



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ UC Master Gardener Program

A Garden Runs Through It

July 2025

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

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Upcoming Events



Senior Spread

Date: Friday, August 22

Time: 11am - 1pm

Location: Trinity Friendship Hall
511 Oak Street in Colusa

Are you a senior citizen in Colusa County, looking for something to do on a Friday?

We will be partnering with Colusa UMC for the Senior Spread at the end of August. Please join us to learn more about the Master Gardener program, learn how to pot a succulent, and take one home with you! We hope to see you there!



UC MASTER GARDENER TRAINING 2026

UCCE Colusa County Volunteer Program

UC Master Gardeners are University of California Cooperative Extension trained volunteers who provide research based horticultural information & support to home gardeners, schools, and special projects throughout Colusa County.

- ✓ *Volunteers receive 16 weeks of extensive training starting January 28, 2026 on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 5:00pm*
- ✓ *Application deadline is Tuesday, September 30, 2025 by 5:00pm*
- ✓ *Applicants will be invited to a mandatory informational meeting on Friday, October 24th at 1:00pm*

To find out more about being a UC Master Gardener and obtain an application, visit our website at: www or Scan QR Code

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:
530-458-0570



Plant of the Month
'Summer's End Ironweed'



'Summer's End Ironweed'

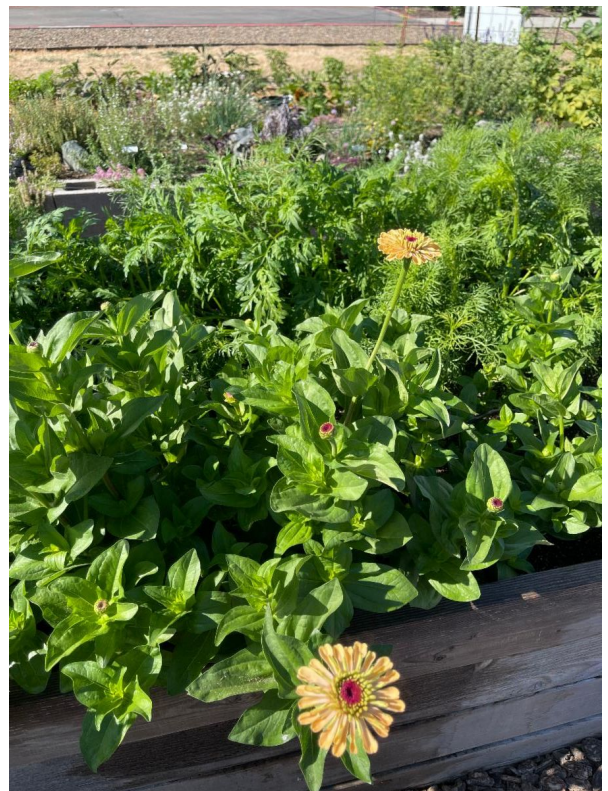
Summer's End Ironweed is a hybridized member of the aster family and a North American plant that can be a huge attractor for pollinating insects you want to encourage, like the Monarch butterfly. It was developed at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. It is a late blooming perennial known for its deep-purple flowers that attract butterflies and pollinators in early fall.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Submitted by Cynthia White

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite Street in Williams





Vegetables and Herbs

April and May were filled with planting and seed starting! We are thrilled to see all of the fruits of our labor thriving at the garden. So far, we have harvested peppers, squash, and eggplants. The sunflowers are blooming, and the others are continuing to grow taller. In early May, the potato plants started to produce flowers, so we cut the flowers, to allow the plants to focus their energy on potato production. The potato plant leaves are starting to turn yellow, so they should be ready to harvest soon! The herb garden is really booming, and it is looking and smelling lovely!

Landscape

The landscape area of the garden truly benefitted from the perennial pruning workshop that we hosted in the winter. The plants have come back lush and full of blooms! We've expanded our landscape to include plants around the garden sign. We have planted mystic spire salvias, Greek yarrow and Junior Walker catmint nepeta and we are looking forward to them spreading and filling the area with greenery and blooms.

Flower Beds

We are looking forward to having flowers to cut later in the summer! We planted zinnia, marigold and cosmos seeds in the raised beds, as well as zinnia and celosia starts. So far, the zinnias have started to bloom, and the cosmos are getting tall!

