University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Colusa County

A Garden Runs Through It

September 2021

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

In This Issue

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Upcoming events

September

Colusa County Benefits Fair
September 15
10:30 to 1 pm
Colusa County Fairgrounds

October

Williams Flea Market
550 8th St., Williams
October 1
9 to noon

Pumpkin Centerpiece workshop
Coming in October!
Watch for details

Advice to Grow by … Ask Us!

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visit: theplantmasters.com

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

AUGUST 2021 - DROUGHT PART 1
UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County, Gerry, Cynthia, Danny, Bonnie, and Penny, discuss drought topics in a two-part series.

SEPTEMBER 2021 - DROUGHT PART 2
UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County, Gerry, Cynthia, Pam, Diane, and John, continue the drought discussion in this two-part series

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Ornamental Plant of the Month

Spring Flowering Bulbs, Corms, Tubers and Rhizomes

By Susanne von Rosenberg, UC Master Gardener of Napa County

I really liked this article out of the Napa County blog!

Can you believe it's already September and we're headed into fall gardening season? It's time to assess what you would like to grow this autumn.

Now is the right time to plant cool-season vegetables, fall annual flowers and—as soon as the rains start—California native plants It's also the moment to plant spring-flowering bulbs.

I love bulbs because they are so easy to care for and add such beauty and joy to my garden. Bulbs to plant now include daffodils, crocus, many types of lilies, bearded iris and tulips. Plant freesia, canna, begonias, gladiolus, crocosmia and dahlias in late winter and early spring for summer bloom.

There are five major types of plants that we refer to as bulbs: true bulbs, corms, tubers, rhizomes and tuberous roots. Bulbs store food (in the form of carbohydrates) to support growth and flowering for the next growth cycle. Most are perennials, although some, such as hyacinths, can be short-lived. Bulbs initially produce leaves, followed by flowers. Bulbs need only a light application of fertilizer after the leaves emerge.

After flowering and the growing season end, bulbs typically go dormant and the plant dies down to the ground. For bulbs that flower in spring, the growing season lasts until late spring or early summer. To ensure that your bulbs continue flowering year after year, keep the leaves until they naturally die back or turn yellow. You can cut back dead flower stalks at the base at any time. After the plant flowers, its leaves continue to produce carbohydrates to store in the bulb.

Water as needed to keep the leaves alive for the rest of their growing season. (Too much water may cause the bulbs to mildew or rot.) After you remove the leaves, you can dig up the bulbs and store them in a cool, dark, dry place, or you can leave them in the ground. Some bulbs need to be divided regularly to keep flowering well. If you leave bulbs in the ground and they are not performing well, consider digging them up and dividing them.

Daffodils, tulips, lilies, amaryllis and hyacinths are all true bulbs. True bulbs are composed of a series of leaves modified for food storage. Onions and garlic are also bulbs; when you cut through an onion, the rings you see are the leaves. Garlic and lilies form a looser bulb. All true bulbs root from the bottom. If you're not quite sure which side is the bottom, plant the bulb sideways.

Corms are another common type of bulb. Instead of modified leaves, corms are modified stems. The bottom of a corm is actually the base of a stem. Corms are easy to confuse with true bulbs because they look a lot like them. To know whether you're looking at a true bulb or a corm, cut the bulb in half to view its internal structure. If it's solid, it's a corm. If you see rings, it's a true bulb.

Continue to the next page...

Ornamental Plant of the Month

From the previous page...

