



# A Garden Runs Through It

January 2023

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

UCCE Master Gardener Program, Colusa County  
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## In This Issue

- **Ornamental Plant of the Month**— *Festuca californica*
- **Edible Plant of the Month**— Leeked Italian Parsley
- **Recipe of the Month**— Corn Pudding
- **Book of the Month**— *The Shortest Day*
- **Garden Guide**
- **Safety Notes**

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## Upcoming events



### February

**Colusa Farm Show**  
February 7, 8, 9  
All day

### February

**Native Bee Workshop**  
February 15, 6 pm  
100 Sunrise Blvd., Conference Room

## Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





# Native Bees

Presented by

UCCE Master Gardener Program Colusa County

**When: Wednesday February 15**

**6 pm to 7:30 pm**

**Where: Colusa Industrial Properties  
100 Sunrise Blvd, Colusa**



- **Learn about native bees.**
- **And learn how to attract native bees to your garden.**

**Need Advice ...  
Ask Us!**



**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program  
Colusa County

## Stem-nesting bee biology and habitat

Amber Vinchesi-Vahl, Ph.D.

UCCE Vegetable Crops Advisor serving Colusa, Sutter and Yuba counties

As the temperatures begin to warm in February, you may start to see some activity by the early pollinators, like stem-nesting or cavity-nesting bees. Stem-nesting bees make up about 30% of solitary bees in California, the remaining 70% belongs to ground-nesting bees. Cavity nesters are solitary, which means they do not have a queen and each female mates for herself and builds her own nest. Despite the term solitary, many of these bees prefer nesting in aggregations or next to each other, though each female still provisions her own nest and the bees do not cooperate with each other like social bees do. Solitary bees can be generalists, foraging on many different plants for resources, or they can be specialists, preferring specific plants. Solitary bees tend to be less aggressive because there is no hive or queen to protect. Females can also sting you more than once. The stinger is a modified egg-laying body part, so males do not have the ability to sting. Honeybees are the only bee that loses its stinger when it stings because it then releases an alarm pheromone to alert the hive of danger.

Stem-nesting bees can be found in many different bee families and they build their nests in pre-existing holes or cavities. Females may construct nest cells out of mud, resin, leaves, or flower petals, depending on the species. Female solitary bees provision each brood cell with a pollen and nectar ball, lay an egg on the provision, and then seal the cell before continuing to the next cell until the cavity or stem is filled (Figure 1). The larvae develop on the pollen ball, pupate and generally emerge the following year as an adult, though some species have more than one generation per year. Adults will typically live 4-8 weeks.

A common commercial stem-nesting bee is the alfalfa leafcutting bee, imported from Canada to pollinate alfalfa grown for seed in the Pacific Northwest and in some parts of California. This little bee, *Megachile rotundata*, builds her nest cells out of leaf pieces that she cuts with her mandibles into perfect circles (Figure 2). Blue orchard bees, *Osmia* spp., are a type of mason bee and use mud to construct their nest cells (Figure 3). These bees are very efficient pollinators of almonds, cherries and applies and are being researched for their use as supplemental pollinators in orchards. Carpenter bees, *Xylocopa* spp., the large black or tan bees you commonly see in the summertime, are also stem nesters and prefer to nest in wood (Figure 4).

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You can provide habitat for stem-nesting bees in your own backyard by providing nesting sites. Hollow sticks, reeds, bamboo sections and drilled holes in wood will all provide habitat for stem-nesting bees because they prefer pre-existing cavities for their nests. They may not fill the whole length of the tunnel or cavity and prefer dead-end holes 4-6 inches deep and 3/16 to 5/16 in diameter. If you are drilling holes into a wooden block, be sure to use the same diameter sized holes since the bees prefer to nest in groups. Diversity of hole diameters in multiple nesting bundles will attract different species. If the inside of the tunnel is too rough, you can line them with straws or newspaper. You can also tie reeds or bamboo into stem bundles and hang these in a protected area. Place the nesting sites in bright, but protected areas and a few feet off the ground. It is important to replace stem-nesting sites every couple of years due to disease buildup. Place a new stem bundle or wood block next to the old one before the bees emerge and once they emerge, remove the old nesting site and the bees should nest in the new site. More information on stem-nesting bee habitat can be found in the Xerces Society handout, "Tunnel Nests for Native Bees: Nest Construction and Management" ([https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/13-054\\_02\\_XercesSoc\\_Tunnel-Nests-for-Native-Bees\\_web.pdf](https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/13-054_02_XercesSoc_Tunnel-Nests-for-Native-Bees_web.pdf)).

