



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County



A Garden Runs Through It

January 2022

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

UCCE Master Gardener Program, Colusa County
County Director, Franz Niederholzer

UC Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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Upcoming events



February

Colusa Farm Show
February 1, 2, 3
Colusa County Fairgrounds

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



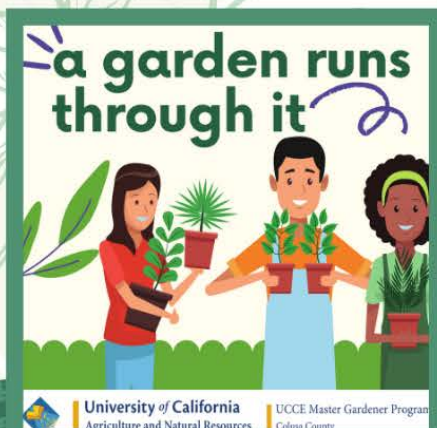
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visit: theplantmasters.com



Dec. 2021 - Honor, remember, plant.
In this episode of 'A Garden Runs Through It', the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County, Gerry Hernandez, Cynthia White discuss memorial gardens, and honoring loved ones.



How to listen?

Search your favorite app for [RadioColusa.com](https://radiocolusa.com)

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

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Colusa County

Do You Enjoy Gardening?

Are looking to volunteer your time and talent?



Colusa County residents are invited to participate in a 16-week training program to become a volunteer UC Master Gardener through the University of California Cooperative Extension. The training will be held once a week in Yuba City.

Don't miss your opportunity to become a Master Gardener! The training is only presented every two years.

What is required to be a Master Gardener?

- Complete the 16-week training (64 hours)
- Contribute 50 volunteer hours the 1st year
- Thereafter, contribute 25 volunteer hours and complete 12 continuing education hours each year

Join our team!

The UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County is now accepting applications for our 2022 training.

Training will be held
February 9, 2022 - May 25, 2022
142 Garden Hwy, Yuba City

Application deadline &
"Meet the Master Gardeners"
orientation is *January 18, 2022 at 2 pm*
at the CIP conference room,
100 Sunrise Blvd., Colusa.

Visit our website for more information
about us.

cecolusa.ucanr.edu

The fee for the
training is \$175



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Colusa County



UC Master Gardener Volunteer Application Form

[UC Master Gardener Program Administrative Handbook, Appendix 2](#)

The UC Master Gardener Program mission is “to extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives.” Join us!

County _____ Date of Application _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (with area code) _____ Cell Phone (with area code) _____

Email Address (required). _____

Applicants selected for UC Master Gardener Program training must complete a criminal background check (required of all UC agents and volunteers) through the California Department of Justice (DOJ). UC must notify the DOJ if prospective agents are recent residents of California. This information is not considered as part of your application package. How long have you been a resident of California? _____

| County Use Only | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--|------------------|---|
| Driver's License # Expiration Date | Proof of Auto Liability Insurance | Background Check Completed | Orientation | Code of Conduct/Rights & Responsibilities | Date Received | Cash or Check # _____ Fees Paid \$ _____ |

In compliance with the California Information Practices Act of 1977, the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) requests personal information for UC Master Gardener Program use only. Applicants may inquire how their data is used by contacting the local office and/or the UC Master Gardener Program statewide office (2801 2nd Street, Davis, CA 95618-7779).

The authority provided for the requested demographic information comes under the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 and Article IX, Section 9 of the State of California Constitution. Demographic information collected (including race, ethnicity, and gender) complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service's reporting requirements. We share this information with the Federal government for Affirmative Action and the Federal Affirmative Action Reports. *Submission of demographic data is voluntary.* The University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources (UCANR) is an equal opportunity provider. Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>. Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UCANR, Affirmative Action Compliance Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1343.



Please answer the following questions. Attach additional pages if necessary.

1. What excites you about being a UC Master Gardener?
2. How do you plan to use the information you learn in the UC Master Gardener Program to improve and strengthen California communities?
3. Volunteering is the heart of the UC Master Gardener Program. What volunteer groups have you been involved in (e.g. schools, food banks, service clubs, youth groups, community organizations)? What types of activities have you done with these groups (e.g. food distribution, community organizing, translation services)?
4. In order to reach all Californians, the UC Master Gardener Program is working to improve the cultural competency of volunteers and to improve outreach to more communities. Please share any work that you have done, personally or professionally, to make yourself or an organization more inclusive to others.
5. Please describe any gardening, garden education, outdoor education, or online education experience or share why you are interested in gardening.



