



A Garden Runs Through It

April 2023

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

P.O. Box 180
100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite E
Colusa, CA 95932

530-458-0570
Gerry Hernandez
glhernandez@ucanr.edu
cecolusa.ucanr.edu

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Upcoming events



June

Colusa County Fair
June 8—11
Colusa County Fairgrounds
Etchepare Hall



Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!



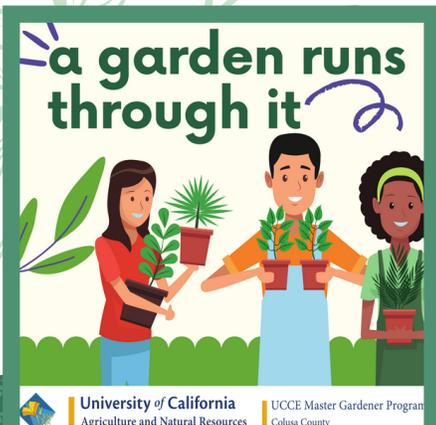
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visit: theplantmasters.com



April podcast

In this episode of "A Garden Runs Through It", Cynthia talks with me.



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



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

Vegetables

The winter garden is coming to an end but we are still picking kale, beets, chard, radishes, lettuce and carrots. We pulled out the broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower plants. Now we are prepping the soil for the summer garden. Our May 4th harvest will be the last of the winter garden. We donate the vegetables to the Ministerial Food Distribution at the College. May will be our fourth donation of fresh vegetables. The winter garden has been very prolific. Next year, we are going to expand it. Think about growing a winter vegetable garden at home, it will be worth it!

Potatoes have been planted in grow bags. Come out and see them. The potatoes are sprouting and should be ready to harvest in June.

We are planting the summer vegetable garden before May 1st. I know it's a little later than usual but our winter was so wet and so long. It's amazing how wet the soil is in an old rice field. Our summer vegetable garden has not been as successful. We are looking at several options such as peppers, melons and squash.

Landscape

The 10 x 10 water-wise landscape was planted in November 2022. The warm weather has prompted the plants to grow. We are looking forward to seeing it fully mature.

We purchased 15 salvia plants and are waiting for the soil to dry before planting. They will also be planted before May 1st.

Also, we are looking at planting a 10 x 10 native landscape.

Raised beds

This year we will purchase lumber for 2 more raised beds. Raised beds are great if you cannot get on your knees to garden.



Ornamental Plant of the Month

Osteospermum African Daisy

Osteospermum has become a very popular plant for flower arrangements in the past few years, however it seems to be used in our area more for a spring/summer blooming ground and area cover. Many people may wonder what is osteospermum? This flower is better known as the African daisy.

Growing Osteospermum requires conditions found in Africa. It likes heat and full sun, but needs well-drained soil, and in some cases, tolerated dry soils. To keep them healthy and flowering, it helps to know a little about how to prune African daisy plants – which may consist of pinching, deadheading, and trimming.

Pinching young African daisies two or three times early in the growing season creates a sturdy stem and a full, bushy plant. Simply pinch the tips of new growth, removing the stem to the second set of leaves. Don't pinch the plant after flower buds appear, as you'll delay blooming.

Regular deadheading, which involves pinching or cutting wilted flowers down to the next set of leaves, is a simple way to encourage continued blooming throughout the season. If the plant isn't deadheaded, it naturally goes to seed and blooming ceases much earlier than you'd like.

Like many plants, African daisies can get long and leggy in midsummer. A light trim keeps the plant neat and tidy while encouraging new blooms. To give the plant a summer haircut, use garden shears to remove one-third to one-half of each stem, paying particular attention to older branches. The trim will stimulate the growth of fresh, new foliage. If you live in USDA plant hardiness zone 9 or above, perennial African daisies benefit from annual pruning. Cut the plant to the ground in late fall or early spring. Either time is acceptable, but if you are set on a tidy garden going into winter, you may want to prune in autumn.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