To attract pollinators, you will need a seasonal sequence of flowers blooming so that late winter/early spring pollinators have resources along with the fall pollinator species. Using native plants is preferred because they are adapted to the soil and climate and many native bees have evolved with the native plants.

**For more information on solitary bees, including ground-nesting bees, come to our Native and Solitary Bee Workshop at 6pm on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Colusa Industrial Park.**

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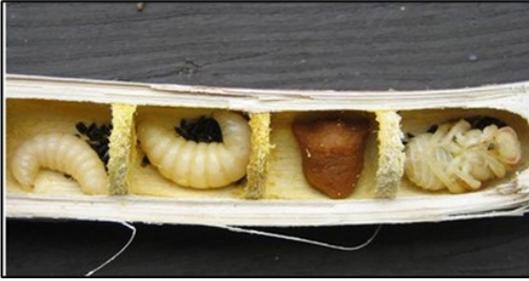


Figure 1. Cross-section of stem-nesting bee nest. Photo credit: Katharina Ullman, Xerces Society).



Figure 2. Alfalfa leafcutting bee nests.



Figure 3. Blue orchard bee nest box. Photo credit: Kathy Keatley Garvey.



Figure 4. Left: Female carpenter bee. Photo credit: Jack Kelly Clark. Right: Male carpenter bee. Photo credit: Richard S. Vetter.

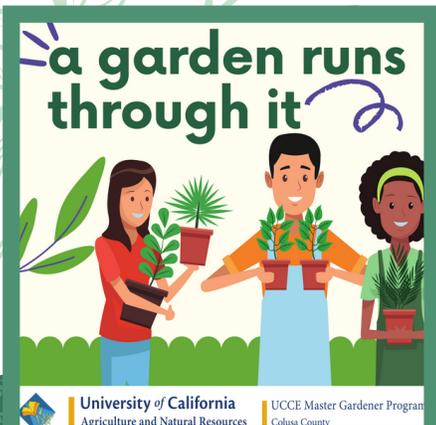
# Listen to our podcast

visit: [theplantmasters.com](http://theplantmasters.com)



## Winter Plant Gift Care

In this episode of "A Garden Runs Through It", Colusa County Master Gardener's Cynthia and Liz give Winter Plant Gift tips.



## How to listen?

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



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UCCE Master Gardener Program  
Colusa County

## Edible Plant of the Month

### LEEKED ITALIAN PARSLEY

Annelie is dealing with the weather. She will be back next month. Please enjoy this article from 2021.

Today I am going to write to you about two of our favorite vegies we plant in February. These two are in the top 10 in our much Dutch/American household.

**Leeks;** have you ever tried them? OMGosh, we eat them in soups, in salads or as a side, steamed and then drenched in a cheese (gouda) white sauce (and do not forget the nutmeg). Leeks are easy to grow in well drained soil and planted from seed! You can crowd them while planting and thin as they start to grow. As you thin, you will be picking spring onions, then shallots and finally leeks as you let them mature. I personally like my leeks BIG. When you harvest these, you must rinse in water, and then cut in rings from the bottom (discarding the roots of course) of the leek to the top, discarding any bad leaves and the very top of the green section. Soak again to get any lingering dirt/mud off, rinse and we are now ready for soup making. Melt 4 or 5 tablespoons (BUTTER) in a large stock or soup pot. Add the sliced and separated leek rings and sauté until the whites of the leek is almost transparent (like an onion). At this time add 4 or 5 tablespoons of FLOUR, and make a roux of sorts, while carefully adding a few cups of milk or cream or half and half and stir on a low setting until things thicken up. Now add chopped potatoes, and perhaps minced ham/bacon if you would like, and some chopped Italian parsley would also be a nice addition. Do not forget the salt, pepper and a bit of fresh nutmeg to taste. This is such an easy soup to make and so supercalifragilisticexpialidocious !!!!!

