



A Garden Runs Through It

April 2025

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

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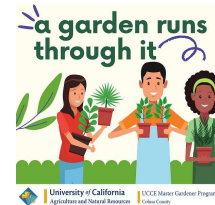
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Listen to our Podcast

Upcoming Events

Centennial Sprint

When?

Saturday, April 5, 2025
Check in starts at 8:30 am
Run/walk starts at 9:00 am

Where?

Colusa Sacramento River State
Recreation Area
1 10th Street, Colusa, CA 95932
Colusa, CA 95932

What?

The UC Cooperative Extension Office of Colusa County is celebrating 100 years of service to our community! Join us to walk/run and visit with our program booths

to learn more about Master Gardeners, CalFresh, 4-H, Pomology, and Rice Systems. There will also be a 100-yard dash race with medals for the kids to earn!

[Register Here](#)



CENTENNIAL SPRINT



Saturday, April 5, 2025

Colusa Sacramento River State Recreation Area

1 10th Street, Colusa, CA 95932

Check in starts at 8:30

Two-mile walk/run will start at 9:00am

Registration: \$30 per person

Registration includes a shirt and entrance fee to participate

Registration closes on March 31

100 yard dash
for the kids to
earn a medal!

Register on our website
cecolusa.ucanr.edu

Questions?
530-458-0570

CCOE-CHILDREN'S SERVICES
PRESENTS

FAMILY FAIR 2025

COLUSA COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS
1303 10TH ST. COLUSA, CA 95932
MAIN EXHIBIT BUILDING

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH 2025
10:00AM - 2:00PM

CHILDREN'S GAMES & ACTIVITIES
FREE HOTDOGS
PETTING ZOO
RAFFLE PRIZES
RESOURCES & MUCH MORE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
IF YOU OR YOUR AGENCY
WOULD LIKE TO BE A VENDOR
PLEASE CONTACT:

ABIGAIL GALVEZ RUBIO: AGRUBIO@CCOE.NET
OR
ASHLYN FERREIRA: AFERREIRA@CCOE.NET
(530)458-0350

Family Fair 2025

When?

Saturday, April 12th, 2025

10 am - 2 pm

Where?

Colusa County Fairgrounds

1303 10th Street

Colusa, CA

What?

CCOE Children's Services is hosting a family fair with games and activities for the whole family! Bring your children to the booth to propagate a succulent to take home and ask us any garden questions you may have.

Plant of the Month
Russian Sage (Salvia yangii)



Russian Sage (*Salvia yangii*)

I have several Russian sages (*Salvia yangii*) around the yard and the consistent thing is they look great in early spring and then kind of spiral out of control through the summer months until I'm happy to cut them down in the late fall. It's a wonderful airy and silvery perennial that should be a Mediterranean go to for hot summers in Northern California. So is it time to put an end to the love hate relationship or look for another answer with a new variety.

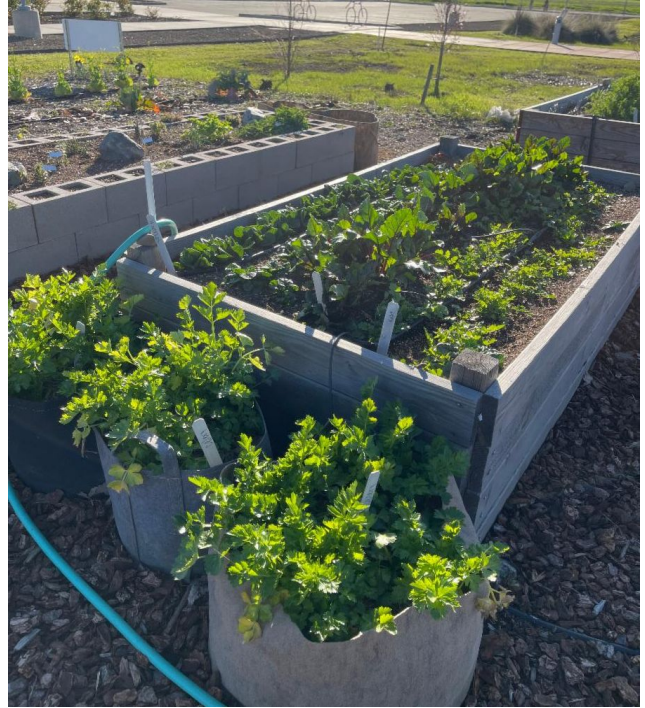
[Click here to learn more](#)

Submitted by Cynthia White

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite Street in Williams





Learning and Expanding

We are making some additions to the garden including a storage shed, and we are partnering with a local Boy Scout Troop to add a Little Free Library for garden guests to enjoy! We will be adding to the landscape around our sign in the spring as well!

