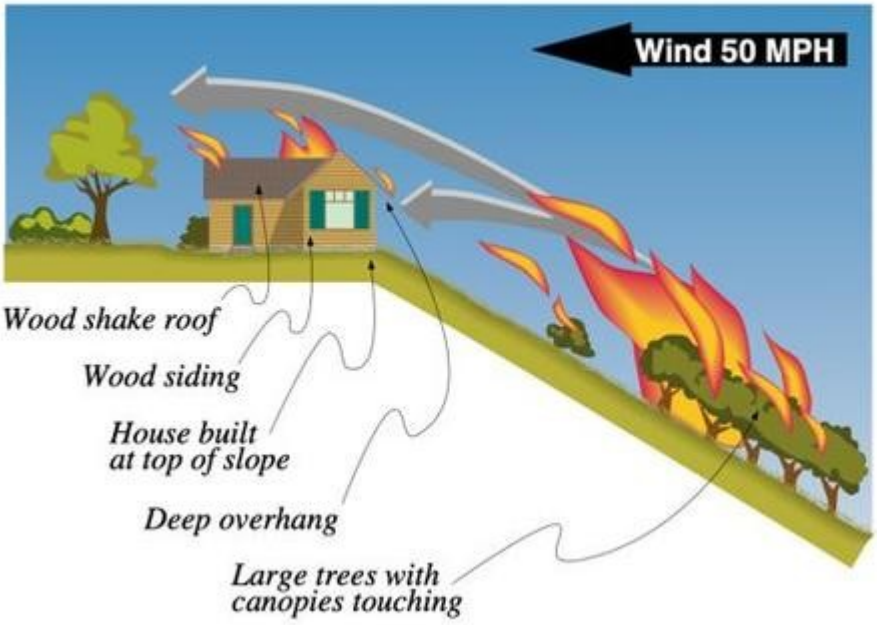
Continued from the previous page

Steep slopes and wind

If the home is located on a steeper slope, in a drainage, in a windy area, or an area surrounded by unusually dense, tall, or combustible vegetation, thinning recommendations increase. Additionally, if the home is in a vegetation type that is especially prone to wildfire or has an active fire history, the greater the clearance and separation between plants and plant groupings the better. When the home is at the top of a slope keep in mind that fire and heat rise, allowing for pre-heating of the upslope fuels, resulting in the potential for more intense fire behavior. In these cases, greater effort should be directed at the area downslope of the home with even higher levels of fuels treatment given to the area below a deck. Recommendations based on the judgement of fire professionals are given below.

Under 20% slope: Space shrubs **2 x** the height
20-40% slope: Space shrubs **4 x** the height
Greater than 40%: Space shrubs **6 x** the height

Dangerous materials and conditions for sloped sites



Source: East Bay Municipal Utility District (ebmud.com)

Wind is another factor to consider alongside aspect and slope. A south-facing slope with southerly winds can easily span the 30 foot "lean and clean" recommendation. Work with your local resource experts to install adequate measures if your property is at risk.
Decorative Features such as fencing, firewood and gazebos should be considered in laying out your landscape. As with other fuels, these are combustible materials which only serve to add heat and embers during wildfires. Use appropriate clearance or modify positioning for these features to reduce the threat from burning embers.

For more information, go to ucanr.edu/sites/fire Then click on Wildfire Preparation.

Recipe of the Month

Tacos Al Pastor

Adapted from Milk Street

1 medium pineapple, peeled

1/4 cup grapeseed or other neutral oil, plus more for the pineapple and grill grate

1/4 cup packed dark brown sugar

8 medium garlic cloves, peeled

4 chipotle chilies in adobo, plus 1 tablespoon adobo sauce

4 teaspoons ground cumin

4 teaspoons ancho chili powder

Kosher salt and ground black pepper

2 tablespoons lime juice, divided, plus lime wedges, to serve

1 1/4 pounds pork tenderloin, trimmed of silver skin and halved lengthwise

1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro

8 corn tortillas, warmed

Finely chopped white onion or green onions, to serve

Mexican crema (or sour cream) and/or avocado slices, to serve.

