



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program

A Garden Runs Through It

June 2025

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

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Upcoming Events

Colusa County Fair

June 12-15, 2025

Colusa County Fairgrounds

Come and find us in Etchepare Hall at the fairgrounds. Stop by to ask about becoming a Master Gardener and to ask us all of your gardening questions!



Plant of the Month
Japanese Pieris (*Pieris japonica*)



Japanese Pieris (*Pieris japonica*)

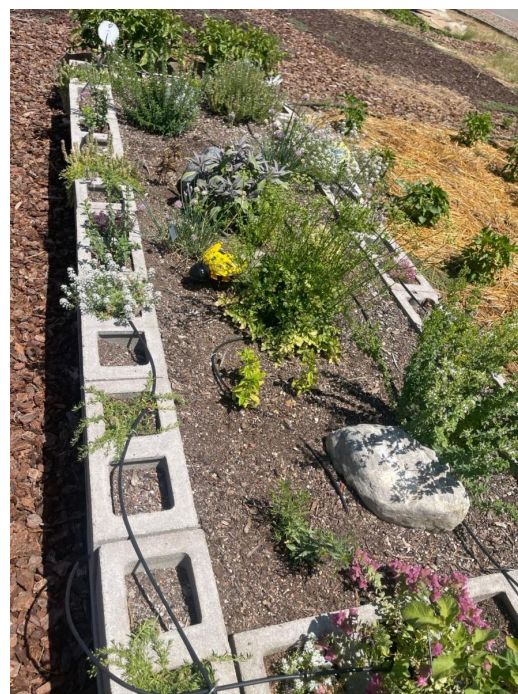
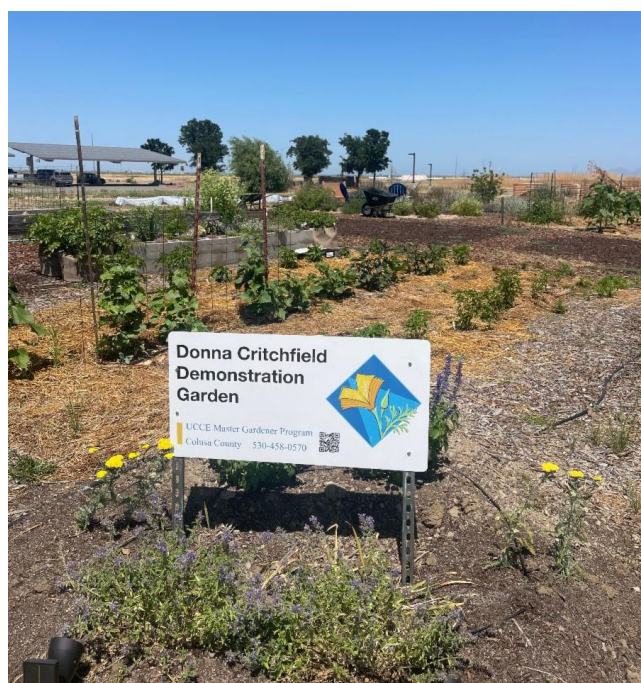
Today I was updating my notes and such from little pieces of paper to my plant notebook just for horticultural ideas, that I started over 15 years ago. I was looking for a small shrub to use in a large plant as I move my overgrown Italian stone pine from the pot to the ground. I stumbled on the Japanese Pieris.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Submitted by Cynthia White

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite Street in Williams





Vegetables and Herbs

April and May were filled with planting and seed starting! We are thrilled to see all of the fruits of our labor thriving at the garden. So far, there are tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and cucumbers growing and maturing in the garden. We have one sunflower blooming so far, and the others are starting to grow taller. We harvested onions, leeks, and 2 cucumbers in May. In early May, the potato plants started to produce flowers, so we cut the flowers, to allow the plants to focus their energy on potato production. We have slowly added more to the herb garden, and it is looking and smelling lovely!

Landscape

The landscape area of the garden truly benefitted from the perennial pruning workshop that we hosted in the winter. The plants have come back lush and full of blooms! We've expanded our landscape to include plants around the garden sign. We have planted mystic spire salvias, Greek yarrow and Junior Walker catmint nepeta and we are looking forward to them spreading and filling the area with greenery and blooms.