6. UC Master Gardener Program volunteers are teachers and communicators. Please list your experience with any of these teaching/communication methods: Public speaking, demonstrations, one-on-one consultations, and writing for print or social media. Please be sure to include both online and in-person communication experience.

7. Please share any non-gardening skills you would bring to the program. Skills could include speaking and writing in languages other than English, experience with community organizing, graphic design or photography expertise, and so on.

8. Like many organizations, the UC Master Gardener Program relies on technology to deliver its mission. Please describe your proficiency with technologies such as e-mail, video platforms (like Zoom), blogs, and so on.

9. UC Master Gardener Program trainees are required to complete a training course. Training dates, times, length, and format (e.g. online, in-person, hybrid) differ by county. Will you commit to attend all sessions? Can you access the internet to complete your training or volunteer service? Following the training, volunteers complete volunteer hours and continuing education hours annually (50 volunteer hours in the first year; 25 volunteer hours and 12 continuing education hours thereafter). Given your understanding of the program, how do you plan to meet these requirements?

10. How did you learn about the UC Master Gardener Program?



Demographic information:

The UC Master Gardener Program is open to all. We collect the following demographic information to know if we are reaching all community members. This portion of the application is voluntary and will be used for reporting purposes. The categories listed are those required by UC and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Gender (check one):

- ☐ Woman ☐ Man ☐ Nonbinary ☐ Gender not listed ☐ Decline to state

Ethnicity (check one):

- ☐ Hispanic or Latino/a: A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish-speaking culture or origin, regardless of race and/or a person of Latin American culture or origin
- ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino/a

Race (check all that apply):

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native: A person with origins among any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains a tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- ☐ Asian: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent—including, for example, the peoples of Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- ☐ Black or African American: A person with origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- ☐ White: A person with origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.
- ☐ Decline to state.



I wish to be considered for acceptance into the UC Master Gardener training program offered by UC Cooperative Extension. I understand that if I am accepted, I will become a certified UC Master Gardener when I complete _____ weeks of classes and achieve a score of 70% on a written examination. Upon acceptance into the training program, I agree to sign the [University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources \(UC ANR\) Adult Code of Conduct](#), adhere to the [UC Master Gardener Program Policy Handbook](#), uphold the [University of California's Non-discrimination commitment](#), and adhere to the [highest ethical standards](#).

In exchange for the training made possible by the UC Master Gardener Program, I will: attend all required training classes, volunteer at least 50 hours with the UC Master Gardener Program within one calendar year of my graduation (expected _____), regularly submit volunteer hours, and follow all University policies and procedures.

I understand that I will be required to submit to a criminal background and fingerprint screening (California Department of Justice Live Scan) prior to the beginning of the training program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this application to the address listed below. Applications must be received by 2:00 p.m. on _____. Late applications will not be accepted.

UC Master Gardener Program of _____ County

Address: _____

City, CA Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Website: _____

Ornamental Plant of the Month

PRUNING YOUNG TREES FOR GOOD STRUCTURE

When to prune

Start the first winter after planting your tree, and check in with the structure every winter after. Wintertime is best because the tree is dormant and it's easier to see what's going on when deciduous trees have no leaves.

Avoid pruning in spring, summer, and fall. However, some cuts can be made at any time of year: pruning off any broken, dead, or diseased branches, removing suckers or watersprouts.

A note on fruit trees

The following tips are meant for shade trees — pruning fruit trees with these methods can lower fruit production and/or quality. Different fruit trees are pruned according to their unique needs, often in ways that would be harmful to shade trees. Check out these [fruit tree pruning tips](#) from the UC Master Gardeners.

Basic tips before you get started

Don't cut more than 25% of the live canopy in any one year.

Select the right tools for the job: bypass hand pruners, loppers, and hand saw. Keep them clean and sharp. Before you start, identify which tree species you have and consider the mature size and shape of your tree. Get help identifying your tree with our [online Shady 80 database](#).

Stay safe! Keep your feet on the ground. Can't reach it? Avoid the ladder and [hire a professional](#).

This article is from sactree.org



Submitted by Cynthia White

Ornamental Plant of the Month

Season for Rose Pruning

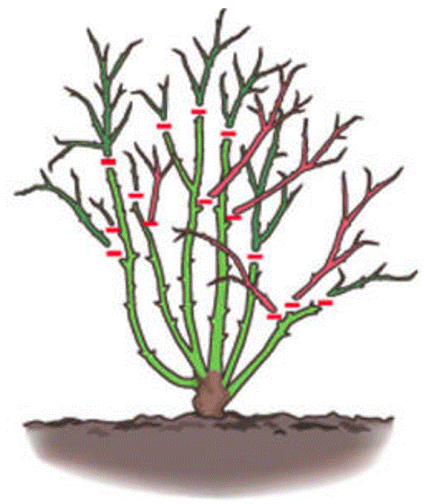
Annual pruning greatly contributes to the health, productivity, and longevity of roses. The basic objective is to promote strong growth that will bear good flowers on healthy plants.