Cut 7 1/2 inch thick rounds from pineapple, quarter 2, remoing core and place in food processor

Add oil, brown sugar, garlic, chipotles, cumin, ancho powder and 4 tsp salt and puree.

Put 1/2 cup in a zip-top bag, mix in 1 Tbs lime juice into the rest and set aside.

Gently pound pork to 1/2 inch thick and put in the zip-top bag with the marinade.

Prepare grill for direct heat, clean and oil grate.

Brush remaining pineapple rounds with oil, season and grill until you have grill marks on both sides, set aside.

Cook pork about 3 min per side to 140 degrees and barely pink, set aside, cover and let rest 5 min.

Warm your tortillas

Chop grilled pineapple in 1/2" chunks, discarding core. Mix with cilantro, 1 Tbs lime juice and salt.

Slice pork on diagonal 1/4" thick, mix in 3 Tbs of the reserved puree.

Serve pork, chopped pineapple and reserved puree on tortillas.

Garnish with chopped onion and lime, and crema and/or avocado, as desired.

Continue on next page….

Recipe of the Month

Recipe continued…

Cut 7 1/2 inch thick rounds from pineapple, quarter 2, remoing core and place in food processor

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Serve pork, chopped pineapple and reserved puree on tortillas.

Garnish with chopped onion and lime, and crema and/or avocado, as desired.

Serve with chili-lime fruit salad

You could also make this recipe on a grill pan on the stove or in the broiler, like a sheet pan dinner.

You could also do this with chicken thighs or breasts, just don't overcook the breast meat!

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Recipe of the Month

Chili-Lime Fruit Salad

cubed seedless watermelon

cubed cantaloupe

english cucumber, seeded and in 1/2" slices/quarters

cubed honeydew melon (optional)

lime juice and zest

ancho chili powder

chopped mint

honey or agave syrup

queso fresco

black pepper

optional: halved grapes, pineapple chunks, mandarin orange segments, etc.

Figure about equal parts of each fruit and the cucumber chunks and toss together gently.

Make a dressing of lime juice, lime zest, and a little honey to sweeten.

Season the dressing with ancho chili powder to your taste and some salt, pepper is optional.

Toss fruit with dressing, top with mint and crumbled queso fresco.

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Book of the Month

50 Wildflowers of Bear Valley

John Game & Richards Lyon

We have the luxury in Colusa County of living in an area adjacent to one of the most unique and diverse native plant populations you will find anywhere. This is a tiny book and one that has been in my hands more times than I can count. It is dedicated to the memory of George M. Clark who was the president of the California Native Plant Society from 1995-1996. He was a self-taught botanist and a dedicated conservationist. He died while exploring Walker Ridge for new plant populations. George dreamed that Bear Valley would be preserved along with Walker Ridge to forever delight the eyes and refresh the souls of its visitors.

About the first of March each year it seems that many conversations among my plant friends is "are the flowers ready in Bear Valley?" And then we make the winding but brief trek through the hills to see what nature has on display for us. Even in off years it is worth the trip!! We know that the palette changes each year, influenced by both the intensity and the mixture of rain, heat, and sunlight.

You can find more than 400 different plants in the Valley and surrounding ridges. The book has great photos and descriptions of 50 of the most interesting or commonly seen. They are arranged by color rather than family and if you go visit without this book you will be missing so much.

The American Land Conservancy and local landowners are committed to preserving this small remnant of the once extensive wildflower displays that carpet the Central Valley and surrounding ranges. Both private and public support funded the production of this gem and we can find it at Davison Drugs or Fouch's in Williams. It won't set you back much – take a $5 bill and you'll get change.

So get your copy and be ready for next year – then enjoy the ride!!