Seeding and Planting

The winter garden is slowly being prepared for our transition into spring! At the end of February, we met at the Demonstration Garden to discuss and plan new additions and expansions for the spring garden. At the end of February, we also planted seed potatoes in grow bags. We will be planting tomatoes, squash, peppers, eggplant, thornless blackberries and boysenberries, sunflowers, marigolds, and several other varieties of cut flowers throughout the month of April.

Growing and Harvesting

Most of the vegetables that we planted in the fall have been harvested! All of the cauliflower and broccoli plants have been removed to make space for what is to come in the spring. We have continued to harvest radishes, beets, kale, celery, spinach, lettuce and cilantro. We donated these vegetables to the cafeteria at the Colusa County Office of Education Community School. Some cauliflower and broccoli were donated to the Ministerial Association's Food Distribution as well. Onions, beets, carrots, lettuce, celery, spinach and cilantro continue to grow in the garden, and we look forward to finishing up that harvest now that spring is here.

Gardener's Corner

Camelias



Camelias

If you are looking for winter color in your garden and have a shady spot with morning sun, consider planting camellias. Camellias have been around for many years and are still valued for their shiny evergreen leaves and spectacular blooms.

Sacramento is known as the “The Camellia Capital.” In the early 1900’s the popularity of the camellia declined until a nursery from Southern California shipped them north at an incredibly low price. When the citizens heard of this activity the popularity of camellias was revived. There are many old camellias throughout Sacramento including the State Capitol grounds.

Camellias have been traditionally used as foundation plants next to the east side of buildings. They can be grown as shrubs, small trees and as espaliers and do well in pots. Depending on the variety, blooms are produced from autumn and early winter into spring. They are prized for their red, white and pink blooms that make beautiful indoor displays.

Plant in well drained but moist soil that is rich in organic material. Roots are not deep so avoid areas that are often dug up. They prefer morning sun, especially young plants. Avoid full sun.

Fertilizing is best done after bloom season is over but avoid fertilizing in summer. Feed with acid food or a 2-10-10 mix.

Water by rainfall and/or irrigation. Avoid letting plants completely dry out. Poor drainage may result in diseases.

If pruning is indicated, prune dead or weak wood. Thin when branches become too dense for flowers to open.

Pick up any fallen flowers and destroy them. Petal blight is a concern with camellias, and it will destroy the following year’s blooms if not cleaned up.

There is a great variety of flower forms including single, semi-double and double. The *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* are both varieties that are most popular and common. Some well-known favorites are Debutante, a medium-large light pink or Kramer’s Supreme, that is also a medium-large red bloom. One of the oldest varieties is Alba Plena that came from China 2 centuries ago. Check at your favorite nursery for other varieties and colors.

Pairing your camellias with azaleas, Japanese maples, coral bells, and ferns will make a beautiful garden display on the east side of your home.

Submitted by Barbara Scheimer and Cynthia Peterson



Egg Substitutes for Cooking and Baking

Many of us have been concerned about the high price of eggs. Not everyone has the means to accommodate chickens in their backyard, so I've attached a list of suggested egg substitutes from NY Times Cooking. Although we cannot mimic the flavor of eggs in every recipe, these suggestions are good substitutes to get the consistency that eggs provide, they are also great alternatives if you are cooking for someone with an egg allergy. Click the link below to read the article, "Egg Prices Are (Still) Up. Here Are 5 Easy Substitutes." by Genevieve Ko.

[Link to the complete article](#)

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Recipe of the Month

Hot Honey Chicken Thighs



Hot Honey Chicken Thighs

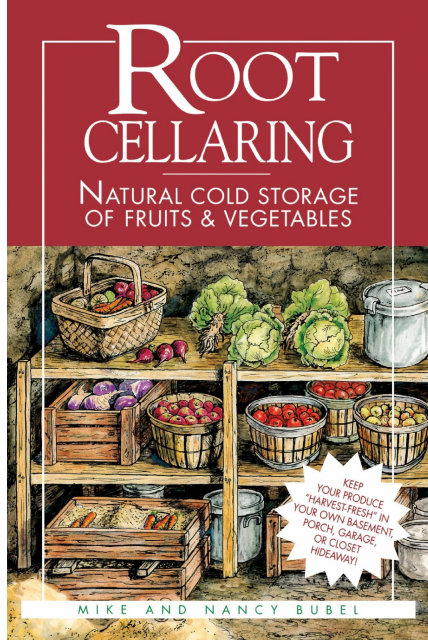
I made these on a whim the other night... bored with staying home post hip surgery. Hot honey anything seems to be a go to these days, so this is what I did. I made oven fried potato wedges to go along with my chicken. Yum...

