



# A Garden Runs Through It

October 2023

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

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*Upcoming events*

[Listen to our Podcast](#)



We have no upcoming events.  
Visit the Donna Critchfield demonstration garden in  
Williams at the Education Village!



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





## The UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County are inviting people to join our team.

UC Master Gardeners are trained by experts in their field. You don't need to be an expert in gardening or have a nice garden. We will teach you where to find information. If we don't know an answer, then we say, "I don't know but I will look it up and get back to you."

Trainings are in Yuba City starting January 24 to May 8 but only once a week.

You can volunteer for any or all our activities!

Some of the activities that we do in Colusa County include:

### **Booths at events**

- Colusa Farm Show
- Children Services Family Fair
- Colusa County Fair
- Colusa County Employee Benefits and Safety Fair
- Plant Clinic

### **Workshops**

- Landscape Tree
- Pumpkin Centerpieces
- Wreath making

### **Donna Critchfield demonstration garden in Williams**

- Grow vegetables to distribute to the food distribution.
- Workshops & Open Gardens

### **We also have:**

- Monthly Podcast
- Monthly Newsletter
- Weekly articles in the Pioneer Review
- Website



If you or someone you know are interested in becoming a Master Gardener, let us know. The application and information are available on our website [cecolusa.ucanr.edu](http://cecolusa.ucanr.edu) or in our office at 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E, Colusa.

# Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite St., Williams

## Vegetables

The winter vegetable garden has been planted, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage. Seed crops such as carrots, beets, kale, spinach, radishes, peas, and spinach have also been planted. As vegetables mature they will be distributed at the Ministerial food distribution.

## Landscape

The 10 x 10 water-wise landscape was planted in November 2022. Every time we look at the landscape garden it gets bigger! We are so happy with it. We have to replace 2 plants this fall.

We are purchasing landscape plants for another 10 x 10 landscape. As soon as it rains, we will plant them. Right now the soil is hard as a rock.

The 14 salvia plants have been planted in the landscape area. We have lots of colors and species of plants. The blue Adirondack chairs are in the salvia area and they look awesome. Come to the garden and check them out.

A bench is in the landscape area, ow you can enjoy the garden while sitting.

## Raised beds

We have not built the new raised beds yet but we will get there. Raised beds are great if you cannot get on your knees to garden. We purchased a small raised bed on legs kit. It will be up and planted soon. We are hoping to have the new raised beds built and planted by the end of October.

All of our winter seed crops will be planted in the raised beds.



# Listen to our podcast

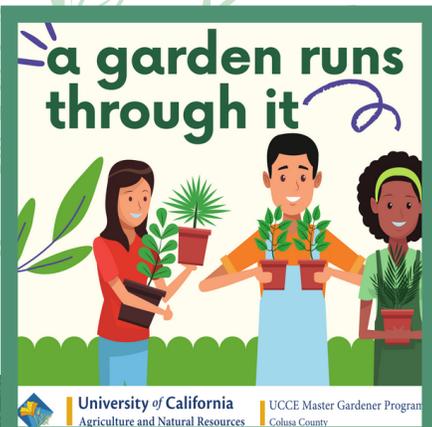
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LISTEN TO THIS EPISODE



In this episode of "A Garden Runs Through It", Cynthia P and Gerry talk about being a Master Gardener.



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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

## Ornamental Plant of the Month

### HOSTA

Hosta plants are a perennial favorite among gardeners. Their lush foliage and easy care make them ideal for a low maintenance garden. Originating in the Orient and brought to Europe in the 1700s, today there are over 2,500 cultivars with such variety in leaf shape, size and texture, that an entire garden could be devoted to growing hostas alone. While hosta care is considered easy, it helps to know a little bit about how to grow hostas to help the plants reach their full garden potential. Hostas are prized primarily for their foliage but they also have attractive, often scented, summer flowers. These hardy clump-forming perennials are popular with container gardeners and are unbeatable for low-growing foliage interest in spring and summer. Thriving in light and medium shade, they're incredibly useful plants.