Submitted by Cynthia White

Key Concepts for The World of Plants

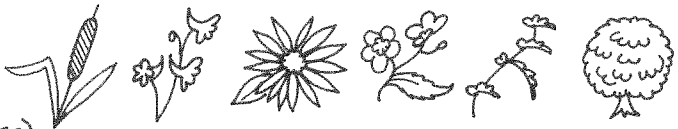
Botanical Classification—

the systematic grouping of plant species by genus, family, order, class, division, and kingdom

Plant Kingdom

Kingdom
Plantae

Division
Anthophyta
(Angiospermae)



Class
Dicotyledonae

Order
Ranales

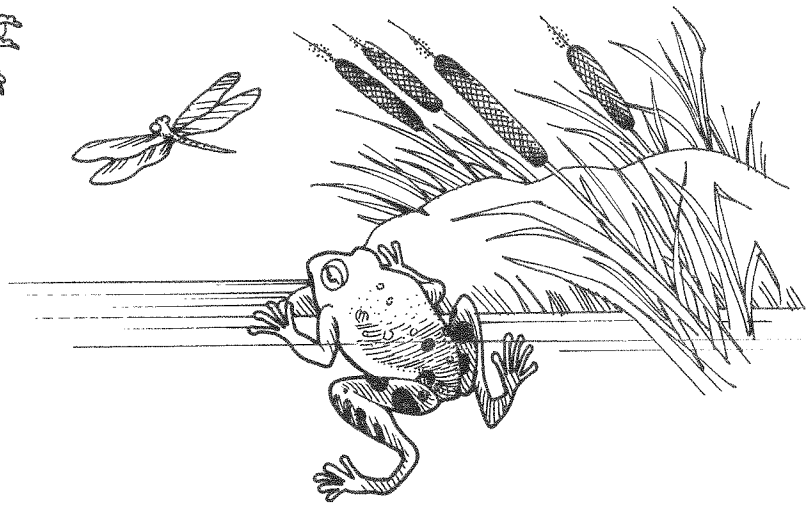
Communities—

interdependent populations of plants and animals living in the same environment

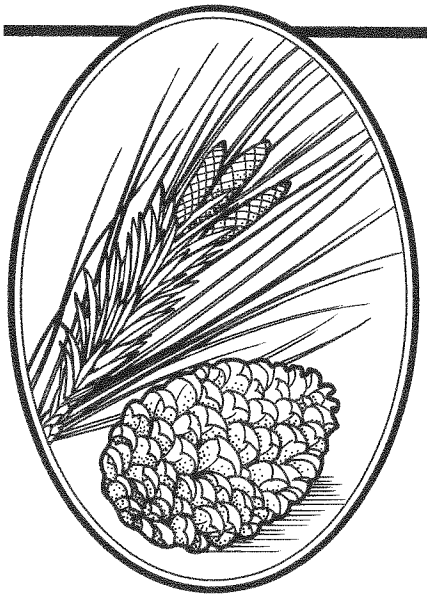
Family
Ranunculaceae

Genus
Ranunculus

Species
Ranunculus
acris



Overhead reproducible



Botanical Classification

Taxonomy is the science of naming organisms and grouping them with other similar organisms. This system of classification helps both the scientist and the beginning gardener locate information about plants. A myriad of mosses, trees, flowers, and grasses line the paths we walk every day. Each one has a botanical name which identifies the individual species and indicates how it relates to a larger **genus, family, order, class, division*,** and **kingdom**. **Botanists** classify plants according to similarities in their structure, function, or environment. **Note: Botanists use the term division, whereas, zoologists use the term phylum.*

What's In My Backyard?

