



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County



A Garden Runs Through It

February 2022

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

UCCE Master Gardener Program, Colusa County
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Upcoming events



February

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

April

Plant Clinic
April 15, 10 am to 2 pm
Griff's Feed and Seed
851 7th St., Colusa
Bring your gardening questions!

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



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FEB 2022 - All about orchids.

In this episode of 'A Garden Runs Through It', the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County, Gerry Hernandez and Penny Walgenbach discuss orchids and more.



How to listen?

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



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Colusa County

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You may see fewer pictures in our newsletters for a while. The University has had a lot of complaints about copyright of pictures.

Did you know you cannot take pictures from the internet and use them. Most of us assumed that if the picture is in a photo gallery that we could use it. This is not true.

So, bare with us as we get original pictures for you.



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Hellebroes

Commonly known as **hellebores** (/ˈhɛlɪbɔːrɪz/), the Eurasian genus ***Helleborus*** consists of approximately 20 species of herbaceous or evergreen perennial flowering plants in the family Ranunculaceae. Despite names such as "winter rose", "Christmas rose" and "Lenten rose", hellebores are not closely related to the rose family (Rosaceae). Many hellebore species are poisonous.

The genus was established by Carl Linnaeus in volume one of his *Species Plantarum* in 1753.

The flowers have five petal-like sepals surrounding a ring of small, cup-like nectary's which are actually petals modified to hold nectar. The sepals do not fall as petals would, but remain on the plant, sometimes for many months. Recent research in Spain suggests that the persistence of the sepals contributes to the development of the seeds.

Hellebores are widely grown in Zone 5a to 8b gardens for decorative purposes. They are particularly valued by gardeners for their winter and early spring flowering period; the plants are surprisingly frost-resistant and many are evergreen.¹ Also of value is their shade tolerance. Many species of hellebore have green or greenish-purple flowers and are of limited garden value, although Corsican hellebore (*H. argutifolius*), a robust plant with pale green, cup-shaped flowers and attractive leathery foliage, is widely grown. So is the 'stinking hellebore' or setterwort (*H. foetidus*), which has drooping clusters of small, pale green, bell-shaped flowers, often edged with maroon, which contrasts with its dark evergreen foliage. *H. foetidus* 'Wester Flisk', with red-flushed flowers and flower stalks, is becoming popular, as are more recent selections with golden-yellow foliage.

The so-called Christmas rose (*H. niger*), a traditional cottage garden favorite, bears its pure white flowers (which often age to pink) in the depths of winter; large-flowered cultivars are available, as are pink-flowered and double-flowered selections.

The most popular hellebores for garden use are *H. orientalis* and its colorful hybrids, *H. × hybridus* (Lenten rose). In the northern hemisphere, they flower in early spring, around the period of Lent, and are often known as Lenten hellebores, oriental hellebores, or Lenten roses. They are excellent for bringing early color to shady herbaceous borders and areas between deciduous shrubs and under trees.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Picture from UC Davis Arboretum

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.

This is a re-print from Annelie Lauwerijssen

Annelie will be out for a while.

Book of the Month

The Drunken Botanist

by Amy Stewart

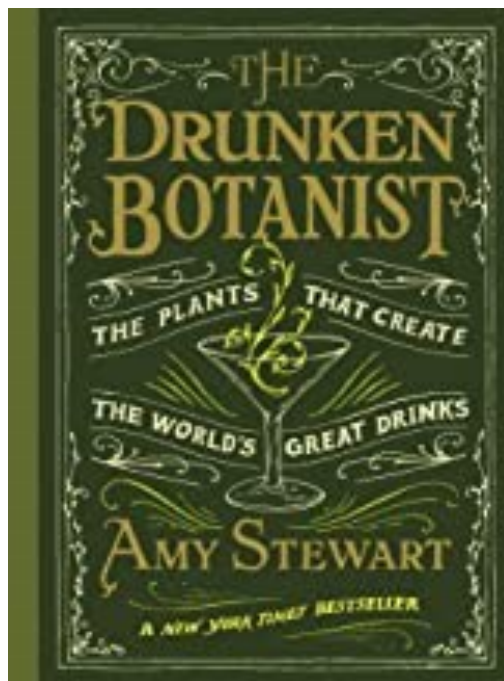
Sometimes my reading material gets overly eclectic when I am captured by a title that goes on to state the plants that create the world's great drinks. That is exactly what happened with this month's selection. Amy Stewart is the New York Times best-selling author of *The Drunken Botanist*, *Wicked Plants*, and several other popular nonfiction titles about the natural world. She's also written several novels in her beloved Kopp Sisters series, which are based on the true story of one of America's first female deputy sheriffs and her two rambunctious sisters.