Many gardeners have already done their pruning, however, pruning promote new growth; new and tender growth can easily be hurt by a freeze, when the night/early morning temperature falls below 32 degrees F, without wind or protection. Recommended best time for pruning most roses is at the end of the dormant season, when growth buds begin to swell, generally mid-January (mild climates) clear into April (colder regions).

- Use sharp pruners; remove the right branches.
- Prune out dead wood, wood that had unhealthy growth, branches that cross through center of plant (in other words open the center of plant), branches that make a plant one-sided or lopsided, as well as old canes that have been replaced by last season's new growth. Some Rosarians, describe old canes as being gray to blackening in color. Removing old foliage will reduce the chance of disease in the future.
- Cut back the previous season's growth by $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, making a slanted cut above an outward facing bud. The ideal result is a V shaped bush with a relatively open center.
- Remove suckers, growth produced from under stock of a budded/grafted plant. Dig down to where the suckers grow from the understock and pull them off with a downward motion. Let the wound air-dry before replacing the removed soil. A flowerless climbing cane from a bush rose is almost certainly a sucker.

If you have variety of types of roses, you might check with the American Rose Society for specifics.

www.rose.org



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

I know many of you love Annelie's articles but she is going to be not available for a few months.

Pomegranate

This small, showy tree is from Iran and northern India and has naturalized throughout the Mediterranean. It grows 15 to 20 feet tall and broad, though it is often kept pruned to half that size. They have beautiful showy red flowers in the spring and develop into roundish 5-inch wide fruit that ripen in the fall. Each fruit contains hundreds of seedy, sweet-tart juicy pulp. Trees are self-fruiting, so you need to only plant one.

How to Grow

Best site—full sun, locate it against a south or west wall for maximum heat.

Yield—60 pounds of fruit for a full grown tree.

Soil—it doesn't care

Planting—plant bareroot stock when available in the spring. Container grown trees can be planted anytime except in the heat of the summer. Small varieties do well in containers at least 18 inches wide and deep.

Irrigation—provide regular irrigation.

Fertilizer—scatter 10-10-10 fertilizer lightly over the root zone every spring.

Pruning—remove suckers from the plant base.

Harvest—pick when fruit reaches full color, any left on the tree likely split and rot, especially in rainy weather.

Storage—fruit can be stored in the refrigerator up to 7 months.

I have a small pomegranate tree and I do nothing to it. It produces lots of dark red fruit every year!

Information from the *Sunset Book of Edibles*



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Book of the Month

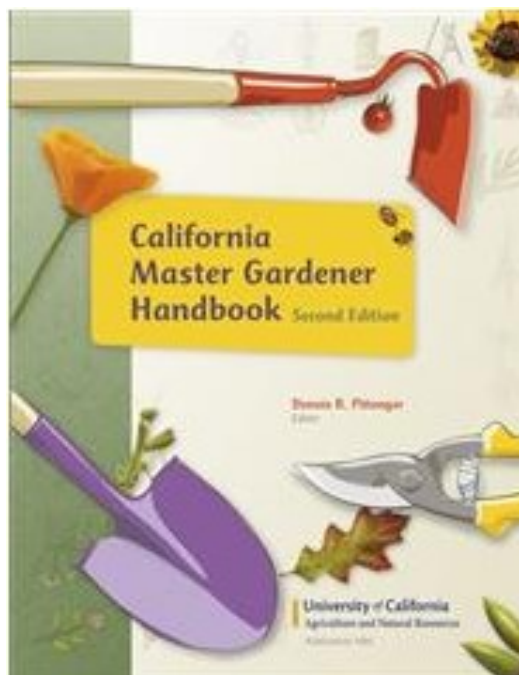
California Master Gardener Handbook

This is a great reference book. You don't need to be a Master Gardener to use and enjoy this book!

Chapters cover topics including soil, fertilizer and water management; plant propagation; plant physiology; weeds and pests; and home vegetable gardening. Chapters also include information on specific gardening crops including grapes, berries, fruits and nuts, citrus, and avocados. These crop chapters provide helpful information on selecting varieties, planting, growth cycles, pruning, irrigation, and harvesting. Also included is information on lawns, woody landscape plants, landscape design, and developing problem-solving skills.

