



A Garden Runs Through It

February 2024

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

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In This Issue

- **Ornamental Plant of the Month**— Peony
- **Gardens I Have Visited** — Lassen National Park
- **Edible Plant of the Month**— Celery
- **Recipe of the Month**— Chicken Paprikash
- **Garden Guide**
- **Safety Notes**

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Upcoming events

[Listen to our Podcast](#)



February

Colusa Farm Show
February 6, 7, 8

Hope to see you there!

March

Landscape Tree Workshop
March 9, 10 am
Arbuckle

Plant Clinic at Griff's
March 23, 10—2
Colusa

Advice to Grow by ... Ask Us!





MG Event



UC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM OF COLUSA COUNTY

2024 Spring Events



Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!

February 6, 7, 8

Colusa Farm Show

Colusa County Fairgrounds

March 9

Landscape Tree Workshop

Downtown Arbuckle

March 23

Plant Clinic

Griff's Feed and Seed

April 13

CCOE Family Fair

Colusa County Fairgrounds



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UCCE Master Gardener Program



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Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite St., Williams

Vegetables

We have been harvesting the winter vegetable garden. So far, we have picked radishes, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, sugar peas and broccolini. All the cauliflower and most of the cabbage has been harvested. The vegetables are harvested for the Ministerial Food Distribution and the Colusa County Office of Education Kitchen.

With the January rains the aphid population has been reduced but not wiped out. Predicted warm weather will help the aphid population. We have sprayed a strong stream of water but not on a regular basis. We have also used neem oil. The nice warm afternoons have been great for people and aphids.

By the way, the celery is doing fabulous and we have started to harvest it. Commercial operations cut the entire stalk but home gardeners can remove ribs as needed. We have found a problem and we will talk about it in Edible Plant of the Month.

Landscape

We will prune the water-wise landscapes in February around rain dates.

The blue Adirondack chairs are in the salvia area and they look awesome. A bench is in the landscape area, so you can enjoy the garden while sitting.

We have gophers! Our gopher expert has set traps and we caught one.

Weeds

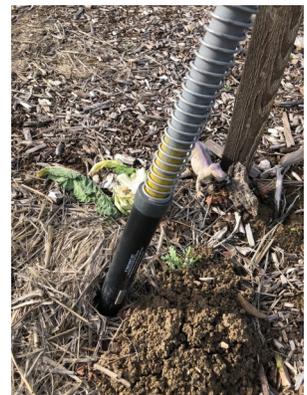
The rain has been good for weeds. They are growing as fast as we pull them. Weeds, weeds and weeds.

Raised beds

The new raised bed has been built! In late winter/early spring we will order soil. Everything will be ready for spring vegetables. All of our winter seed crops have been planted in the raised beds.

Summer Garden

What would you like us to grow this summer? Email me at glhernandez@ucanr.edu



Ornamental Plant of the Month

THE PEONY

Looking for low maintenance plants that provide beautiful spring color to enhance your garden? May I suggest the Peony. Peony plants offer big, fluffy, fragrant flowers in a wide range of colors, forms and sizes. These resilient, long-lived (some to 100 years) perennial bushes have a history of popularity as a garden plant. The Peony grows best in zones 2 to 8, depending on variety. There are three types of peonies: tree, Itoh (intersectional), and herbaceous (bush). Tree peonies can reach 4 to 7 feet tall and 4 to 5 feet wide. Itoh and herbaceous varieties grow 1 to 3 feet tall and wide.

Most peonies like the sun; but tree peonies prefer light shade in midday heat. In most locations, flowers will bloom in April, May or June. Expect tree peonies to bloom first (around Mother's Day), followed by herbaceous varieties (around Memorial Day) and then the intersectional. Include all three types in the garden to enjoy blooms for up to seven weeks. There are white, pink, red, coral, maroon, and yellow blooming varieties; many change color as they open, so check them daily to see the differences. Many peony flowers are fragrant, some are sweet, some citrusy, and others slightly spicy.

Peony plants need a location with 6 to 8 hours of sunlight a day, good drainage, and plenty of room. Picking the right spot is essential for success. Established plants have deep roots that make transplanting difficult or even impossible.

Tip: The experts from the University of Michigan's Peony Garden at the Nichols Arboretum recommend planting them far away from large trees and shrubs as they do not like to have root competition.

It takes at least two to three years for a young peony plant to get established, but once it has settled in, it will bloom reliably year after year. Peonies are fantastic cut flowers. They last for days in a vase and most varieties are fragrant. If you wish, peony stems may be cut in bud and stored for later.

Peony plants grow best in the ground; however, some gardeners are planting a peony or two in large patio pots. Use an ample sized container of 10 - 15 gallons or larger for best results, as the roots of a peony grow rather large.