Flower Beds

We are looking forward to having flowers to cut later in the summer! We planted zinnia, marigold and cosmos seeds in the raised beds, as well as zinnia and celosia starts. Seeing them sprout is so exciting!

Recipe of the Month

Tzatziki Cucumber and Chickpea/Garbanzo Bean Salad

I am testing a recipe for America's Test Kitchen and have too many little cucumbers around. I also have some extras of the other ingredients the recipe called for that I will need to use up and, voila! I saw this recipe on the NY Times recent e-mail and thought, "Cool way to use those cukes and extra feta!"

[Click here for the full recipe](#)

Recipe submitted by Penny Walgenbach





I recently came across this pamphlet and was intrigued by the concept of a book dedicated to the area where we reside – zone 9b. So often I get ready to jump into a new plant and then find out it wasn't meant for where we live. Frequently, we can make adjustments and force a plant to do well in our hot valley heat, but this book is dedicated to what is meant to be right here!! With that in mind the book got my approval stamp and there are many positive parts that can keep a novice gardener out of too much trouble.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

Submitted by Cynthia White

Thinking Safe and Green

Master Gardener Program

Basic Pesticide Exposure Awareness

Information available from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) indicates approximately 4,000 agricultural field workers suffered illness or injury from exposure to pesticide residues between 1982 and 2004. The number of pesticide residue illnesses or injuries has decreased from about 250 per year during the 1980s to an average of 65 since 2000. This decrease (roughly 75%) in cases of pesticide residue exposure may be attributed, in part, to a greater awareness of pesticide hazards by agricultural field workers and their supervisors coupled with decreases in the use of particularly harmful pesticides. DPR data from 2004 indicates about 38% of pesticide exposures occurred at farms and crop or livestock processing facilities. Other locations where pesticide exposure frequently happened included service establishments such as restaurants or laundries (16%), schools (9%), and medical facilities (8%).



[#12 Basic Pesticide Exposure Awareness](#)

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County Zones 8 and 9

	June	July	August
Planting	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.	You can plant directly in the garden seeds of carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach and turnips. Indoors you can start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, kale, bunching onions, and radicchio.
Maintenance	Be sure to water early in the	Be sure everything is well	Continue to weed. Be

	<p>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.)</p> <p>Remember to water your trees. Place a drip line or soaker hose around the tree several times. Let the water run for about 2 hours. Check the ground moisture with a metal rod. It should go in about 2 feet, if not water another hour.</p>	<p>mulched for the heat of summer. Water before 10 am to avoid fungal infections and to minimize water loss to evaporation.</p> <p>If you have blackberries in your garden, cut the canes that bore fruit to the ground. Tie up 3-5 of the new canes and fertilize to promote new growth.</p> <p>Cut canna stems to the ground as they finish flowering to encourage new stems to grow.</p> <p>Dig and divide bearded iris that have not been divided for 3 yrs. Cut the foliage on the divisions to 6-8 inches, replanting only new rhizomes and discarding the old rhizomes.</p>	<p>especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds.</p> <p>Cut off spent flowers of perennials and annuals for continued bloom.</p>
Prevention	<p>Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Later in the month use a fertilizer for acid-loving plants like azaleas and camellias. Always follow the directions for proper dilution of concentrates.</p> <p>Dig and divide spring-flowering bulbs when the tops have died down.</p> <p>Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture.</p>	<p>Cut back lavender after flowering to promote a second bloom. You can prune by half to keep the plant in bounds. If you have fruit trees, be sure to pick up dropped fruit to prevent brown rot from developing and leaving spores for future infection. You can dig and divide other bulbs after the foliage has died off.</p> <p>Deadhead blooming plants as they finish flowering to promote continuing bloom. Fertilize roses after each burst of blooms.</p>	<p>Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers. Check the mulch you have spread around and be sure it is thick enough to suppress weeds. (3 to 4 inches)</p>



Science Word of the Month

Indeterminate: Tomato varieties that continue to grow and spread continuously until the first frost of fall; these cultivars require a stout trellis

Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!



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.



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