Nutritional composition information is provided for most of the edible crops covered in the handbook along with background information on how the nutritional information was derived and how to interpret it. The Master Gardener Handbook also contains an appendix of useful conversions for many units of measure used in the handbook or in caring for crops and a 12-page glossary of terms.

[Click here to order.](#)



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Recipe of the Month

This is a really fast and flexible dish!

Start your pasta water when you start cooking your onions. Drop your pasta into the boiling water when you put in the kale. Pasta will be ready about the time you put in the beans

Dinner in about 20-30 minutes.

Pasta with Sausage, Kale and Cannellini Beans - Adapted from NY Times

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 pound bulk sweet or spicy Italian sausage
1 onion, sliced thin
2 large cloves garlic
1 medium red or green bell pepper, sliced
1 large bunch kale, center thick rib removed, leaves roughly chopped
1/2 cup chicken stock
1 15-ounce can white Cannellini beans
8 oz orecchiette or shell pasta, cooked al dente in salted water
Salt and pepper
Splash of vinegar
Parmesan cheese
Fresh herbs (parsley, basil, etc.)
French bread

Saute the onions, garlic and peppers in a little olive oil to soften, 5-10 minutes

Break up the sausage and add to the skillet, cook about 5 minutes

If your sausage is not very lean, spoon off extra fat at this point

Toss in the kale and chicken stock, heat to wilt and soften the kale, about 10 minutes

Add the beans and some of the liquid to make your sauce

Heat the beans through, but stir gently. Do not mash up the beans - they can be really soft

Gently stir in cooked pasta, you may want some of the cooking water for more sauce

Season with a little vinegar, top with cheese, herbs and serve

Dinner in a single bowl!!

OPTIONS:

- I happened to have some of the S&W Tuscan Style Cannellini beans in the pantry. They added good flavor. Without them, I would have added a bay leaf and some oregano to the peppers and onions. I might have finished with some fresh basil, too. S&W has several seasoned bean varieties, so take your pick!
- If kale is not your thing, wilt in a bag of baby spinach. Yes, the whole bag!
- Change up the meat. You could use any ground meat you have and season it to taste. I had lamb sausage and it was yummy. If you like your sausage in links, leave them whole or cut into 1" slices.
- Try chorizo (or the soy version) and pinto beans seasoned with some cumin and chili pepper to make a Mexican version. Add a small can of diced green chilies or saute a jalapeno pepper with the onions and finish with some chopped cilantro and pepper jack cheese. You could swap out the pasta for leftover cooked rice, too.
- Make meatballs - before you start with the onions and peppers! Season your meat and add 1/2 cup bread crumbs softened in 1/4 cup milk (known as a panade) and a beaten egg so they hold together but will be tender. Add some shredded cheese, if you like, too. Bake the meatballs for about 15-20 minutes at 400 degrees. They will be ready to add at the end with the beans and the pasta.
- If you need to feed a crowd, double it up, undercook the pasta by a couple minutes, dump it all into a greased casserole with a little pasta water, top with extra cheese and bread crumbs and bake at 350 for 20-30 minutes to finish.

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Seasonal IPM Checklist

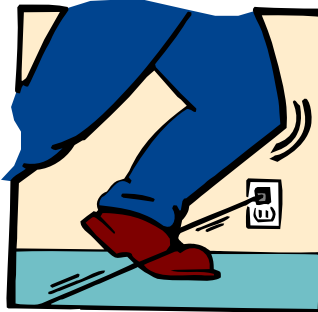
The list below reflects possible landscape activities to do during the selected month(s) in your region. You can use the checklist as a guide for IPM activities in your own landscape or provide it to your clients.

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 soggy soil.
- ☐ 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.

Safety Note #62

SLIPS, TRIPS, AND FALLS



According to information available from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, slips, trips, and falls cause 15 percent of all accidental fatalities and are a major cause of lost-time accidents. By taking several simple precautions and being aware of their work area(s), employees can control and/or reduce exposure to slip, trip, and fall conditions that may cause workplace injuries. California Code of Regulations Title 8, Section 3203 requires employees be informed and trained about workplace hazards in order to reduce the potential for slip, trip, and fall injuries.

Common Causes of Workplace Slips, Trips, and Falls

- Slippery walking surfaces due to the presence of water, oil, animal waste, loose carpet, broken tile, loose gravel, or other slick materials and liquids.
- Uneven walking surfaces in outdoor areas such as fields or broken sidewalk pavement.
- Obstructed offices, work areas, hallways, aisles, or outdoor pathways due to obstacles such as extension cords, tools, chairs, open file drawers, brush, and tree limbs/roots.
- Improper ladder use, standing on furniture, and unsafe traverses of steps and stairs.
- Jumping off equipment, from one level to another, or across ditches.