The foliage is perfect for cutting. With so many different colors and textures available in the genus you can add silver, variegated, heart-shapes, crinkly or smooth leaves to a flower arrangement.

Although hosta plants are touted as shade lovers, their sunlight requirements vary widely. Successfully growing hostas in the shade depends on color. Hosta leaves come in a variety of greens, ranging from a color so deep it's called blue to a light chartreuse to a soft creamy white. A good rule of thumb for the placement and care of hostas is the lighter the foliage, the brighter the sun. The deeper darker foliage retains its color best in moderate shade. The variegated varieties need more sunlight to keep their white and gold stripes. All hostas need some shade and few, if any, will do well in strong direct sunlight.

They will fully mature in four to eight years. For the best care of hostas, plant them in rich organic soil with a slightly acidic pH. You'll only have to do it once. Dig the planting hole about a foot deep, and wide enough to accommodate the spread of a full sized plant. This will make it easier for the roots to establish a foothold and begin their horizontal spread. In spite of their almost tropical look, hostas are rugged and once established, they tolerate almost any soil and will grow for years. When discussing how to grow hostas, drainage is most important. Dormant season crown rot is one of the few diseases that attack these plants. Good hosta care requires good drainage. When newly planted, keep the roots moist, not wet. Once established, hosta plants aren't fussy and are very tolerant of summer drought. Once your plant is established, hosta care becomes a matter of simple maintenance. To keep your growing hostas healthy, fertilize them each spring with an all-purpose garden fertilizer. Additional summer fertilizing may be helpful, but not necessary. Granular fertilizers should never sit on the leaves.

Except for crown rot and leaf rot, Hosta plants are relatively disease free. Deer find them tasty and if deer are a problem in your neighborhood, you might try planting daffodils around your hosta to keep them away from the emerging shoots. Another difficulty in hosta care is slugs, which leave unsightly holes in the leaves. A light scattering of sand around your plants will help keep them away.

Hosta plants are a beautiful addition to any garden and fit well in a variety of spaces, ranging from a few inches to four feet (1.2 m.) across. Care of hostas is easy and now you've discovered the basics of how to grow hostas, you'll find them a welcome addition to your yard.



Submitted by Bernice Dommer

## Edible Plant of the Month

### Edible Landscaping with Fall Color in Mind

NOTHING says Autumn is around the corner, as the sights and smells when we walk or drive around our neighborhoods or countryside. We notice the maples and other deciduous tree leaves turning beautiful orange, gold, rust and brown. Fruit and farm stands with apples, pumpkins, and squash of every sort imaginable. Some people even rush to that certain coffee place which sells a special kind of coffee drink.

Let's start with our Autumn feature in your yard, a tree! Instead of a maple or other ornamental feature, let us go for a persimmon tree. A persimmon would make a beautiful and interesting focal point, especially in late fall when they lose all their leaves, and we end up having a bare tree loaded with beautiful bright orange fruit. There are a couple different types of persimmons; stringent like the heart or acorn shaped "Haciya" or the non-astringent, apple shaped "Fuyu". Haciya needs to be ripened completely (which can be done by placing in a paper bag with a ripe banana) and is great for baking and spooned out like a pudding to be eaten or stored in the freezer. The sweeter Fuyu can be eaten right off the tree like an apple and is great for salads, cereal, smoothies, and baking. Persimmons will keep for months if kept whole, and stored in a cool, dark place, both varieties can be dried as well. If a persimmon does not interest you, how about a citrus, Satsuma plum, pluot or certain types of peaches as a focal point? (remember we need to consider using dormant spray during the winter on peaches to prevent curl).

Off to one side of our yard, we could plant pomegranate, keeping as a bush(es) or pruning into small tree(s), or planting a few in a fashion to use as a hedgerow border between you and a neighbor. One of the tastiest varieties of pomegranate is "Wonderful", which are/can be used for juice and jellies and sets fruit rather late in comparison to other varieties.

On the opposite side of your yard, you could plant kiwis on a tall trellis, grapes on a lower trellis, or even a group of raspberries for interest. This could also act as a "border" between you and a neighbor.

Lower areas could be planted with colorful pumpkins, winter squash such as acorn, spaghetti, and/or butternut.