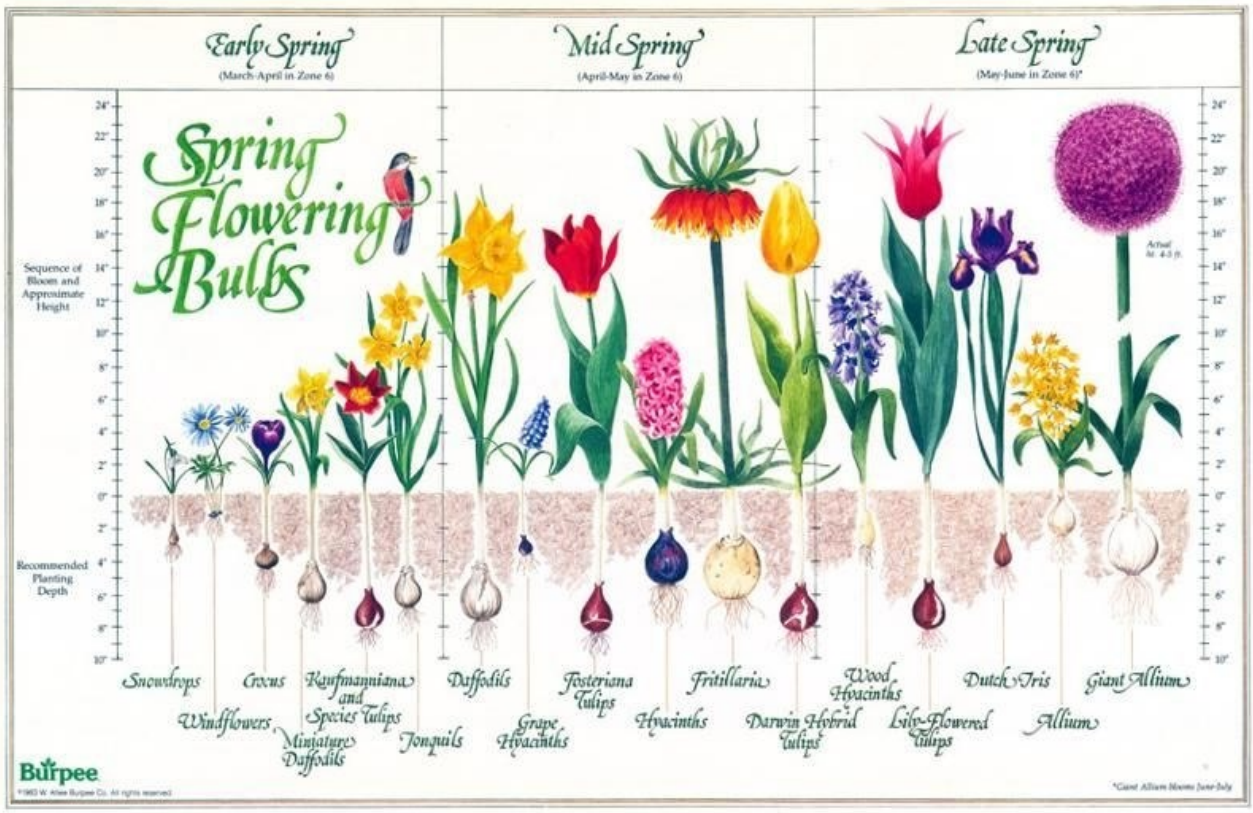
Freesias, crocus, gladiolas, watsonia and my favorite, crocosmia, are corms, as are water chestnuts. Some corms, like freesias and watsonia, have a kind of furry covering. Buds are located on the tops of the corm, and roots and baby corms (cormels) grow from the bottom.

Tubers are also underground stems. They differ from corms in that they are not the base of the stem. Common flowering tubers include anemones, begonia and cyclamen. Tubers have nodes (on potatoes, we call them eyes) that can appear anywhere on the tuber and sprout both new shoots and new roots. Other tubers you might be familiar with include yams, turmeric and ginger. Tubers can grow in any direction.

Rhizomes are elongated bulbs that are a type of underground stem. Unlike tubers, they only grow horizontally. Calla lilies, cannas and bearded iris are examples of rhizomes. (Dutch iris is a true bulb.) Leaves and buds grow only from the top of a rhizome, and roots grow only from the bottom. Rhizomes can sometimes emerge above the surface of the soil, and rhizomatous bulbs should generally be planted shallowly.

The last major type of bulb is a tuberous root. Tuberous bulbs are thickened roots that radiate from a central stem. Agapanthus, society garlic, dahlias and day lilies have tuberous roots. The growth buds are at the base of old stems, not on the tuberous roots.

Different bulbs require different planting depths. Plant bearded iris just below the soil surface; plant tulips deeply, up to eight inches deep in loose soil. For recommended planting depth, consult your bulb source or a reputable online source. The Sacramento Master Gardener website has a great bulb-planting schedule that also provides information on planting depth and spacing.



Consejos Que Le Ayudarán....

¡Pregúntenos!

Programa Jardinero Maestro de UC

En el Mercado de Pulgas Williams, 9 am de mediodia.

4 de junio, 2 de julio, 6 de agosto, 3 de setiembre, 1 de octubre

UNIVERSIDAD DE CALIFORNIA
Agricultura y Recursos Naturales
Programa Maestro de Jardinero UC

Advice To Grow By....

Ask Us!

UC Master Gardener Program

At the Williams Flea Market, 9 am to noon.

June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources
UC Master Gardener Program

Edible Plant of the Month

WILD BLACKBERRIES ARE NOT ALWAYS WHO YOU THINK THEY ARE

Yes, blackberry brambles can be a PAIN IN THE NECK, if you get poked, a pain in the skin. They can tear at your clothing, make you swear, and turn your fingers and mouth a deep blue while giving a go at picking them.

Perhaps you have noticed a blackberry bush or two on your property, in your neighborhood or during your travels. Did you know these are not all natives? I always thought they were until noticed some produced a bit larger fruit than others, leaves were different and growth habits also made me scratch my head.