[Click here for the full recipe](#)

Recipe submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Gardener's Literature

***Root Cellaring* by Mike and Nancy Bubel**



Root Cellaring by Mike and Nancy Bubel

This is a wonderful new title by Mike and Nancy Bubel that will restore your faith in your ability to keep vegetables that we manage to either grow in abundance or have the luck of availability from great friends.

My dilemma has been that I don't have the right place here in Northern California to really take advantage of many of the plants that should keep for a long time. The Bubels explain how to successfully use this natural storage approach. There is a wonderful sense of thoroughness about the book that actually makes you think you might be successful. Storing fresh foods for long periods requires lots of preparation and nothing spoils all that work like failure.

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

Submitted by Cynthia White

Thinking Safe and Green

Master Gardener Program



Pesticide Glove Use

More than 200,000 recordable hand and finger injuries occur each year in the United States. Hand injuries cost an average of \$1,700 per incident. Many of these injuries could be prevented through the proper selection and use of gloves.

Hand protection is recommended when work involves unusual and excessive exposure of hands to cuts, burns, harmful physical or chemical agents or radioactive materials which are encountered and capable of causing impairments or injuries. Accordingly, it is a prudent safety practice to use chemically-resistant gloves when handling pesticides or entering areas where pesticides have been applied.

[**#4 Pesticide Glove Use**](#)

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County

Zones 8 and 9

	April	May	June
Planting	In the shade you can still plant pansies, violas, and primroses. Most perennials can be planted in April, look for water-wise options. Once the nights are above 55 degrees, you can plant tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers, chard, radishes, beets, and cilantro (cilantro will bolt when it gets hot)	Direct seed in the garden cucumbers, melons, summer squash, beans, corn, and annual herbs. Plant sunflowers, zinnias, cosmos, marigolds, and aster in the flower garden.	In the flower garden you can still plant seeds of marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, and sunflowers. You can set out transplants of perennials like yarrow, verbena, black-eyed Susan, and dahlias. In the vegetable garden you can plant seeds of pumpkins, squash, and corn.
Maintenance	Fertilize your trees and shrubs once this spring. Fertilize the bulbs after the bloom is finished with bone meal. Applying mulch to your flower and vegetable beds is very important. The mulch keeps the soil cool, retains water and enriches the soil. Spring is go time for gardeners. Keep the weeds from taking over and have fun!!	Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Apply (or re-apply as needed) organic mulch to all beds to keep the soil cool and enrich the soil. Be sure to leave space around the base of 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.	Be sure to water early in the day to conserve water and minimize plant disease. Regularly check your sprinklers and drip emitters for needed repairs and adjustments. Monitor soil moisture in hot weather to be sure you are irrigating enough. (Use a metal rod to push into the ground. If it goes in easily, the soil is moist.) Remember to water your trees. Place a drip line or soaker hose around the tree several times. Let the water run for about 2 hours. Check the ground moisture with a metal rod. It should go in about 2 feet, if not water another hour.
Prevention	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.	Later in the month prune spring flowering shrubs to shape, removing old and dead wood. The plants flower on the growth that happens during the summer; do not prune in the fall or winter or you will have no flowers on the shrub. Continue the battle against slugs and snails. Deadhead (cut off spent flowers) to get continuing bloom on annuals and perennials. Thin peaches, plums, and nectarines so there is 6" between fruits.	Fertilize summer blooming flowers early in the month. Later in the month use a fertilizer for acid-loving plants like azaleas and camellias. Always follow the directions for proper dilution of concentrates. Dig and divide spring-flowering bulbs when the tops have died down. Before the full heat of summer arrives mulch your beds to control weeds and conserve moisture.

Science Word of the Month

Chelated iron: is a form of iron that has been chemically bound to a chelating agent, such as EDTA, DTPA, or EDDHA. This process helps to keep the iron in a soluble form, making it more available for plants to absorb and utilize

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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