HAPPY FALL!

Submitted by Annelie Lauwerijssen



## Recipe of the Month

### Tandoori Chicken

- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon ground coriander
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper (optional, but worth it!)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 2 tablespoons minced or grated garlic
- 2 tablespoons coarsely grated ginger
- 1 chicken, cut into 8 pieces, skin on or off is up to you
  - OR 6-8 chicken thighs
  - OR 4 good sized breasts, cut in half
  - OR 8-12 chicken tenders

Garnishes of sliced green onions, cilantro leaves, and mint.

Also good with tzatziki sauce!

Mix the cumin, coriander, paprika, cayenne, salt, pepper, to taste, lemon juice and zest, yogurt, garlic and ginger root together until everything is well incorporated.

Put in a zip top bag, add chicken, and smoosh around to evenly distribute the marinade.

Refrigerate overnight for best flavor, turning and smooshing a time or two.

For the most authentic results, preheat a grill to high. Wrap bricks in foil.

Either use steel skewers (flat ones are best) or soak bamboo skewers in water.

Set the bricks on your grill to hold the meat above the grates.

Space the bricks so the skewers will rest on top with the chicken between them.

Your bamboo skewers will not burn and meat will not stick to the grates.

Genius! Too bad it was not my own idea.

**Continue on the next page...**

## Recipe continued...

You can also do this in the oven, preheat the oven to 400-425 degrees F.

Place a rack over a parchment lined sheet pan.

Or you can use the bricks instead of the rack if you want.

Tenders will cook fastest, bigger pieces and those that are bone in will take longer.

Remove skewers and place on a platter with garnishes.

Serve with rice pilaf and naan bread or pita bread.

Remove the chicken from the marinade but leave marinade ON the chicken.

Thread chicken on skewers.

Use 2 skewers side by side to keep chicken from rolling around when you turn it!

Cook for 10 min on high, turning a couple times - you want some browning.

Reduce grill to low, or oven to 325, and finish cooking.

Cook for another 10-20 min, depending on the size of the pieces.

You want a finished internal temp of 160 degrees.

Use an instant read thermometer to be sure! NO pink chicken.

## Tzatziki Sauce

2 cups plain Greek yogurt

2-3 cloves garlic, grated

2 medium grocery store cucumbers, peeled and seeded

OR 3 smaller Persian cucumbers, peel and seed if you want

Coarsely grate cucumbers, set in a colander, and drain their liquid

2-4 tablespoons of lemon juice (I like the zest, too)

2 tablespoons good olive oil

1 tablespoon each minced fresh dill and fresh mint

if you only have dried, use half as much

Mix together and refrigerate overnight for best flavor.



Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

## Garden of the Month

### San Francisco Botanical Garden

One of my earliest memories as a child is at the San Francisco Botanical Gardens in Golden Gate Park. I was always awed by the 8,000 different kinds of plants from around the world. It was like being on a private journey without having to go far from home. The diversity is so rich and only increases our understanding of the biological diversity of our amazing state.

In 1870-76, army-trained engineer William Hammond Hall made a strong beginning, creating a detailed site survey and a basic design for the Park. He was appointed engineer of the park and in five years managed to level and stabilize the sand dunes to establish a nursery to supply the first 60,000 trees.

By 1890, John McLaren had taken the original design and applied his vision and skill to create a spectacle few realized to be possible. When the WPA (Works Progress Administration established by the federal government for unemployed workers during the Great Depression) came along in 1937, McLaren and the Garden's first director Eric Walther made dreams come true. They experimented with a variety of plants from many parts of the world.

In 1940 the Taden opened officially as an arboretum and botanical garden designed around a central axis that still exists between the central fountain and the Zellerbach Garden of Perennials. Paths radiating from the central axis lead to collections of plants from around the world.

My suggestion for you if you haven't been to the Gardens: take your time, take your lunch and just roam through the wonder. The most recent work from the early 2000's, director Scot Medbury led the renovation of seven gardens, including the Southeast Asian Cloud Forest, the first of its kind anywhere.

