

A Garden Runs Through It

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program



Colusa County

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

July 2019

UC Cooperative Extension,
Colusa County

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Upcoming events

[Click here to read our blog.](#)



July

Second Saturday at the Library
Saturday, July 13, 10 am to noon
Colusa County Library, Colusa
Irrigation for vegetables

Arbuckle Farmers Market
Every Wednesday
June 12 to August 28
3:30 to 7 pm

Garden Chat with the Master Gardeners
Tuesday, July 30, 1 to 2 pm
Arbuckle Library

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





Second Saturday at the Library

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

Colusa County Free Library

When: Second Saturday every month

10am to noon

Where: Colusa County Free Library

Colusa



- **July 13 – Irrigation for vegetables**
- **August 13 – Building your soil**
- **September 14 – Fall gardening**
- **October 12 – Mulching-feeding**



University of California
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UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

Book of the Month

Fire The Landscaper

Written by Phil M. Williams

How Landscapers, HOAS and Cultural Norms are Poisoning our Properties

Mr. Williams takes us through his journey of starting out with 25 lawn mowing customers to his 5 million dollar landscaping business in just 8 years. He grew tired of the materialism of his life and, even more, of the folly and destruction landscape service and maintenance programs cause. He has decided to shine a light on these practices and offer practical alternatives.

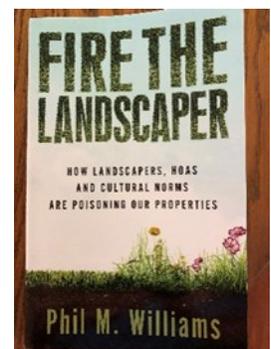
When you sign up with a service they will incessantly mow lawns that need to be mowed more frequently because they apply fertilizers that make them grow more quickly. Fertilizers also make weeds grow quicker so they apply pesticides to kill the weeds that otherwise would improve the soil and the ecosystem. The “weeds” would attract beneficial insects if left alone. The monoculture nature of the service allows non-beneficial insects to invade but, of course, they have a pesticide for that too. They had to provide constant weed, disease and insect control because they were working against nature to keep the lawn in an immature monoculture state of succession.

Several chapters are devoted to HOAs and his views on them. Basically, he believes if you live in an area with an HOA you should move as quickly as possible unless you are completely comfortable with the HOA board and are ready to comply with all the rules.

Mr. Williams does offer practical advice and an alternative to the landscaping merry-go-round:

- Stop applying pesticides.
- Stop mowing so often and so short.
- Don't waste water on your lawn (Note: he lives in an area that receives summer rain).
- Stop raking leaves.
- Stop being so mean to your weeds.
- Start a compost pile.

If you are planning to hire a landscape designer, hire a permaculture designer instead.



Submitted by Carolyn Froelich



GARDEN CHAT

Garden Chat with the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County

Where: Arbuckle Library, 610 King Street

When: Tuesdays, 1 – 2 pm

July 30 August 27 September 24

Calling all garden lovers! Garden Chat is a roundtable chat about gardening. It's a place to share your gardening stories, successes, challenges and learn from your neighbors. See what happens when you unplug, slow down, enjoy, and meet with fellow gardeners.



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**This is a
roundtable chat
about gardening!**

**Share your
experiences.**

**This is a good
place to ask
questions.**

**Garden Chat is
open to the
public!**

**At the
Arbuckle Library**

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Ornamental Plant of the Month

DAYLILY, HEMEROCALLIS

Many yards are glowing with the beautiful daylily blooms of yellow, orange, singles and doubles.

Daylilies are perennials, (returning every year) from tuberous roots. The tuberous roots are somewhat fleshy, unlike the bulbs of the Liliaceae family (the large lilies we often receive in floral arrangements) and give rise to large clumps of arching, sword shaped leaves. The lilies thrive in sun and light shade and almost any type soil. Deciduous types go dormant during winter and will survive below freezing.

Clusters of flowers appear on leafless, long stems well above foliage. Usually one bloom of the cluster opens for a day, followed by each one of the cluster for a day, thus the common name, DAYLILY. Many varieties exist but only a few are found in nurseries.