Miracle Grow is a water-soluble fertilizer that can provide a quick boost of nutrients. It's easy to use and can be particularly beneficial during the active growing phase. Remember, while fertilizing is vital, over-fertilization can be just as harmful as under-fertilization. Excessive nitrogen, for instance, can lead to lush foliage at the expense of blooms. It's important to follow package instructions for dosage and application to avoid overwhelming your peonies. By understanding the nutritional needs of your peonies and aligning those with the right fertilizer, you can ensure that your peonies remain healthy and produce an abundance of beautiful blooms season after season.

Some gardeners have success growing them in their native soil, but most experts recommend that you amend the soil with organic matter before planting. Also, ensure they are in well-draining soil, as they won't do well with soggy roots.

Unlike roses, peony bushes do not require precise pruning to thrive. Often pruning is only necessary in the event of damage or disease.

Herbaceous peonies: At the end of the growing season, cut your herbaceous peonies all the way to the ground.

Submitted by Bernice Dommer

Edible Plant of the Month

Celery

Who knew we could grow it in the Colusa County area! We tried it on a lark and it is fabulous.

Celery likes mild temperatures, below 75 degrees and above 50 degrees. The winter of 23/34 has been in that range. Of course, it does not like freezing weather.

Soil—should be light and rich. We have it in a raised bed.

Planting—In our area, plant transplants in fall, winter or early spring.

Water—Irrigate until the rainy season starts.

Blanching—Commercial operations blanch (shield from the sun) during the growing season. You do not need to do this unless you want. To blanch mound the soil over the stalks (not the leaves) or use a paper sleeve around the stalks.

Harvest—You can cut the entire plant below the base or harvest stalks one at a time. We are harvesting one at a time.

Problems— Many winter vegetables are trouble free and easy to grow. We did find a problem. We have pink rot in one of the stalks. Click here to read about it.

<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/agriculture/celery/pink-rot/>



Healthy Plant



Peach Leaf Curl

Get your last spray of copper for peach leaf curl on your peach and nectarine trees.

<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7426.html>

Submitted by Gerry Hernandez



Gardens I Have Visited

Okay readers - the least visited park in our National Park System – are there any guesses – how far away is it – is there anything to see when you get there – and the answer is –

Lassen National Park

This gem is the closest national Park to Colusa - and just doesn't get enough visitors to spike anyone's radar very high. But, when the valley temperatures are moving towards the triple digits this summer and you are seeking a quick cool down, you might think of Lassen Volcanic National Park. A quick temperature change is at your doorstep.

Entering the park is easy through Red Bluff and Highway 36. The town of Mineral is the southern gateway and is also the place where this writer learned to snow ski – the cheapest lift ticket in the state for certain and the only rope tow I still know of!! When my husband and I were married in June of 1966 we started our honeymoon in San Francisco where there was a heat wave taking temperatures to the mid 90's. After 3 days of heat we decided to go up the coast and immediately were welcomed with a 20 degree drop in temperature. We decided to trek in the early evening across Highway 299 into Redding where it was once again nearly 110 degrees. So in the pitch dark we continued west on Highway 44 and entered Lassen Park from the north side. We had our sleeping bag in the car and spent the night next to Manzanita Lake where the temperature was about 40 degrees!! What a relief.

But the real beauty is being next to this wonderous mountain that had its last eruption in 1914 and there are wonderful films saved you can see to this day. Mt. Lassen is part of the chain of volcanos that can be found dotting the mountain landscape from north to south. Hwy. 89 connecting the north and south park entrances is CLOSED for the season. The northwest and southwest entrances remain open to vehicle access throughout the snow season (through April). Road clearing operations begin in April.

Highway 89 will take you to the wonderful sites including Bumpas Hell where bubbling pots of lava make for a magical scene, you can hike to the top of Lassen peak or any of the backcountry areas like Juniper Lake and the Warner Valley.

Regardless of your park destination you can be assured of a wonderful time and beautiful sights. And you can leave in the morning and be there for lunch.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Recipe of the Month

I was gifted some authentic Hungarian paprika for Christmas and made this recipe last night. YUM!!

I served it with rotini pasta rather than the spaetzle, but either work, as would mashed potatoes.

We had broccoli stir fried with onions and bacon rather than the salad.

Chicken Paprikash

Adapted from Michael Symon

3 pounds chicken - bone-in thighs (boneless breasts work, too, just do not over cook!

1/4 cup sweet paprika

1/2 tsp smoked paprika and/or hot paprika or cayenne are optional

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons olive oil

2 tablespoons chicken fat or butter

2 medium onion, sliced

1 medium red bell pepper, sliced

1 medium green bell pepper, sliced

1/2 head cabbage, sliced 1/2 inch thick

2-3 cups crimini mushrooms, sliced

4 tablespoons tomato paste

2-4 cloves garlic, minced

1 quart chicken stock

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup sour cream

1/4 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Spaetzle:

3 cups all-purpose flour

Kosher salt

2 large eggs, beaten

1 cup milk



Continue on the next page...