California Blackberry (Rubus ursinus) historically grew along our waterways and along our coast. It normally grows in a shrub or vine type growth pattern, forming dense brambles. It loves moisture. It grows from Baja all the way to Canada and fruits from mid to late summer into fall.

Himalayan blackberries (Rubus armeniacus), however, have taken over many of our native blackberry's former haunts. This introduced species can grow in the same areas as well as dry soils, full sun or complete shade. It is not picky. Due to it's vigorous spreading, Himalayan blackberry must be managed to not overtake or shade out seedlings of other native species such as oak, cottonwood, or pine.

How to distinguish the two. The leaves of the Himalayan species are cordate, or heart shaped, with finely serrated edges. The five petals of the Himalayan blackberry are generally fuller and wider than the Pacific blackberry and the thorns are more abundant on the non-native. Due to the Himalayan blackberry's robust nature, it grows large and spreads rapidly. It can invade almost any open space, such as oak woodlands, meadows, and roadsides. It can clog up water flows in creeks. While many plants lie dormant during the winter months, Himalayan blackberry stands out like a giant mass of green and reddish leaves with its weaving, giant thorny arms

Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen

Book of the Month

For the Love of Trees: A Celebration of People and Trees

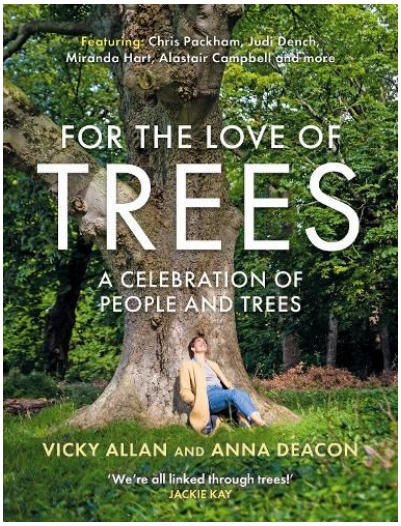
Sometimes when the day has been too full or you don't really want to get into another long term agenda for reading you can be happy picking up something and just reading a few pages. If you ever find yourself in this place then you want to have a copy of *For the Love of Trees*. The book is compiled by Vicky Allan and Anna Deacon and is a story of people who love trees.

From tree sitters to nature lawyers, from climbers to climate strikers, from planters to pruners, from forest therapists to trauma survivors, from city gardeners to rewilders - these are voices of passion, sorrow, anger, nurture, solace and wonder. Around a quarter of the stories featured will be from well-known figures such as Chris Packham, Judi Dench, David Attenborough and Jon Snow. I'm not suggesting that you read it because of the famous people who have offered their thoughts and opinions about trees. I believe you will find solace in the pages that can just give your mind a rest. I have found the need for that frequently in the past couple of years. The book will not change any of the current events we face but it will offer respite and sometimes that is all we really need.

Trees are part of our past, our present and our future. There is no mistaking that. I will never forget when we were living in Florida, far from my native Chico, and my family told me of the end of the massive Hooker Oak in the edge of Bidwell Park. My mind was flooded with the memories of bike riding with friends, picnicking under the mighty branches and summer days when the biggest decision was if we had enough change to stop at Sno White drive in and get a frosty.

The end of the book speaks to "What Dan We Do?" and offers one hint that struck me – what kinds of trees are planted in your neighborhood? I might add to this – what are the names of the trees that we see on the news that are afire in the mountains right now – their burned skeletons will be a reminder for many years of our current danger level for our trees. All those trees lost to clean up the air, to cool us in summer and to marvel at in the winter under a mantle of snow.

During the lock down in Great Britain someone started a graffiti craze by chalking the names of trees on the sidewalks and pavement to provide inspiration for others. Not a bad thing to teach your grandchildren.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Recipe of the Month

Zucchini Mac and Cheese

Debbie Arrington, Sacramento Digs Gardening

Makes 4 servings

1 pound zucchini, grated (about 3 cups)
1 teaspoon salt
2 to 3 tablespoons butter
1/3 cup onion, finely chopped
½ cup cream
1 cup elbow macaroni (uncooked)
Water
Salt
Butter to grease baking dish
¼ cup Parmesan cheese, grated

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Prepare zucchini. Remove any large hard seeds. Grate squash with skin on using a coarse grater.

Salt grated zucchini and place in a colander over a bowl.

Let drain at least 5 minutes, pressing gently to remove excess moisture.

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat.

Sauté onion in butter until soft.

Add zucchini and sauté, stirring often, until most of the moisture is evaporated and squash is very soft, about 5 minutes.

Add cream and stir until blended.

Bring to a boil, then reduce heat. Stir until slightly thickened, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat.

Meanwhile, prepare elbow macaroni according to package directions. Drain.

Add cooked macaroni to zucchini sauce in pan. Stir to combine.