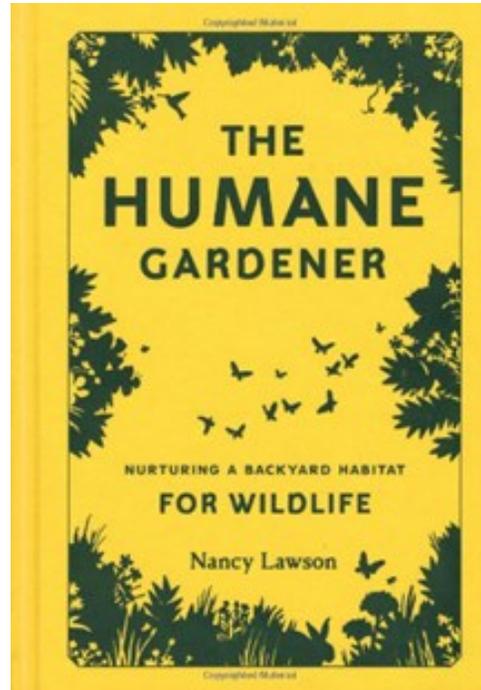
Book of the Month

THE HUMANE GARDENER

by Nancy Larson

This simple book is a great one for an afternoon when you are wondering what part of your garden to change first while offering a practical guide for the gardener who hopes to create a backyard garden in harmony with nature. Nancy Larson is the founder of Humane Gardener, an outreach initiative dedicated to cultivating compassion for all creatures great and small through animal-friendly, environmentally sensitive landscaping methods. Nancy volunteers as a master naturalist and master gardener in central Maryland. After an early career in newspaper journalism, she worked for more than 15 years as an editor and publisher at The Humane Society of the United States, leading the creative teams behind the organization's award-winning print and digital magazines. She interviews scientists and horticulturalists looking for ways that we can carry the lessons learned in ecology to our own areas.

Nancy offers a method for creating gardens of all sizes, shapes and budgets. What you plant really does effect what creatures come to see you in the early morning and allow you to really enjoy your efforts.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Recipe of the Month

Wraps - this is a NO RECIPE recipe

Read through and think about what you have on hand and what sounds good to you today!

Choose something to wrap with:

tortillas - fajita size or burrito size
or make in "boats" of Romaine leaves
or make small wraps with soft lettuce, like Butter
or wrap in very lightly blanched Swiss Chard leaves (stems removed)
running the leaves under hot water in the sink is probably enough, but dry them well

Think about what to fill the wrap with:

turkey - sliced or shredded (or any other protein you have on hand)
bacon - cooked, crumbled or chopped
herbs of choice - parsley, cilantro, mint, basil, green onions
soft veggies of choice - sliced tomatoes, sliced olives,
crunchy veggies - lettuce or cabbage, grated carrots, sliced celery, cucumbers or peppers
something fruity - cranberry sauce, chopped apple, raisins, mandarin oranges, pineapple, etc.
something sour-ish - dill pickles, pickle relish, pickled onions, jalapenos, jardinera
cheese, shredded, optional
seasoning - salt, pepper, Old Bay, chili powder, cumin, garlic or onion powder, curry powder, etc...
crunchy toppings or additions - nuts, chips, noodles, croutons
dressing - ranch, sour cream, mayo, guacamole, salsa or ??

Options... think about well known combinations of flavors

like buffalo sauce or BBQ sauce and blue cheese!
or turkey, cranberries and brie, lightly grilled to melt the cheese
or Waldorf salad-ish with turkey, grapes and walnuts
or turkey with pesto, arugula and cheese, and maybe some olives or anchovies
or with grilled onions (or the little fried ones?), cheese and jardinera or jalapenos
or go Thai with sweet chili sauce, cilantro, peanuts, cabbage, mango and sambal
or copy Taco Bell with a "crunch wrap" of tortilla chips, salsa and grated cheese
or make any wrap more substantial - add refried beans, rice, macaroni and cheese, or tater tots

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Seasonal Landscape IPM Checklist

April

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, 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 caterpillars, mites, scales, and thrips.
- [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.
- [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid sogginess.
- Deter borers in fruit and nut trees e.g., [paint trunk and scaffolds with white](#) interior latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water.
- [Fertilize](#) caneberries, citrus, deciduous fruit trees, palms, and heavily-flowering shrubs with slow-release product if not done in March.