**Parsley:** In Holland we use strictly “Italian Parsley” which grows like the normal, boring stuff one finds as a garnish on their plate while dining out or dried and used in recipes such as soups or chicken dishes. Next time you shop for parsley seeds or a potted plant, go for the Italian one...the flavor is divine and nothing like you would expect. Italian Parsley will grow through the spring and summer and you can pick to use fresh in soups, stews, vegetable dishes or dry and use later. You will not go back the that boring “other” parsley after you taste what Italian Parsley has to offer. It’s so easy to grow from seed, or you can purchase starts later in the spring from various nurseries. Italian parsley can grow quite tall and become a larger type plant, so make sure one chooses an adequate sunny/semi shady spot in the garden where to corral them in. That being said, 1-3 plants is plenty to see you through the year unless you wish to share with neighbors. To harvest, one only needs to cut the top leaves to use. These plants are prolific and will keep producing as long as you keep watering and trimming. Planting this parsley of all parsleys would be well suited to grow in a deep pot by the back door so one could grab a handful to use in the kitchen when need be.



Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen

Safety Note #203

## Winter Storm Preparedness



During the winter months, weather systems can result in periods of heavy rain, high winds, snow fall in mountainous regions, and the potential for flooding. When severe winter weather threatens to impact portions of California, we recommend staying informed and taking precautions both at work and at home, using the following **Winter Weather Safety Tips**:

### STAY INFORMED:

- Monitor the weather reports provided by your local news media. Emergency information will be provided through radio and TV broadcasts and via Wireless Emergency Alerts texted to cell phones (<http://calalerts.com>).
- Most counties have text or email alerting systems for emergency notifications, targeted to your area. To find out what alerts are available in your area, do an Internet search with your town, city, or county name and the word “alerts” or “emergency notification.”
- Think about how you will stay informed if there is a power outage. Have extra batteries for a battery-operated radio and your cell phone. Consider having a hand crank radio or cell phone charger.
- Establish communication plans for emergencies. You should have a plan for the workplace and for your family. You may not be together when disaster strikes, so think about how you will communicate and where you will meet. Practice and review your plan.
- Know your evacuation routes, identify several escape routes for your location if roads are blocked; include plans for evacuating pets/livestock.
- If you will evacuate by car, keep your gas tank at least half-full, car maintained in good condition, and a “Go Bag” of emergency supplies and a change of clothes in the vehicle.
- If you may need to evacuate to a shelter, download the American Red Cross Shelter Finder app. This app displays open shelters and provides the capacity and current population. Visit [www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/shelter-finder-app](http://www.redcross.org/mobile-apps/shelter-finder-app) (you can also text SHELTER + your ZIP code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find the nearest shelter in your area.)

### PREPARE AND PROTECT:

Take steps to prepare and protect your home and workplace from winter weather and storm damage:

- Have employee contact information on hand and the ability to communicate after business hours; the attached Employee Emergency Contact List template may be useful for managers/supervisors.
- Determine if employees can work from home. Establish a plan for days in which employees are unable to physically come into the office. Review telecommute tips and guidance here: [https://safety.ucanr.edu/Programs/emergency/Current\\_Health\\_Alerts/Guidance\\_for\\_Telecommuters/](https://safety.ucanr.edu/Programs/emergency/Current_Health_Alerts/Guidance_for_Telecommuters/) or see UC ANR Human Resources information about remote work agreements: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/ANRSPU/ELR/Telecommuting/>
- Store vital records/documents safely, and have backups. Vital paper copies that cannot be replaced should be scanned in advance, and the hardcopy kept in a fireproof, waterproof box or file cabinet. Records that can be kept electronically should be backed-up, by use of an external hard drive, flash drive, and/or secure cloud-based service. Remember cybersecurity for your data and backups, see <https://it.ucanr.edu/Security/>
- Anticipate power outages. Charge all personal devices while power is available and have flashlights with spare batteries readily accessible.
- Keep gutters and drains free of debris, however do not work at heights in wet/slippery weather.
- If you live or work in flood-prone areas, keep emergency building materials handy, such as plywood, plastic sheeting, and sandbags for waterproofing.