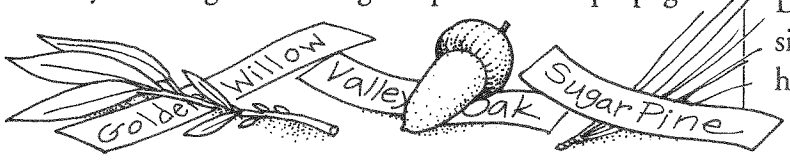
(Collection/Writing)

A herbarium is a collection of systematically arranged dried plant specimens. Invite students to explore their own environment by collecting leaf samples from plants in their backyard or schoolyard. Have students number, label, organize, and attach their samples to a large piece of cardboard or to pages in a collection book. Encourage students to complete the top half of the Specimen Sample Data Sheet reproduced from page 11 for each leaf.

Taxonomy Charts

(Research)

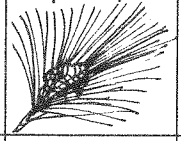
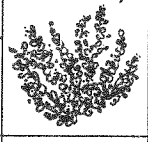
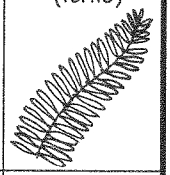
The bottom of page 11 is a taxonomy chart. Demonstrate how to fill in a sample with the entire class before having students work independently. Plant and gardening reference books usually provide the genus and family of most plant species. It may be more difficult to identify the order. Have students create a computer-generated or hand-written data base containing the taxonomy chart for each species identified. Create a classroom plant encyclopedia by collating and binding the specimen sample pages.



Divisions, Divisions

(Critical Thinking/Research)

All plants can be placed into one of two categories: flowering or nonflowering. The flowering category is called the *Anthophyta division,* though some botanists call it the *Angiospermophyta.* Within the nonflowering grouping, there are three main divisions: *Coniferophyta, Bryophyta,* and *Pteridophyta.* Have students make a graphic organizer with headings for the four plant divisions. Have students use the organizer to record which plants in their herbarium fall under specific divisions.

Anthophyta (flowering plants)	Coniferophyta (cone-bearing plants)	Bryophyta (mosses, liverworts)	Pteridophyta (ferns)
			
lupine chamomile	sugar pine Ponderosa pine	moss	Boston fern

Encourage students to make generalizations based on this data about the types of plants they found. During the discussion, encourage students to consider factors such as latitude, altitude, temperature, humidity, and precipitation.

Name:

Specimen Sample

Data Sheet

Common Name: _____

_____

Botanical Name: _____

_____

Description of Plant: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Habitat (other plants and animals in the area):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Draw a picture of the leaf of the plant.

Sketch the plant.

Taxonomy Chart

Kingdom: plants

Division: _____

Class: _____

Order: _____

Family: _____

Genus: _____

Species: _____

Thrips

When thrips feed, they distort or scar leaves, flowers, or fruit.

Adult western flower thrips.

Healthy woody plants usually tolerate thrips, although damage can become unattractive. Herbaceous ornamentals and developing fruits and vegetables can suffer more serious injuries. Manage thrips by combining good cultural care, pest exclusion, thrips-resistant plants, and less toxic insecticides that are softer on natural enemies.

Thrips are tiny, slender insects with hairs on their wing margins.

- They are less than 1/20 inch long and their color varies depending on the species and life stage.
- Thrips hatch from eggs and develop through two feeding larval (nymphal) stages and two nonfeeding stages (prepupa and pupa) before developing into adults.
- Most pest thrips feed while hidden, often in buds and shoot tips or beneath sepals; you'll often observe the damage before seeing the thrips.
- Greenhouse thrips and western flower thrips are two common pest species in landscapes.
- Certain thrips are beneficial predators of some insects and mites.

Damage often isn't apparent until tissue grows and expands. Look for:

- Scabby, silvery to dark brown discoloration on fruit, leaves, or petals
- Dark specks of excrement on fruit or leaves
- Distorted, curled, galled, or dead shoot tips and leaves

Leaf bleaching and black speckling caused by thrips.

For more information about managing pests, visit ipm.ucanr.edu or your local University of California Cooperative Extension office.

Check for thrips before taking action.