Daylilies are great to be used in borders, under tall branching trees, in clusters with evergreen shrubs and in country garden roadsides.

Few plants are tougher, more persistent, and adaptive to most soil and locations. They can be planted any time of year, but bare-root plants are best planted in fall and winter. They do prefer well drained soil amended with organic matter, given regular moisture spring through fall. When the clumps become too crowded, usually after 3-5 years, divide and replant in spring or fall.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

Beets

Though this European native is best known for its edible roots, its tender young leaves are also tasty when chopped fine and added to salads or steamed or sautéed. Plants are grown best in relatively cool weather.

Types with round, red roots range from old favorites 'Detroit Dark Red' to newer varieties like 'Early Wonder' and 'Red Ace'. There are also varieties that have long cylindrical roots, rings of red and white, golden yellow, purple or white roots.

How to Grow it

Best Site: Choose a spot where beets won't be shaded by taller plants.

Soil: Well-drained, without lumps or rocks.

Planting: In hot-climates, like ours, sow seed in early spring or late summer so that plants will mature in the mild weather for fall and winter harvest. Sow seeds according to the packet recommendations.

Harvest: Start by harvesting the tender young leaves when you thin rows. Begin harvesting roots when they are 1 inch wide, and complete harvesting before they exceed 3 inches.

Challenges: Beets may attract flea beetles, leaf-hoppers and leaf miners; plant under row covers. Temperature or moisture stress causes roots to become woody.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

Sunset Western Garden Book of Edibles

Recipe of the Month

UPSIDE-DOWN CARAMEL APRICOT TART

From: aheadofthyme.com

Prep time: 15 minutes Cook time: 50 minutes Yield: 8 servings

My apricot tree is producing well this year, fat juicy apricots are one of the first fruits of summer and I am always on the lookout for new ways to use them. This recipe was a hit at our house.

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup water
2 cups sugar, divided
1/2 teaspoon sea salt flakes
2 tablespoon unsalted butter + 1/2 cup (1 stick at room temperature - divided)
3 tablespoon heavy cream
5 apricots halved and pitted
1 1/2 cups all purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 large eggs, room temperature
1/2 cup whole milk



INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F

In a small sauce pan combine water and 1 cup of sugar and the salt. Bring to a boil and simmer without stirring for 6-7 minutes, until it becomes a deep amber color, swirl pan occasionally to ensure cooking evenly. Remove the pan from heat and add 2 tablespoons butter and the cream, swirl until well dissolved. Pour caramel mixture into a tart pan or 10" oven proof skillet. Place halved apricots rounded side down into the caramel.

In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside.

In a mixer bowl combine the remaining 1 cup sugar and 1/2 cup of butter, beat on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 3-4 minutes. Scrape down the sides of the bowl then add eggs one at a time, mixing well until fully combined. With the mixer on low, alternate adding the flour mixture and the milk, ending with the flour mixture. Mix for an additional minute. Dollop cake mixture evenly on top of apricots and smooth with a spatula. Bake for 40 minutes or until cake is golden brown and a knife comes out clean. Remove from the oven and place on a cooling rack for 1 minute (no longer or it will be hard to get out of the pan). Use a knife to loosed the edges of the cake then carefully invert onto a cake plate. Cool 5-10 minutes before slicing. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

Submitted by Sherry Maltby



MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

THINKING SAFE AND GREEN



**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

#14

GRASS TRIMMER SAFETY

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



Photograph Courtesy of UC IPM

Consumer Product Safety Commission data indicate more than 11,000 people were treated in hospitals for grass trimmer injuries during 2006. Most of the injuries were lacerations to the fingers, hands, and legs and foreign objects, lacerations, and contusions to the eyes. Other injuries included strains and sprains. Most grass trimmer injuries are avoidable and are due to operator inexperience or inattentive or improper handling of grass trimmers.

Pre-Use Activities

- Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the grass trimmer operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect the grass trimmer for damage or disrepair and make sure the cutting head and shield are securely in place. For electric grass trimmers inspect the electrical cord for fraying or damage.
- If a grass trimmer fails the pre-use inspection, remove the grass trimmer from service.