- Insulate water pipes with insulation or newspaper and plastic. Know how to shut off water valves if a pipe bursts.
- Check with your location's Facilities or Operations departments about ways to protect pipes from freezing. In some cases, it may be advised that during freezing conditions water faucets be left slightly open, to allow them to drip, in order to keep water flowing through the pipes that are most vulnerable to freezing. This may not be advised in newer facilities/construction.
- Winterize your home or workplace by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weather-stripping doors and windows, and weather/water-proofing basements.
- Replace the windshield wipers on your vehicles every fall.
- If the power goes out, close off unused rooms to consolidate and retain heat.
- NEVER use generators, outdoor heating or cooking equipment, or a gasoline or propane heater INDOORS.

#### **IF YOU MUST GO OUT IN THE STORM:**

- Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during the storm, dress in warm, loose layers of clothing. Advise others of your destination, route and expected time of arrival.
- When you must go out, watch for hazards such as fallen trees and power poles, serious flooding, landslides, mud and rocks on the road, or pavement slipping.
- If you see flood water on roads, walkways, bridges, and on the ground, do NOT attempt to cross. The depth of the water is not always obvious and the roadbed may be washed out under the water.
- Moving water has tremendous power. A mere 6 inches of moving water can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of moving water to carry away a small car, while 2 feet of moving water can easily sweep an SUV off the road.
- Keep away from downed power lines and any other electrical wires, nearby water may be charged.

#### **FIVE P's of EVACUATION:**

Be ready to grab essential items quickly if asked to Evacuate. Consider the five P's of evacuation:

- **People** – and if safely possible, pets and other animals or livestock;
- **Prescriptions** – with dosages, medicines, medical equipment, eyeglasses, hearing aids, etc.
- **Papers** – including important documents and flash drives/thumb drives;
- **Personal Needs** – such as clothes, cash, protection;
- **Priceless Items** – including pictures, irreplaceable mementos and valuables.

#### **Relevant Safety Notes:**

For more detail on related topics, see these Safety Notes: [166 Office Preparedness for Emergencies](#), [167 Be Informed about Emergencies](#), [168 Make a Plan for Emergencies](#), [169 Build a Kit of Emergency Supplies](#), [189 Preparedness for Supervisors/Directors](#) or the [Fact Sheet on Flooding](#) from the ANR [Disasters Happen](#) Guide.

## Book of the Month

### *The Shortest Day*



My book for December isn't about plants but it is the story of the most important aspect of growing things – the change of light in our lives. Today is the shortest day of the year also called the winter solstice. It is a signal that deepest winter is still here but the days are moving toward the light and all the hope of spring. I bought this book several years ago for our great granddaughter but can't part with it yet.

The text of the book is a poem Cooper wrote in the 1970s for The Christmas Revels, an annual celebration of the solstice. It has been read at solstice events for more than 40 years. Carson Ellis illustrated the poem. She begins the book with wordless spreads. These are "atmospheric landscapes," she explains, "meant to feel a little bit bleaker on each page." Ellis didn't get it quite right on the first try.

"I started to mock this book up in this way that had ... merry villagers reveling on their way to a solstice celebration," Ellis says. The illustrations were cheerful and lighthearted.

dawning." Cooper says she hopes the book helps communicate a universal and timeless message of hope and peace.

Working on the book helped Ellis see beyond specific religious traditions associated with winter holidays. "It's more universal ..." she says. "It really is just kind of light triumphing over darkness. And once that year switches and those days begin to lengthen, it's a new year — and light is always a cause to celebrate."

Happy solstice!

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Book review continued.