Amy presents the wonderful world of plants as only she can. Some of the efforts are familiar such as sake made from fermented rice but she goes way beyond that ancient concoction to the exotic concoctions that could make you the most exciting guest at the next neighborhood cocktail party. There is biology, chemistry, history, etymology, and mixology—with more than fifty drink recipes and growing tips for gardeners. Her information about the plants and concoctions is so reliable and well researched it will make you feel like she's sitting across from you and beguiling the crowd with wonderful information and anecdotes.

The book begins with an interesting exploration of the twin alchemical processes of fermentation and distillation that give us wine, beer and spirits going from the well-known agave to wheat.

Amy finishes the book with a venture into the garden to encounter the seasonal array of botanical mixers and garnishes to be introduced to the cocktail in its final stage of preparation.

Pick it up and enjoy!!



Submitted by Cynthia White

Recipe of the Month

Root Beer Glazed Ham - adapted from several sources

Best NOT to use a spiral sliced ham

Prep your ham by cutting away any thick fat and/or skin

Score the fat in a diamond pattern, ~1" apart, but cut no more than 1/8" into meat

If your roasting pan is not non-stick, lay heavy duty foil on the bottom first

Place the scored ham on a rack in the roasting pan, but do not tear foil

Keep about 1/4" of water in the bottom of the roaster to prevent burnt drippings

Roast at 325-350, covered loosely with foil for 15 min per pound

Plan ahead to glaze the ham during the last hour of cooking

Make glaze while meat heats

1/2 tsp dry mustard or 1 T Dijon

3/4 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup ketchup

24 ozs root beer (NOT diet)

1 1/2 Tbs Tabasco sauce or Frank's Red or some chili flake to taste

1/2 cup orange juice (or lemon or lime), zest or rind optional

zest and juice of 1 or 2 lemons (juice the lemon and add the rind to the glaze mix)

1 cinnamon stick

6-8 whole cloves

6-8 whole allspice

1 whole star anise, optional

Simmer gently and reduce to ~ 1 to 1 1/2 cup. 30-45 min or so

Pick out whole spices and rinds, set glaze aside.

Recipe continued...

About an hour before meat will be done, remove foil from meat.

Optional: Remove meat from the rack and the rack from the pan.

Do not tear the foil to ease clean-up later.

Carefully drain and defat the drippings from the pan, add drippings to the glaze.

This is optional because the drippings can make the glaze quite salty.

Return the meat to the rack in the pan and add some water back to the pan so leftover and any additional drippings plus glaze drippings do not burn.

Glaze ham every 10-15 min the last hour or so of cooking.

Internal temp should be 125-130 degrees when done.

Ham can rest for 30-45 min, loosely covered, before carving.

Serve any remaining glaze to pass at the table or drizzle over carved meat.

Note: You can dress the ham with pineapple rings (and cherries) when you begin to glaze.

Keep them in place with cloves or tooth picks, removing cloves or tooth picks before carving.

Note: If you prefer or can only find a spiral sliced ham, tie the meat to keep the slices together.

The butcher can do this for you!

Lightly brush glaze on the sliced ham or the glaze can seep in too deeply and overpower...

Remove string before carving.

The glaze would be good brushed on pork tenderloin or chicken breasts, too



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN



AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

#2

PRUNING SAFETY

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



Data available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicate approximately 27,000 people nationwide received hospital treatment for pruning injuries during 2006. Many of the injuries were to fingers and involved lacerations. **English and Spanish language safety videos on tree care safety are available for loan from the ANR Environmental Health & Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.**

Pre-Pruning Activities

- Pruning typically involves the use of shears and saws, loppers, and manual and electric hedge trimmers. Accordingly, pruning tools have sharp edges and pinch points and in some cases an additional electrical hazard.
- Thoroughly review and understand information from the pruning tool brochure or booklet provided by the manufacturer, with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect pruning tools to determine if they are functioning properly, including assuring all moveable joints are lubricated and blades are sharpened adequately. For electric equipment, inspect the electrical cord and plug for defects.