In 2004, Strybing Arboretum changed its name to San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, and the Arboretum Society followed suit, becoming San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum.



Submitted by Cynthia White

# Gardening Guide

## UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	October	November	December
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, you can direct seed cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, nigella, portulaca and sweet peas.</li> <li>If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring.</li> <li>Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You can still sow seeds of wildflowers this month. Plant California poppy, calendula, clarkia, and sweet peas.</li> <li>In the veggie garden plant seeds for lettuce, mustard, spinach, radishes and peas.</li> <li>If you didn't get your new tree planted last month, it is not too late to take advantage of the fall root growth that will give your new tree a strong start in the spring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Plant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bare-root roses</li> <li>Bulbs</li> <li>Camellias</li> <li>Cyclamen</li> <li>Hellebore</li> <li>Living Christmas trees</li> <li>Bare-root fruit and landscape trees</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put your spent annuals and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile.</li> <li>Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.</li> <li>This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the middle of the month fertilize the veggies and flowers that were planted in October.</li> <li>Also, this is the time to plant the chilled bulbs, and the spring flowering tubers and corms.</li> <li>Clean up all the fallen/falling leaves and other plant debris and dispose of diseased materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjust your irrigation</li> <li>Protect citrus and other sensitive plants</li> <li>Add mulch to beds</li> <li>Divide perennials</li> </ul>
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early in the month you should buy your new bulbs and refrigerate them for six weeks before planting them in the garden.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look at your camellias and remove excess buds to get larger flowers.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply dormant spray</li> <li>Throw out fallen rose leaves</li> </ul> <p><b>* Shop: Plants and seeds make awesome holiday, hostess and mystery gifts!</b></p>

# Seasonal Landscape IPM Checklist

## October

- 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.
- [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.
- [Carpenter bees](#) - Paint or varnish and seal wood in which they nest. If intolerable, treat tunnels during fall or early spring.
- [Citrus](#) - Monitor for damage and pests such as brown rot, leafminer, root rots, and snails.
- [Clean up](#) mummies and old fruit and nuts in and under trees to avoid harboring pests. [Remove fallen leaves](#) from beneath deciduous fruit trees and roses.
- [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.
- [Compost](#) - Add leaves dropped during fall. Turn and keep it moist.
- [Frost](#) - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.
- [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.
- [Mulch](#) - Apply organic mulch where thin or soil is bare beneath trees and shrubs.
- [Olive peacock spot, or scab](#) - Make a preventive spray before the rainy season if the disease has been severe.
- [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 California natives. Select species and cultivars well-adapted to the local site. Water regularly to keep root zone moist, but not soggy.
- Prepare for rainfall. Prevent water ponding around trunks and foundations. Improve drainage. Install downspout diverters to [direct runoff into landscape soils](#), but avoid waterlogging of soil.
- [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.
- [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 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

**Bolt**—To produce seeds or flowers prematurely.

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!*

PRACTICAL | CONNECTED | TRUSTED

## Garden Club of Colusa County activities

October 30, 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](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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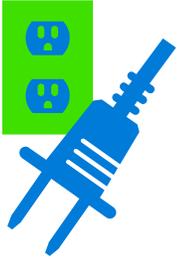
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*This policy statement supersedes the UC ANR Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action Policy Statement for University of California Publications Regarding Program Practices dated July 2013.*

Safety Note #19

## BASIC ELECTRICAL SAFETY



According to information from the Electrical Safety Foundation International, every year electrical accidents cause approximately 165,000 electrical fires, 900 deaths, and 7,000 injuries. Electrical accidents can be prevented by understanding how electricity works and recognizing potential hazards. ***This safety note is to be used in conjunction with electrical safety video (E-081) available for loan from the ANR Environmental Health & Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.***

### Basic Electrical Information

- Electricity naturally seeks the path of least resistance to the ground.
- If your body happens to be in the path of least resistance due to a shorted wire/receptacle or malfunctioning power tool or appliance, the electricity will pass through you and into the ground (i.e., the earth) unless you are standing on a non-conductive surface.
- You will experience a shock as the electricity passes from you to the ground.
- An electrical path of least resistance that passes through your vital organs can result in a serious injury.