## ***The Shortest Day***

*by Susan Cooper and Carson Ellis*

Hardcover, 32 pages

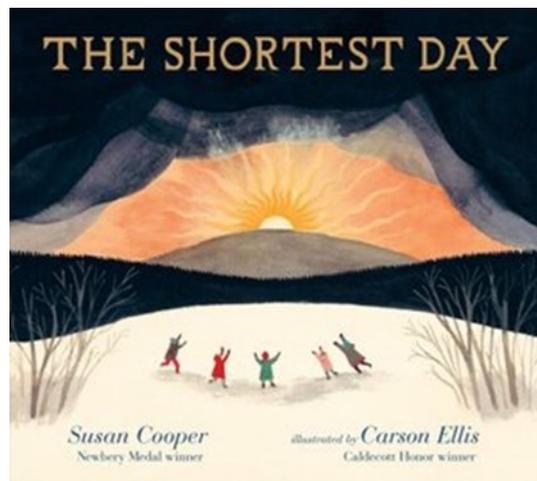
Cooper explained that although the poem is about the return of light, the book needed to convey the depth of darkness, especially in olden times. "It's a book about deeper and more serious stuff ..." Ellis says. "This sense that, long ago, those shortening days, along with them came a lot of dread associated with the cold, and starvation, and disease."

Their correspondence completely changed Ellis' approach to the poem, which, she admits, was daunting. "I read the letter and thought, 'Oh, gosh, this is a much harder book,' " she recalls.

So Ellis switched gears and made illustrations that told the story of traditions that developed around the solstice – she says the winter holidays are an extension of the joy and relief of light gradually returning after a long winter. More than half the book depicts darkness and then ... "When the sun rose on the morning after the shortest day, I wanted it to feel really joyous," Ellis says. "I wanted a sublime sunrise and a blue sky and it to feel like a new day and a new dawning." Cooper says she hopes the book helps communicate a universal and timeless message of hope and peace.

Working on the book helped Ellis see beyond specific religious traditions associated with winter holidays. "It's more universal ..." she says. "It really is just kind of light triumphing over darkness. And once that year switches and those days begin to lengthen, it's a new year – and light is always a cause to celebrate."

Happy solstice!



Submitted by Cynthia White

## Ornamental Plant of the Month

### My Favorite Arboretum All-Star

#### *Festuca californica*

The arboretum horticultural staff garden with many species of plants and, over the years, have gained unique insights into which plants work well in our area, even under difficult conditions. After narrowing down their favorites to a list, testing them in the Arboretum as well as field trials throughout the state, they picked these 100, hence the name, "Arboretum All-Stars."

#### Description

California Fescue is a beautiful mid sized clumping grass with silver blades.

Perennial native plant; tolerates summer drought and various soil types, and is long lived; has graceful, gray-green leaves and airy flowers that mature to a golden yellow color.

To see all the All Stars click on this link.

<https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum-all-stars>

I have several plants at my house and I love them.



Submitted by Gerry Hernandez

## Recipe of the Month

### Corn Pudding

adapted from Ina Garten  
My alternates are in ( ).

1 stick butter

5-6 cups fresh corn kernels cut off the cob, 6 to 8 ears

(be sure to scrape the "milk" off the cobs, too!)

(or equivalent of frozen corn; canned works, too, in a pinch)

1 medium to large onion, chopped

4 extra-large eggs

(or 5 large eggs)

1 cup milk

1 cup half-and-half

(or cream or evaporated milk or coconut milk)

1/2 cup yellow cornmeal

1 cup ricotta cheese

(or cottage cheese run through the blender or food processor = no lumps)

3 tablespoons chopped fresh basil leaves

(this did not sound good to me, I left it out, but on-line reviewers usually liked it)

(or parsley, or chives, or sage, or thyme, or a 4 oz can of diced green chilies)

1 tablespoon sugar

1 tablespoon kosher salt

(be careful here! 1 teaspoon of table salt is plenty)

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

6 ounces grated extra-sharp cheddar

(or gruyere, or parmesan, or pepper jack)

plus extra to sprinkle on top.

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### **Instructions**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Butter a 10-cup baking dish, like a casserole or gratin, both work.

A deeper dish takes longer to cook, but stays extra creamy.

Melt the butter and saute the corn and onion over medium-high heat.

You want to soften the onion and cook off some of the corn liquid.

Cool slightly so you don't scramble the eggs when you put it all together!

Whisk together the eggs, milk, and half-and-half in a large bowl.