Continued from the previous page

For the chicken: Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Season the chicken with 1 tablespoon salt and some pepper

Heat the oil, add the chicken and brown for 2 minutes per side; remove to a plate

Add the onions, peppers, cabbage, mushrooms, garlic and tomato paste and cook, stirring occasionally, until starting to soften, 3 to 4 minutes.

Add the paprika and stir to blend - do not scorch, stir in the stock

Return the chicken to the pan skin-side up

Bake, covered, until the chicken is cooked through and tender

Thighs will take longer than breasts so if you use both, remove breasts after about 20 min.

Thighs will take about 40 minutes. Test for close to 180 degrees

Once the chicken is tender, remove chicken from the sauce and set aside.

If the sauce is too thin for your taste, simmer on top of the stove to reduce.

Once the sauce is the consistency you like, mix the flour and sour cream and add to the sauce

Whisk/stir and simmer to thicken but do not boil or it will curdle!

Return the chicken to the sauce and bring up to serving temperature.

Stir in parsley.

For the spaetzle: While the chicken is cooking, bring a saucepan of water to a boil.

Sift the flour and 1 teaspoon salt into a bowl. Make a well and mix in the eggs and milk.

Dampen a plastic cutting board and place the dough mixture on it.

Cut off thin strips of dough and drop into the water and cook for 3 minutes.

Drain the spaetzle and rinse under cold water. Set aside until the chicken is done.

Add the spaetzle to the chicken pan, or serve and top with chicken and sauce.

Serve with a Hungarian cucumber salad

Thinly sliced English or Persian cucumbers, salted and drained very well

Thinly sliced onions

Dill or parsley

Dressing of vinegar, sugar, grainy mustard, garlic

A little oil is optional, but not if using sour cream

Sour cream and how much of it is optional

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Seasonal Landscape IPM Checklist

February

- Abiotic Disorders - Prevent or manage damage, such as that caused by aeration deficit, frost, hail, herbicides, 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.
- [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](#).
- Deter borers in fruit and nut trees e.g., [paint trunk and scaffolds with white](#) interior latex paint diluted with an equal amount of water.
- [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.
- [Frost](#) - Protect sensitive plants from cold injury when freezing or frost are predicted.
- [Grape diseases](#) - Monitor for powdery mildew, Eutypa dieback, Phomopsis cane and leaf spot, and others. Prune, remove, or treat as appropriate.
- 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.
- [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 pit scale](#) - Spray terminals with oil or apply another insecticide if scales are causing tree decline.
- [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.
- [Petal blight of azalea, rhododendron](#), and [camellia](#) - Remove and discard old flowers. Apply fresh organic mulch beneath plants.
- [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.
- [Yellowjackets](#) - Place out and maintain lure traps or water traps.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	February	March	April
P L A N T I N G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant in vegetable garden by direct seeding: radishes, beets, chard, and peas. Start tomato, pepper and eggplant seeds indoors. Flowers to transplant or direct seed: snapdragon, candytuft, larkspur, coral bells, and stock. Plant bulbs for summer bloom: dahlias, begonias, gladiolus, lilies, etc. Plant potatoes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can plant canna, gladiolus, and crocosmia for summer blooms. Early in the month you can still plant bare-root trees and shrubs. Don't be tempted by the plants in the garden centers unless you have a way to warm up the soil. It is still early for tomatoes, eggplant and peppers (although you could try late in the month if it is still warm.) Nights should be above 55°. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a shady spot early in the month you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses. You can plant dahlia tubers and transplant most perennials. As temperatures warm you can transplant tomatoes, eggplants and peppers. You can still plant seeds of cilantro, radishes, beets and chard.
M A I N T E N A N C E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts. Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight. Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials. Finish pruning roses. Prune summer blooming shrubs now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance. Fertilize roses, annuals flowers, and berries with slow-release fertilizer when spring growth begins. Fertilize citrus and deciduous fruit trees. Prune and fertilize spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they finish blooming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fertilize shrubs and trees once this spring. Watch azaleas and camellias for yellowing between the veins in the leaves. If the leaf is yellowish, apply chelated iron to the plants. Trim the dead flowers but not the leaves from spring bulbs. The leaves restore the bulb; so wait to remove them until they turn yellow. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal.
P R E V E N T I O N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell. Watch for aphids on spring blooming bulbs; remove with a strong spray of water. As the weather warms prepare to battle slugs and snails with traps or pet-friendly baits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small. Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. 

Did you know?