Pruning Safety Precautions

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including safety glasses with side shields, hard hat, gloves, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, boots, and sunscreen.
- Never prune trees or branches within 10 feet of power lines. Contact your local utility company to secure appropriately qualified tree trimming services.
- Maintain a safe working distance from other people when using pruning tools or equipment.
- Carefully inspect the work area to locate any signs of bees, wasps, or other potential animal hazards.
- Do not attempt to cut branches bigger than the pruning tool was designed to cut.
- Before making a cut, always know the location of your hands and fingers.
- Do not purposefully drop pruning tools from ladders.
- Always carry pruning tools with the sharp end pointed down.
- Prior to dropping a branch, an audible warning such as "timber" should be given.
- Take frequent breaks when performing repetitive tasks. Do not overtire yourself.
- Be aware of the weather conditions and drink adequate fluids to prevent heat illness.
- Never use electric pruning tools or equipment when it is raining or in wet conditions.
- If a ladder is used for pruning, then basic rules for ladder safety should be followed such as: always set the ladder on a solid, level surface; stepladders should be fully opened with spreaders locked; never step above the top two rungs of a stepladder; never stand on a rung or step and face away from the ladder; and always mount ladders from the center and climb/descend the ladder using both hands.

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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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.

February

- ☐ Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.
- ☐ [Ants](#) - Manage around landscape and building foundations, such as using insecticide baits and trunk barriers.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid soggy.
- ☐ Continue [rainy-season prevention of diseases](#), [earwigs](#), [snails and slugs](#), and [weeds](#).
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [Grape diseases](#) - Monitor for powdery mildew, Eutypa dieback, Phomopsis cane and leaf spot, and others. Prune, remove, or treat as appropriate.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [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.
- ☐ [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.

Seasonal IPM Checklist



[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.





[Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	February	March	April
P L A N T I N G	<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. 	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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°. 	<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 you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers. You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<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. 	<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.
P R E V E N T I O N	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. 

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

No meeting in December

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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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This policy statement supersedes the UC ANR Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action Policy Statement for University of California Publications Regarding Program Practices dated July 2013.

Weeds in Landscapes

Nothing disturbs tidy gardeners more than a weed-filled flower or landscape bed.

Weeds will invade any bare or thin area in a landscape. Prevent invasions in new beds with good site preparation. Keep weeds out with an integrated program that includes competitive plants, mulches, and hand removal. Be particularly vigilant about removing aggressive perennial weeds. You should rarely need herbicides in established landscape plantings.

Before and right after you plant:

- ◆ Prepare the site and control existing weeds.
 - Dig out weeds or remove by hand. Follow up by irrigating then removing newly emerged weed seedlings right before planting.
 - Solarize the soil if conditions allow.
 - If necessary, use glyphosate or other systemic herbicides for difficult-to-control perennial weeds.
- ◆ Evaluate your soil and amend if needed. Make sure new soil comes from a reputable source and doesn't contain weed seeds.
- ◆ Establish new plantings as quickly as possible to cover bare areas and shade out weeds.
- ◆ Consider drip irrigation in permanent plantings.
- ◆ Apply mulches.

Mulch is the key to weed-free landscaping.

- ◆ Mulches prevent weed seed germination by blocking sunlight. Be sure to properly apply mulch and replenish it to maintain its effectiveness.
- ◆ Organic mulches (e.g., wood chips, bark chips, compost): attractive but must be replenished. Choose a medium-sized mulch ($\frac{3}{4}$ inch) and maintain it at an adequate depth (3 to 4 inches).
- ◆ Natural inorganic mulches (e.g., sand, gravel, pebbles): more stable than organic mulches, but difficult to keep clean.
- ◆ Landscape fabrics: porous and long lasting; vary in how long they remain effective. Cover with organic mulch.
- ◆ Black plastic: not preferred since it can restrict air and water movement and promote root rots.



University of California
Statewide Integrated Pest
Management Program

When weeds invade your landscape:

- ◆ Remove small weeds by hand before they flower and set seed.
- ◆ Use a dandelion knife or similar tool to dig up and destroy all roots and underground parts of perennial weeds without disturbing the soil.
- ◆ Use shallow cultivation or hoeing to remove annual weeds from ornamental plantings.
- ◆ Consider devices such as string trimmers for large landscapes.
- ◆ Apply mulch to weed-free areas to prevent further invasions, and regularly remove new weeds as soon as they emerge.

When are herbicides necessary?

- ◆ In general, existing landscape plantings don't need herbicides; hand weeding and mulching usually provide adequate control.
- ◆ Use herbicides for special-problem situations before establishing new plantings or for difficult-to-control perennial weeds.
- ◆ Herbicides can injure desirable plants in the landscape, so use these products with great care.

See Pest Notes: *Weed Management in Landscapes* at ipm.ucanr.edu for more details.



Spotted spurge



Bermudagrass

Minimize the use of pesticides that pollute our waterways. 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, contact your **University of California Cooperative Extension office** listed under the county government pages of your phone book, visit the UC IPM website at ipm.ucanr.edu, or scan the QR code with a smartphone.



What you use in your landscape affects our rivers and oceans!

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