Slip, Trip, and Fall Precautions



- Always promptly clean up spills and place warning signs for wet or slippery walking surfaces.
- Walk at speeds that the surface conditions permit.
- When possible, detour around wet or slippery walking surfaces.
- Practice good housekeeping by keeping offices, work areas, hallways, aisles, and outdoor pathways free of obstacles and clutter. Always close file drawers after use.
- Never stand on furniture to reach for elevated objects. Always use a ladder or step stool.
- Repair loose or damaged carpeting, floor tile, and sidewalk pavement.
- Cover extension cords when they temporarily cross walkways.
- When dismounting equipment, use manufacturer-installed handrails and ladder rungs.
- Never jump across ditches or from one level to another (i.e., from a loading dock to the ground).
- Wear appropriate slip-resistant footwear for the type of task to be performed.
- Be alert of your surrounding when climbing or descending steps or stairs. Use handrails where present.
- Always provide adequate lighting in work areas, including all walkways.
- Reduce your walking speed when turning or moving around obstacles.

Videos E-008 and E-071 Slips, Trip, and Falls are available from the ANR Environmental Health and Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.

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.  | <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. Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight. Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials. Mulch 3 inches deep around plants to conserve moisture. | <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 to remove them, or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray. |
| 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"> Watch for aphids on spring blooming bulbs; remove with a strong spray of water. As the weather warms prepare to battle slugs and snails with traps or pet-friendly baits.  | <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. |

Rats

Rats are among the most troublesome and damaging rodents in residential areas.

Rats contaminate food, garden crops, and tree fruit, and can nest within buildings and transmit diseases to humans and pets. Manage rats by removing food and shelter, reducing entryways into buildings, and trapping.



Jack Kelly Clark

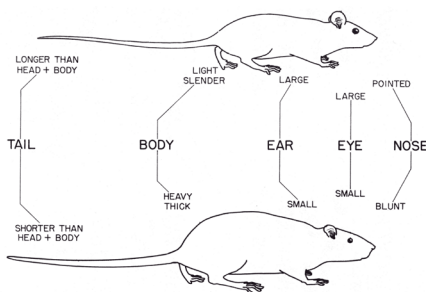
Norway rats favor basements, woodpiles, and the ground floor of buildings.

Indications of a rat infestation:

- Rat droppings in garages, storage buildings, or attics, or around pet food containers
- Rodent feeding damage on tree fruit or nuts in your yard
- Rat nests behind boxes, in garage drawers, or in woodpiles
- Burrows beneath garbage cans and compost piles or among garden plants
- Rats traveling along utility lines or on fence tops at dusk

Is it a Norway rat or a roof rat?

- The stocky Norway rat builds burrows along building foundations, beneath rubbish, or in woodpiles. Indoors they tend to remain in basements or on the ground floor.
- Roof rats are agile climbers with a tail longer than their head and body. They usually live and nest above ground in shrubs, trees, or dense vegetation. Indoors they favor attic spaces, walls, false ceilings, and cabinets.



Roof rats (top) have larger ears and are leaner than Norway rats (bottom).

To get rid of rats, limit entryways, and remove food, water, and shelter.

- Install door sweeps, weather stripping, or other barriers and seal all cracks and openings that are larger than ¼ inch.
- Make sure doors, windows, and screens fit tightly.
- Feed pets only the amount of food they will eat at a single feeding or bring food inside at night.
- Keep garbage, trash, and garden debris in containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Thin dense vegetation and create at least a 2-foot space between each shrub as well as between shrubs and buildings.
- Thin or remove climbing hedges from buildings.
- Remove tree limbs that are within 3 feet of a roof.

Remove rats from the home by trapping.

- Snap traps are the safest, most effective, and most economical way to trap rats.
- For Norway rats, place traps close to walls, behind objects, in dark corners, and in places where you have found rat droppings.
- For roof rats, place traps in off-the-ground locations such as ledges, shelves, branches, fences, pipes, or overhead beams.
- Ensure traps are out of reach of children and pets.

What about pesticides?

- When using rodenticide baits, avoid using them indoors because dead rats in wall voids and attics create bad odors.
- Minimize entry points to buildings before baiting outside to prevent poisoned rats from coming inside to die.
- Tamper-proof bait stations are available but can only be used within 50 feet of a building.
- All rodent baits are toxic to nontarget species, pets, and humans. Always keep away from children and pets.

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.

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!*

PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

January 24, 2022
6:30 pm
St. Stephens Church
Colusa

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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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