Recipe of the Month

Sausage, Sweet Potatoes and Kale

Do you need a quick and easy week night dinner recipe? Look no further, and try this delicious recipe!

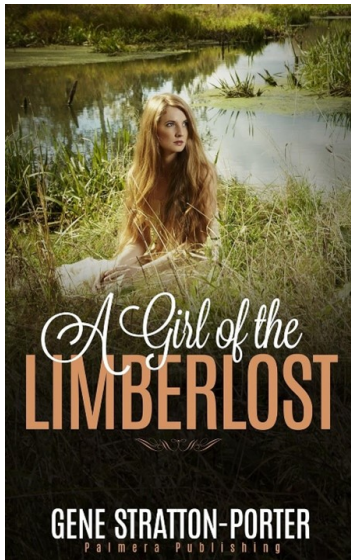
[Click here for the full recipe](#)

Recipe submitted by Penny Walgenbach



Gardener's Literature

A Girl of the Limberlost by Gene Stratton-Porter



A Girl of the Limberlost (1909) by Gene Stratton-Porter is like stumbling upon a sun-dappled clearing in the woods – at once nostalgic, unexpectedly profound, and pulsing with quiet resilience. The novel follows Elnora Comstock, a girl growing up on the edge of Indiana's Limberlost Swamp, whose life is as tangled with beauty and hardship as the wetland ecosystem she loves.

What begins as a classic "poor girl makes good" tale deepens into something richer – a portrait of a young naturalist forging her identity against the harsh realities of rural poverty and a mother's inexplicable coldness. Elnora's daily trek to school in hand-me-down clothes, her secret lunches eaten alone to hide her poverty from wealthier classmates, and her determined collection of rare moths to pay for her education create a heroine who is both of her time and timeless.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

Submitted by Cynthia White

Thinking Safe and Green

Master Gardener Program

Avoiding Stooped Positions

In a 2008 survey of the University of California Master Gardener Program, respondents indicated the posture of more than 250 Master Gardeners was repeatedly or constantly stooped either at weekly or monthly intervals when pursuing gardening activities. Information from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health indicates stooped posture is closely associated with a high incidence of low back disorders, including injuries to muscles, nerves, discs, and ligaments of the low back. The following provides information about how to prevent lower back disorders by avoiding stooped posture when gardening.



[#26 Avoiding Stooped Positions](#)

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County Zones 8 and 9

	July	August	September
Planting	You can still plant seeds of annuals: zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers and alyssum will grow and bloom this year.	You can plant directly in the garden seeds of carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach and turnips. Indoors you can start seeds for broccoli, cabbage, kale, bunching onions, and radicchio.	Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale transplants can be planted this month Direct seed spinach,

			radishes, carrots, and lettuce
Maintenance	Be sure everything is well mulched for the heat of summer. Water before 10 am to avoid fungal infections and to minimize water loss to evaporation. If you have blackberries in your garden, cut the canes that bore fruit to the ground. Tie up 3-5 of the new canes and fertilize to promote new growth. Cut canna stems to the ground as they finish flowering to encourage new stems to grow. Dig and divide bearded iris that have not been divided for 3 yrs. Cut the foliage on the divisions to 6-8 inches, replanting only new rhizomes and discarding the old rhizomes.	Continue to weed. Be especially sure to get weeds before they flower and set seeds. Cut off spent flowers of perennials and annuals for continued bloom.	September is a good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. It is also a good time to rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding.
Prevention	Cut back lavender after flowering to promote a second bloom. You can prune by half to keep the plant in bounds. If you have fruit trees, be sure to pick up dropped fruit to prevent brown rot from developing and leaving spores for future infection. You can dig and divide other bulbs after the foliage has died off. Deadhead blooming plants as they finish flowering to promote continuing bloom. Fertilize roses after each burst of blooms.	Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for plugged or blocked sprinklers. Check the mulch you have spread around and be sure it is thick enough to suppress weeds. (3 to 4 inches)	Put your spent annual and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile. Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.

Science Word of the Month

Soil amendment: a material added to the soil with the purpose of making improvements (adding nutrients for plant life, retaining moisture, aerating, etc.)



Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!



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.



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