Operating Precautions

- Always wear safety glasses or goggles and gloves when using a grass trimmer.
- Wear long pants and sturdy shoes (i.e., no sneakers or sandals) when using a grass trimmer. Do not wear loose clothing.
- Always start a gasoline-powered grass trimmer outside. Do not operate a gasoline-powered grass trimmer inside an enclosed space (i.e., sheds or garages) where carbon monoxide exhaust gas can accumulate.
- Prior to starting, inspect the work area and pick up all loose objects (i.e., sticks, stones, pieces of glass/metal, etc.) that could be thrown by the grass trimmer.
- When working outdoors, wear the appropriate clothing and sun protection for the weather conditions and consume adequate amounts of fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Always operate the grass trimmer with the cutting head below the waist. Avoid overreaching with a grass trimmer.
- Exercise caution when trimming grass near trees or shrubs with low hanging branches.
- Never fuel a gasoline-powered grass trimmer when the engine is hot. Use a rag to wipe up fuel spills.
- Shut off the grass trimmer and disconnect the spark plug wire or electric cord before performing mechanical adjustments, maintenance, or repairs or clearing/unclogging the underside of the cutting attachment and shield.
- Maintain the grass trimmer according to the manufacturer's instructions, including cleaning, lubricating, and storage of the grass trimmer.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	July	August	September
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can still plant seeds of annuals: zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers and alyssum will grow and bloom this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale can be planted this month. Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers. Cut off spent flowers of perennials and annuals for continued bloom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September is a good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. It is also a good time to rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding. Put your spent annual and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile. Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to weed. Be especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds. Check the mulch you have spread around and be sure it is thick enough to suppress weeds. (3 to 4 inches) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.

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.

July

- 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.
- [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.
- [Bacterial blast, blight, and canker](#) - Inspect apple, citrus and especially *Prunus* spp. (e.g., stone fruit). Remove entire affected branches in the summer, making cuts several inches away in healthy wood.
- [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.
- [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as leafminer.
- [Clean up](#) mummies and old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests.
- [Clearwing moths](#) - Look for signs of boring in ash, birch, pine, poplar, and willow; less often in oak, sycamore, and stone fruits.
- [Coast redwood dieback](#) - Check for drought-stress related maladies such as abiotic disorders, bark beetles, fungal diseases, and spider mites. [Deep water trees](#) and apply mulch.
- [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 fruit trees and grapes with netting to [exclude birds](#) and other [vertebrate pests](#).
- Cypress, or Seridium, [canker](#) - Prune dying branches at least 6 inches below any apparent cankers. Irrigate appropriately. Replace severely affected trees.
- 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.
- [Eutypa dieback](#) - Prune apricot and cherry.
- [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.

Seasonal IPM Checklist

- [Green fruit beetle](#) in fig and stone fruits - Plant varieties that mature early or late in the season, avoid varieties that mature midseason.
- [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.
- [Leaffooted bug](#) - Look for feeding on fruit and nuts such as almonds, pistachios, and pomegranates.
- [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 [gall wasps](#) - Usually do no serious harm to oaks. Control is very difficult.
- [Olive knot](#) and [oleander gall, or knot](#) - Prune off galled branches if intolerable.
- [Powdery mildew](#) - Check for signs of disease on apple, crape myrtle, grape, rose, and stone fruits.
- [Redhumped caterpillars](#) - Monitor trees such as liquidambar, redbud, stone fruits, and walnut. Cut off shoots infested with groups of young caterpillars. Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* or spinosad.
- [Root rot](#) - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
- [Rose pests](#) - Manage or take preventive actions for powdery mildew.
- [Spider mites](#) - Irrigate adequately, mist leaf undersides daily, reduce dustiness, spray horticultural oil.
- [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.

Master Gardeners 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

Arthropods—invertebrate organisms of the animal kingdom that includes insects, spiders, and Crustacea; organisms characterized by an external skeleton and legs with movable segments or joints.

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

No Garden Club in July.

Did a friend send you this newsletter?

- You can get your own newsletter sent directly to your inbox by [clicking here](#).



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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