We have a

Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/UcceMasterGardenersOfColusaCounty>

We post pictures, gardening information, our events and lots of fun things about gardening!

Join Us!

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

Tuber—An enlarged, fleshy, underground stem bearing buds; usually a storage organ. Potatoes are tubers.

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

February 26, 6:30
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

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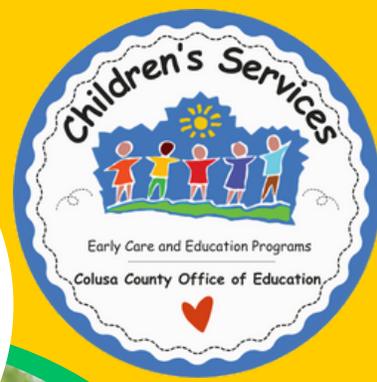
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Website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/Diversity/Affirmative_Action/.

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**FREE
EVENT**



FAMILY

FAIR 2024

**SATURDAY
APRIL 13TH
10AM TO 2PM**

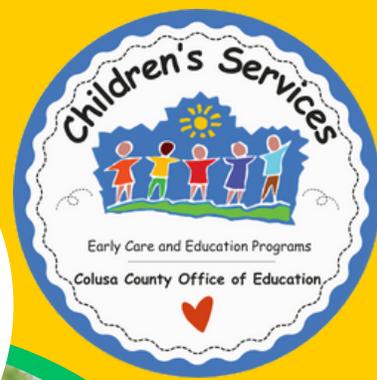
ACTIVITIES:

- Petting Zoo
- Face Painting
- Arts and Crafts
- And much more!

**Located at Colusa County Fairgrounds
Main Exhibit Building:
1303 10th ST. Colusa, Ca 95932**

 530-458-0350

**If interested in joining as a vender please contact Ashlyn Ferreira:
aferreira@ccoe.net**



**EVENTO
GRATUITO**



FERIA

FAMILIAR 2024

**SÁBADO
13 DE ABRIL
10AM TO 2PM**

ACTIVIDADES:

- Animales de granja
- Pinta caras
- Proyectos de arte
- ¡Y mucho más!

**En los terrenos de la feria de Colusa
Edificio Principal de Exposiciones:
1303 10th ST. Colusa, Ca 95932**



530-458-0350

**Si está interesado en unirse como vendedor, comuníquese con
Ashlyn Ferreira: aferreira@ccoe.net**

Earwigs

While their prominent tail-end pincers might look ferocious, earwigs aren't harmful to people.

Earwigs can seriously damage seedlings and chew holes in flowers, soft fruit, and corn silks, but earwigs also play a beneficial role by feeding on aphids and other insects. Earwigs feed at night and hide during the day in dark, cool, moist places such as within flowers, vegetables, mulch, or weeds. To manage earwigs, reduce hiding places and moisture, and trap daily until they're gone.



Adult earwig on strawberry.

Jack Kelly Clark, UC IPM

Should you be concerned about earwigs in your garden?



Damage caused by earwigs.

- **Yes**, if you are growing vegetables, herbaceous flowering plants, sweet corn, or plants with soft fruits such as strawberries and apricots.
- **No**, if your garden is primarily lawn, trees, native plants, and woody ornamentals.

Reduce outdoor hiding places.

- Remove dense undergrowth of vines, ground cover, and weeds around vegetable and flower gardens.
- Prune out fruit tree suckers.
- Remove leaves, boards, boxes, trash, and other debris.
- Move flowerpots and other garden objects and structures that can harbor earwigs.

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

Trap earwigs until they're gone.

- Trap earwigs with rolled newspaper, bamboo tubes, or short pieces of hose. Place these traps on the soil near plants just before dark and shake accumulated earwigs into a container of soapy water in the morning.
- Fill a low-sided can with vegetable oil and a drop of bacon grease or fish oil to attract and trap earwigs.
- Daily trapping will reduce earwig populations to tolerable levels.



Jack Kelly Clark, UC IPM

Earwig trap made from low-sided can filled with vegetable oil.

What other ways can you control earwigs outside?

- Drip irrigate where possible to reduce moisture.
- Keep earwigs out of stone fruit trees with a band of sticky substance such as Tanglefoot around the trunk, and harvest fruit as soon as it ripens.
- Insecticides should rarely be needed.

How can you control earwigs inside your home?

Earwigs might come indoors when conditions outside are too dry, too hot, or too cold. Large numbers of earwigs can be annoying, but aren't a health hazard. If earwigs are found inside the home, follow these steps:

- Sweep up or vacuum them up.
- Seal cracks or other entry points.
- Remove debris from gutters and around entryways.
- Keep water away from structures.
- Replace white outdoor lights with yellow ones, which are less attractive to earwigs.
- Indoor use of pesticides won't prevent earwigs from entering so aren't recommended.

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.