### Basic Electrical Safety Practices

- Remove frayed, defective, or damaged power cords/plugs, receptacles, switches, cover plates, appliances, and power tools from service by attaching a red tag that states "DO NOT USE." Complete red tag with appropriate information and notify your supervisor.
- Always insert plugs into receptacles with similar prong or blade patterns.
- Never alter a plug by removing, bending, or twisting the prongs or blades.
- Flickering/dimming lights, tripped circuit breakers, blown fuses, and warm receptacles or electric cords are signs of potentially overloaded circuits.
- If a circuit appears to be overloaded, reduce the load by disconnecting appliances or power tools from the circuit.
- A 15 amp circuit should not exceed a 1,500 watt load and a 20 amp circuit should not exceed a 2,000 watt load when used less than three hours. For more than three hours of continuous use, a 15 amp circuit and 20 amp circuit may not exceed 80% of their load or 1440 watts and 1,920 watts, respectively, unless the circuit breakers are rated and marked for 100% load.
- Never touch energized power tools or appliances that are wet or lying in water. Always de-energize wet tools or appliances before touching.
- Do not yank on power cords to disconnect equipment. Always grip the plug when disconnecting equipment.
- Never replace a correctly-sized fuse with a larger-sized fuse.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) should be used whenever electricity and water are within six feet of each other. GFCIs should also be used with temporary wiring "during maintenance, remodeling, or repair of buildings, structures, or equipment or during similar activities" involving construction.
- A grounded three-prong adapter shall be used to connect a three-prong plug to a two-prong receptacle.
- Always be aware of the electrical hazards present in your work area.
- Plug power strips directly into wall outlets. Do not daisy chain two or more together to increase length.

# House Mouse

House mice are well adapted to living in close contact with humans and thrive where food and shelter are abundant.

They eat and contaminate food supplies and can also transmit disease. Their gnawing activities can damage structures or property. Manage them by cleaning up debris, removing food and shelter, eliminating entryways into buildings, or using traps or baits. High frequency electronic devices aren't effective.



Adult house mouse.

## How to detect a house mouse infestation:

- Look for droppings, fresh gnaw marks, and tracks, which indicate areas where mice are active.
- Search behind boxes, in drawers, in garages, or around woodpiles for nests made of finely shredded paper or other fibrous material.
- Check for the musky odor associated with mice.
- Mice are most active at night, but you also can see them during daylight hours.

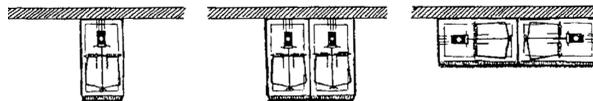
## Discourage mice by removing food, water, and shelter and sealing entryways.

- Good housekeeping within buildings reduces shelter and food for house mice.
- Seal all structural cracks and openings larger than ¼ inch. Use wire screen or coarse steel wool that mice can't chew through.
- Ensure all doors, windows, and screens fit tightly.
- Feed pets only the amount of food they will eat at a single feeding.
- Keep all food storage and garbage containers sealed.
- Thin or remove plants next to or climbing up buildings, since house mice are excellent climbers.

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

## Remove mice from your home by trapping.

- Snap traps and glue boards are the safest and most economical traps.
- Place traps in secluded areas along walls, behind objects, in dark corners, and in places where droppings have been found.
- Dispose of dead rodents by burying or placing them in plastic bags and putting them in the garbage. Don't touch mice with your bare hands, and wash hands thoroughly after handling traps.



Set traps so the trigger is next to the wall.  
Increase your chance of success by setting two traps.

## What about pesticides?

- Avoid using poison baits indoors. Mice can die in hidden places, create bad odors, and be difficult to locate. Seal buildings before baiting outdoors to prevent mice coming indoors to die.
- Baits generally take several days for effective control.
- Place baits in tamper-proof bait stations out of reach of children, pets, and wildlife. All rodent baits are toxic.

The deer mouse, which can carry the deadly hantavirus, has a white underside, more hair on its tail, and is rare in homes.



## 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.