Whisk in the cornmeal and then the ricotta.

Add the basil (or other seasonings), salt and pepper.

Add the cooked corn mixture and grated cheese, and pour into the baking dish.

Sprinkle the top with more grated cheese.

Place the baking dish in a larger pan, place both in the oven.

THEN fill the larger pan 1/2 way up the sides of the baking dish with hot tap water.

This helps prevent slopping hot water into your unbaked custard!

Bake the pudding for 40 to 45 minutes for a gratin dish about an hour plus for a casserole

OR until a knife inserted near the center just comes out clean.

Be careful removing the pans from the oven! They are hot and heavy.

Don't over bake - the dish should be "custardy".

Carefully remove the baking dish from the water bath to stop the cooking process.

Serve warm.

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**NOTES:**

I had planned to serve this for Christmas Eve with my ham, and then forgot to make it!

When I did make it, my deep casserole dish took an hour and 15 min for the custard to set.

You can reheat in a 275 oven, covered, or in microwave on DEFROST setting.

I saw a comment where cold leftovers were made into patties, dipped in flour, beaten egg, and then seasoned crumbs, and finally pan fried in butter to rave reviews.

I also saw a review that suggested adding cooked bacon, ham, shrimp or sausage!

Another replaced the ricotta with sour cream and another with goat cheese.

Another reviewer suggested adding diced jalapeno or bell pepper with the onions.

I made a batch recently with diced green chilies, some garlic and with pepper jack cheese - good!

I could also see adding diced green bell pepper and/or celery with the onions.

Roasted red bell peppers or jarred pimentos would work, too.

I want to try this again and separate the eggs, whipping the whites separately, adding them in last, to make this more "souffle-like".



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach



# 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.

# Gardening Guide

## UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	January	February	March
<b>P L A N T I N G</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant rhubarb, strawberries, and cane berries. Plant seeds for broccoli, cabbage, parsley, turnips, peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach.</li> <li>Plant bare root roses, trees, artichoke crowns, grapevines.</li> <li>Plant pansies, violas, snapdragons, and fairy primroses.</li> <li>Plant gladiolus every 2 weeks for a succession of blooms.</li> <li>Divide Shasta daisies, daylilies, chrysanthemums, and other perennials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant in vegetable garden by direct seeding: radishes, beets, chard, and peas.</li> <li>Start tomato, pepper and eggplant seeds indoors.</li> <li>Flowers to transplant or direct seed: snapdragon, candytuft, larkspur, coral bells, and stock.</li> <li>Plant bulbs for summer bloom: dahlias, begonias, gladiolus, lilies, etc.</li> <li>Plant potatoes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare garden beds by incorporating compost before planting spring vegetables. You can plant lettuce, carrots, and cilantro directly in the vegetable bed. Mid-March is a good time to plant potatoes.</li> <li>You can plant canna, gladiolus, and crocosmia for summer blooms.</li> <li>Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil.</li> </ul>
<b>M A I N T E N A N C E</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roses, fruit trees and other perennials can be pruned this month.</li> <li>Do not prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom.</li> <li>Prune berry canes that bore fruit last year to the ground.</li> <li>Prune grapevines back, leaving 2 to 3 buds per side shoot.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell.</li> <li>Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts.</li> <li>Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight.</li> <li>Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials.</li> <li>Mulch 3 inches deep to conserve soil moisture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fertilize roses, annuals flowers, and berries with slow-release fertilizer when spring growth begins.</li> <li>Fertilize citrus and deciduous fruit trees.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>P R E V E N T I O N</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spray horticultural oil on pruned fruit trees to control scale, mites and aphids. Thorough coverage will kill over-wintering eggs.</li> <li>Later in the month, spray neem oil on roses to control mildew, rust, and black spot. Do not apply oils unless there will be 24 hours of dry weather following application.</li> <li>Be sure to clean up debris (leaves and twigs) around roses and fruit trees to help prevent disease.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch for aphids on spring blooming bulbs; remove with a strong spray of water.</li> <li>As the weather warms prepare to battle slugs and snails with traps or pet-friendly baits.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance.</li> <li>Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them.</li> <li>Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small.</li> </ul>