- [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.
- [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Avoid pruning olive and oleander during wet weather if stem galls are a problem.
- [Olive pests](#) e.g., ash borer, psyllid, and scales. Blossom drop sprays on nonharvested trees. [Olive fruit fly](#) suppression on harvested trees.
- [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.
- [Plant](#) frost-tender species e.g., avocado, bougainvillea, citrus, and hibiscus. Water regularly to keep root zone moist, but not soggy.
- [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 aphids, black spot, Botrytis blight, downy mildew, hoplia beetle, powdery mildew, thrips, and rust.
- [Scab](#) of apple, crabapple, and pear - Avoid sprinkler wetting of leaves. Compost or dispose of dropped leaves. Grow resistant cultivars or apply preventive fungicides.
- [Scale insects](#) - If damage has been unacceptable, monitor the crawler stage and when abundant apply horticultural oil or another insecticide.
- [Stone fruit pests](#) - Monitor for pests such as aphids, borers, brown rot, caterpillars, powdery mildew, and scale insects.
- [Weeds](#) - Manage weeds using nonchemical methods such as [cultivation](#), handweeding, or mowing.
- [Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	April	May	June
P L A N T I N G	<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. (Cilantro will go to seed quickly as the weather warms up.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct seed in the garden cucumbers, melons, summer squash, beans, corn, and annual herbs. Plant sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and aster in the flower garden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct seed in the garden cucumbers, melons, summer squash, beans, corn, and annual herbs. Plant sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and aster in the flower garden.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring. Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. The leaves restore the bulb; so wait to remove them until they turn yellow. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Continue the battle against slugs and snails. Deadhead (cut off spent flowers) to get continuing bloom on annuals and perennials. Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Apply (or re-apply as needed) organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. Be sure to leave space around the base of the plants. Thin peaches, plums and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants. Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. The leaves restore the bulb; so wait to remove them until they turn yellow. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the battle against slugs and snails. 

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

Alternate Bearing: The bearing of heavier and then lighter crops of fruits in successive years.

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

April 24, 5:30 pm
Vafis home
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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This policy statement supersedes the UC ANR Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action Policy Statement for University of California Publications Regarding Program Practices dated July 2013.

Snails and Slugs

Snails and slugs rank among our most despised garden pests.



Jack Kelly Clark, UCIPM



D. Roosen, UCANR

These slimy mollusks emerge from hiding at night and chew holes in leaves and flowers of many succulent garden plants and fruit. Slugs and snails are similar in structure and biology, except slugs lack the snails' external spiral shell. Management requires a vigilant and integrated approach that includes eliminating moisture and hiding spots, trapping, setting up barriers, and handpicking. Baits can be helpful but by themselves don't provide adequate control in gardens that contain plenty of shelter, food, and moisture.

How do you know snails and slugs are causing damage?

- Because they feed at night and hide during the day, you might not observe these pests at first. Go out at night or in the early morning to view them in action.
- Other pests can cause holes in leaves, flowers, and fruit. Look for the shiny slime trails slugs and snails leave behind.

What can be done to reduce snails and slugs?

- Remove daytime hiding places such as ivy, weedy areas, debris, and boards.
- Place your garden in the sunniest spot possible. Remove garden objects, plants, or ground cover that can serve as shady shelter.
- Reduce moist surfaces by switching to drip irrigation or by running sprinklers in the morning rather than later in the day.
- Make sure the garden is mollusk-free before planting, then erect a copper barrier around it. Use a 4- to 6-inch-wide band of copper, buried an inch below the soil and bent over at the top or attached around the edge of a raised bed.
- Consider snail-proof plants such as impatiens, geraniums, lantana, nasturtiums, and other plants with stiff leaves and highly scented foliage such as sage, rosemary, and lavender.

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

How can I manage snails and slugs without using pesticides?

- Regularly remove snails from shelters such as fence ledges, undersides of decks, and meter boxes.
- Build a trap using a board raised off the ground by 1-inch runners. As mollusks collect under the board, scrape them off and destroy daily.
- Place beer traps in your garden and dispose of trapped snails and slugs daily.



Jack Kelly Clark, UCIPM

Use a board that is raised off the ground about an inch to trap snails daily.

What about pesticides?

- Pesticide baits will not be very effective unless you also remove shelter, food, and moisture.
- Iron phosphate baits are safe for use around dogs, children, and wildlife.
- Ferric sodium EDTA is a newer active ingredient that works similar to iron phosphate. This product is not organically acceptable.
- Metaldehyde baits are especially poisonous to dogs and birds. Metaldehyde also loses its effectiveness rapidly in sunlight and after rain or irrigation.
- Irrigate before applying bait and apply in the evening on warm days when mollusks are active.
- Scatter, don't pile, bait around sprinklers and in moist, protected areas where mollusks travel. Always read pesticide labels before applying the product.

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.