



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ UC Master Gardener Program

A Garden Runs Through It

August 2025

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

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Upcoming Events



Little Free Library

Mini Grand Opening

Date: Wednesday, August 13

Time: 6 pm

Location: Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite Street in Williams

Our local Boy Scout Troop built us a Free Little Library at the demo garden! Join us to thank them and fill our Little Library with book donations. Feel free to bring a book to add or bring your family to borrow a book! It's a great opportunity to check out the garden and kick off the school year with books to read!



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 Bidens Campfire Red Embers

Bidens Campfire Red Embers

This is not a political article – this Biden is a member of the Asteraceae family and in our area can be grown as a perennial. The blooms of this specific one are tri-colored petals of orange and fiery red with a yellow eye. It was



developed in Arizona so our heat in the valley will be no deterrent for this plant that gets 10 inches tall and has a spread of about 24 inches.

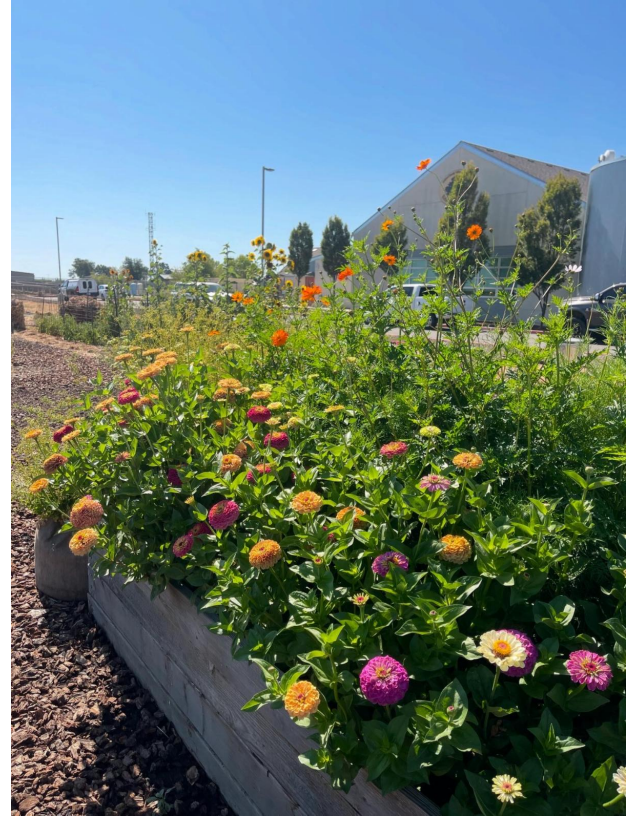
[Click here to learn more](#)

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 cucumbers, peppers, squash, tomatoes and eggplants. The sunflowers are blooming, and the others are continuing to grow taller. We also harvested the potatoes that we planted in February! 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. The zinnias and cosmos are blooming beautifully, but we are still waiting for the marigolds to make their appearance.

Recipe of the Month

Zucchini Parmesan Casserole

It's already zucchini season and, with the hot weather, zucchini will be plentiful!

This is my spin on a Zucchini Parmesan Casserole from the NY Times.

Think of classic Eggplant Parmesan turned into a zucchini casserole.

I love how the Times posts comments from people who have made the recipe.

Many of the respondents added ricotta and mozzarella cheeses, making this lasagna-like.

Sounded good to me, but feel free to leave them out for lighter fare

- up to you!

[Click here for the full recipe](#)

Recipe submitted by Penny Walgenbach



Gardener's Travels

Fireflies



Generally, this article is about a garden or a book that has come to my attention, but today the tone is about a one-word text from my daughter who moved to Wisconsin last fall – her word was ‘fireflies’. She didn’t need to explain. For our first 16 years of family life, we lived in the south from Tennessee to Florida. Our kids grew up with fireflies and they never ceased to delight all visitors with an evening ramble in the yard. The rule was play with them but **DON’T BRING THEM IN THE HOUSE**. The reasons were obvious – the insects always manage to escape the jar and wind up glowing to death in a closet.

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

Submitted by Cynthia White

Thinking Safe and Green

Master Gardener Program

Power Lawn Mower Safety

Consumer Product Safety Commission data indicate approximately 4,500 people were treated in hospitals for rotary power lawn mower injuries during 2006. Common injuries were lacerations to fingers, hand burns, foreign objects in the eye, and contusions and abrasions to the feet and legs. Many of these injuries were due to operator error and could have been prevented by using several simple precautions.



[#13 Power Lawn Mower Safety](#)

Musings from a Master Gardener's Kitchen

Shrinkflation



I just read a couple snippets on the internet from Megan Liscomb at BuzzFeed about SHRINKFLATION. Wahoo that reporters and consumers other than me are noticing this trend. I wrote about this in earlier editions, but I want to list some of the specific products that were identified in the article.

[Text Link](#)

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County Zones 8 and 9

	August	September	October
Planting	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	What to plant: Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, you can direct seed cornflower, nasturtium, poppy, nigella, portulaca and sweet peas. If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring. Direct seed peas, spinach, radishes, lettuce, and carrots. Early in the month you should buy your new bulbs and refrigerate them for six weeks before planting them in the garden.
Maintenance	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.	October is a good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. You can still rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding. Put your spent annuals 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. If you had glads, dahlias or tuberous begonias they should be dug up and cleaned after the foliage dies. Store the corms and tubers in a cool, dry place.
Prevention	Be sure to monitor your watering system. Check for coverage and watch for	Put your spent annual and vegetables (disease-free, of course) in your compost pile.	This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished

	<p>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)</p>	<p>Add compost to the beds that had the annuals and vegetables you are pulling out, before re-planting in those beds.</p>	<p>blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed. Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present. Be sure to deadhead your roses following the October bloom. Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin.</p>
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Science Word of the Month

Groundcover: A plant that spreads across the ground, rooting itself as it goes; these species are useful for landscaping large areas on a small budget



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.

Karyna Barrera
Community Outreach Coordinator
Master Gardener Coordinator

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