- Be certain that pest thrips are present and causing damage before taking control action. Harsh weather, inadequate plant care, pathogens, and other invertebrates can cause similar-looking damage.
- Shake foliage or flowers over white paper to see if this dislodges any thrips.
- Hang blue or bright yellow sticky traps to detect flying thrips.

Thrips are difficult to control. Combine methods for best results.

- Find out what species you have and research the best approach; see *Pest Notes: Thrips*.
- Conserve parasites and predators by avoiding persistent pesticides.
- Avoid overwatering or applying nitrogen fertilizer, which can increase thrips populations.
- Prune off declining, injured, or infested plant parts.
- Use row covers or cages over small plants to exclude thrips and other flying insects.
- Cover soil with reflective mulch, which repels flying thrips, if foliage of growing plants covers less than about half of the soil surface.

What about pesticides?

- Pesticides won't restore the appearance of injured plant material. Plants remain damaged until injured tissue drops or is pruned off and new growth appears.
- Thrips are difficult to control with pesticides. Often pesticides won't be effective unless you wait until the next season and spray new plant growth.
- Horticultural oils, insecticidal soaps, and pyrethrins can provide temporary control, especially for greenhouse thrips. Spinosad may be more effective.
- Pesticides alone rarely provide good control, so combine spraying with other methods.

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.

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April 2019

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	May	June	July
PLANTING	• 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.	• 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.	• You can still plant seeds of annuals: zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers and alyssum will grow and bloom this year.
MAINTENANCE	• 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. • Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits.	• 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.)	• Dig and divide bearded iris that have not been divided for 3 yrs. • You can dig and divide other bulbs after the foliage has died off. • 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.
PREVENTION	• Continue the battle against slugs and snails. • Deadhead (cut off spent flowers) to get continuing bloom on annuals and perennials. 	• Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture. 	• 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.

4. Anemone *(Anemone coronaria)*

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

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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HEARING PROTECTION

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

According to information from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 25% of employees age 55 or older have developed significant hearing impairments when exposed long term in the workplace to an average noise level of about 90 decibels (dBA). ***English and Spanish language safety videos on hearing protection are also available for loan from the ANR Environmental Health & Safety Library at http://safety.ucanr.org.***

Noise Hazards

- Noise can damage hearing when it is continuously at about 90 dBA or greater.
- Noisy work areas can elevate anxiety, hypertension, and fatigue in employees.
- Noise-induced hearing loss is permanent and occurs progressively over time.
- The following table lists recommended exposure times without hearing protection for noise hazards and levels routinely encountered in agricultural settings:

Noise Hazard	Level of Noise	Recommended Exposure Time
Dynamite blast, gunshot	140 dBA	None
Chainsaw	115 dBA	15 minutes or less
Barn fan, combine	110 dBA	30 minutes
Table saw, grinder, tractor	100 dBA	2 hours
Shop vacuum	98 dBA	3 hours
Lawn mower	90 dBA	8 hours
Idling tractor	85 dBA	Damage can occur if exposure >8 hours

Preventing Hearing Damage

- Always use hearing protection (i.e., acoustic ear muffs or ear plugs) when working in an environment where noise levels are continuously at about 90 dBA or higher.
- Warning signs for overexposure to noise include ringing in the ears (called tinnitus) and temporary loss of hearing sensitivity (called temporary threshold shift).
- Select and use hearing protection with an appropriate noise reduction rating (NRR) to reduce ambient noise to below 90 dBA.
- Be aware that the manufacturer's NRR was derived under ideal conditions and therefore, a more realistic rating for use in the field is about one-half the manufacturer's NRR.
- Hearing protection worn incorrectly may not adequately reduce noise exposure.
- Cotton balls do not effectively provide hearing protection.
- Noise levels follow the inverse square law and can be reduced by 25% if you double your distance from the noise source (i.e., moving from 5 to10 feet from a 100 dBA source will reduce the noise level to 75 dBA).

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

May 31, 2021
St. Stephens Church
Colusa
6:30 pm

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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
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