# 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.

## January

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, wind, and too much or little water.
- [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.
- [Compost](#) - Turn and keep it moist. Cover during rainy weather if needed to avoid sogginess.
- Continue [rainy-season prevention of diseases](#), [earwigs](#), [snails and slugs](#), and [weeds](#).
- [Frost](#) - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.
- 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.
- [Mistletoe](#) - Prune off infected branches.
- [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.
- [Pine](#) bark beetles, pitch moths, western gall rust, and wood borers - If pines need branch removal, prune during October through January.
- [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.
- [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.

## 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

**Palisade layer**—A layer of tightly spaced, elongated cells lying under the upper epidermis of leaves. Photosynthesis is most active in these cells.

If you attended one of your workshops, you will receive an email from [mgevaluation@ucanr.edu](mailto: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

January 23, 6:30 pm  
St. Stephen's 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](http://ipm.ucanr.edu)
- UC Davis Arboretum [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)
- Invasive Plants [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)
- Plant Right [www.plantright.org](http://www.plantright.org)
- Save Our Water [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com)
- California Garden Web [cagardenweb.ucanr.edu](http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu)
- McConnell Arboretum and Botanical Gardens [turtlebay.org](http://turtlebay.org)
- UCANR Colusa County [cecolusa.ucanr.edu](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu)
- UC Master Gardener Program (statewide) [mg.ucanr.edu](http://mg.ucanr.edu)
- California Backyard Orchard [homeorchard.ucanr.edu](http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu)
- ANR publications [anrcatalog.ucanr.edu](http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu)

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# Ants

**Although ants are annoying when they come indoors, they can be beneficial by feeding on fleas, termites, and other pests in the garden.**



D. H. CHOE

Argentine ants trailing on pavement.

While spraying chemicals inside the house might seem effective, doing so will not prevent more ants from entering. Because most ants live outdoors, focus efforts on keeping ants from entering buildings. Combine several methods such as caulking entryways, cleaning up food sources, and baiting when necessary. Avoid using pyrethroids (e.g., bifenthrin and cypermethrin), especially on hard surfaces such as driveways or sidewalks or around the foundation of buildings. These products pollute waterways.

## Make your house less attractive to ants.

- Caulk cracks and crevices that provide entry into the house.
- Store food attractive to ants in closed containers.
- Clean up grease and spills.
- Ant-proof kitchen garbage pails with sticky barriers such as petroleum jelly under the lip and place pet dishes in a moat of water.
- Remove or manage sweet food sources next to your house such as aphid-infested bushes and ripened fruit on trees.
- Keep plants, grass, and organic mulch at least a foot away from the foundation of buildings to reduce ant foraging and nesting.

For more information about managing pests, visit [ipm.ucanr.edu](http://ipm.ucanr.edu) or your local University of California Cooperative Extension office.

## When ants invade your house.

- Sponge up invading ants with soapy water as soon as they enter.
- Plug up ant entryways with caulk.
- Take infested potted plants outdoors and submerge pots in a solution of insecticidal soap and water.
- Clean up food sources by wiping up spills or placing food in tight-fitting containers.
- Rely on outdoor baits to control the ant colony.
- Insecticide sprays shouldn't be necessary.
- If you hire a pest control company, ask them to use baits and spot treatments rather than perimeter treatments or monthly sprays.

## How ant baits work:

Pesticide baits work by attracting worker ants who then take the product back to the nest where the entire colony, including queens, can be killed. The pesticide must be slow acting so workers won't be killed before they get back to the nest.



Ant bait stations.

## How to use baits:

- Place baits near ant trails and nest openings.
- Prepackaged or refillable bait stations or stakes are the safest and easiest to use. Active ingredients in baits may include boric acid/borate, fipronil, avermectin, or hydramethylnon.
- Liquid borate (0.5-1% borate in sugar water solution) baits in refillable bait stations are best for severe Argentine ant infestations.
- Replace baits when empty and reposition them, or try a different bait product if ants don't appear to be taking it.
- It can take 5 to 10 days to see fewer ants.

## 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.