Butter an 8-inch baking dish.

Put zucchini-macaroni mixture into prepared dish.

Sprinkle top with Parmesan cheese.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes, until cheese turns golden.

Let cool 5 minutes before serving.

This sauce is a variation of Julia Child's recipe for grated zucchini sautéed with shallots, also known as zucchini butter. It's wonderful with all sorts of pasta – long, short or twisty.

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.

	September
☐	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.
☐	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.
☐	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.
☐	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 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.
☐	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.
☐	Oak gall wasps - Usually do no serious harm to oaks. Control is very difficult.
☐	Plant California natives. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site. Water regularly to keep root zone moist, but not soggy.
☐	Prune evergreen, summer-flowering shrubs.
☐	Root rot - Favored by excessive water and poor drainage. Avoid overirrigation and waterlogged soil.
☐	Spider mites - Irrigate adequately, mist leaf undersides daily, reduce dustiness, spray horticultural oil.

Seasonal IPM Checklist

- [ ] Yellowjackets - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps. Trapping is most effective during late winter to early spring.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	September	October	November
PLANTING	• .You can still plant seeds of annuals: zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers and alyssum will grow and bloom this year. 	• Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, you can direct seed cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, nigella, portulaca and sweet peas. • If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring. • Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.	• You can still sow seeds of wildflowers this month. Plant California poppy, calendula, clarkia, and sweet peas. • Plant seeds for lettuce, mustard, spinach, radishes and peas. • If you didn't get your new tree planted last month, it is not too late. • Plant chilled bulbs, spring flowering tubers and corms.
MAINTENANCE	• 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. • Deadhead blooming plants as they finish flowering to promote continuing bloom. • Cut back lavender after flowering to promote a second bloom.	• Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting. • This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. • Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present.	• Clean up all the fallen/falling leaves and other plant debris and dispose of diseased materials. • In the middle of the month fertilize the veggies and flowers that were planted in October.
PREVENTION	• If you have fruit trees, be sure to pick up dropped fruit to prevent brown rot from developing and leaving spores for future infection.	• Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin. • Once it begins to rain, turn off your irrigation. 	• Look at your camellias and remove excess buds to get larger flowers.

What is IPM?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) involves the use of environmentally sound and effective practices to keep pests from invading or damaging your home, garden, or landscape.

IPM usually combines several methods for long-term pest prevention and management to reduce harming you, your family, or the environment. Successful pest management begins with correctly identifying the pest and selecting the appropriate and most effective methods and materials.

CA Reynolds

Monitoring for pests using a hand lens.

Pest prevention and control around the home and landscape includes:

- Monitoring for the presence of pests and their damage
- Altering the home or garden environment to deprive pests of food, water, and shelter
- Keeping pests out by using barriers, screens, and caulk
- Planting pest-resistant or well-adapted plant varieties, such as native plants
- Discouraging various pests by modifying the way you design, irrigate, fertilize, and manage your garden
- Squashing, trapping, washing off, or pruning out pests
- Using mulch for weed control
- Encouraging beneficial insects to live in your garden

Biological control

Most gardens contain far more "good bugs," or beneficial insects, than pest insects. Beneficial organisms (also called natural enemies) kill pests and play an important role in IPM. Help beneficials by choosing plants that provide pollen and nectar, keeping ants out of pest-infested plants, and avoiding the use of certain pesticides that kill or harm the good bugs.

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

Learn about the adult and larval stages of common beneficials.

- Lady beetles (ladybugs): adults and larvae eat aphids.
- Lacewings: larvae feed on many insect pests; you'll often see adults around lights.
- Syrphid flies: larvae eat aphids; adults resemble honey bees and hover around flowers.
- Parasitic mini-wasps: many species lay their eggs inside pests such as aphids or caterpillars; after hatching, the larvae consume the pest and kill it.
- Spiders: all spiders feed on insects and other arthropods.

Lady beetle adult

Jack Kelly Clark

Lady beetle larva

What about pesticides?

- Most pests can be managed without using pesticides.
- Use pesticides only if nonchemical controls are ineffective and monitoring confirms that pests are reaching intolerable or damaging levels.
- If pesticides are necessary, use them in combination with the nonchemical methods described above.
- Choose pesticides carefully. Use the least toxic, yet effective material that targets the pests but has little impact on human health and the environment.
- Examples of least toxic pesticides include:
  - Soaps and oils for soft-bodied insects like aphids
  - Microbials such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) for caterpillars
  - Borate products in bait stations for ants
  - Dusts such as borate or silica in cracks or crevices for household pests

What you do in your home and landcape 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.

UC CE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Agriculture and Natural Resources
Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program
UC ANR is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
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May 2020

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!*

Garden Club of Colusa County activities

September 27 at 6:30 pm
St. Stephens Church
Colusa

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