



A Garden Runs Through It

February 2025

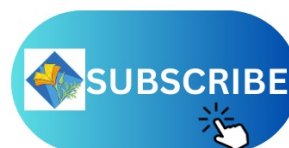
Whether it's a vegetable garden, houseplants or a landscape...

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Constant Contact

We will now only send out the newsletter through constant contact, so please make sure that you have subscribed! You should have received an email from UC Cooperative Extension - Colusa County asking you to "Resubscribe me!" Please make sure you click the link so that you continue getting our newsletter in the new platform.



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Upcoming Events



Colusa Farm Show

When?

February 4th and 5th from 9am until 4pm
February 6 from 9am until 3pm

Where?

Colusa County Fairgrounds
1303 10th Street
Colusa, CA

What?

Find us in the Main Exhibit Building, Space 457, and ask us all of your garden questions. We can't wait to see you!

Maintenance Worker's Landscape Tree Workshop

When?

February 26th at 3pm

Where?

Colusa County Courthouse
547 CA-45
Colusa, CA 95932

What?

The Master Gardeners will be hosting a tree maintenance workshop intended for maintenance workers within Colusa County, to expand their knowledge of pruning, watering and maintaining trees that have been planted at the schools and around the county.



TREE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP
FOR MAINTENANCE WORKERS

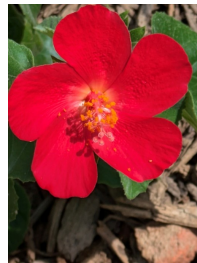
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
COLUSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Join the UC Master Gardeners of Colusa County to gain expert advice about how to prune, water, fertilize and maintain landscape trees.

Questions? Call 530-458-0570

Plant of the Month

Heartleaf Rose Mallow -- *Hibiscus martianus*



Heartleaf Rose Mallow – *Hibiscus martianus*

I have had a long-standing love affair with the hibiscus plant ever since I saw them blooming in my aunt's yard in southern California. I was stunned at their deep color and prolific tendencies. I recently encountered another hibiscus relative that was a bit more restrained in size but no less showy. The flowers are about 2-3 inches across and bright velvety red. Even in drought conditions, the plant will thrive and bloom, although it will remain smaller.

The heart-shaped leaves are a silvery green and in our temperate region will bloom nearly year around. If we get a killing frost, it may take a bit of a break but come roaring back as soon as the weather warms.

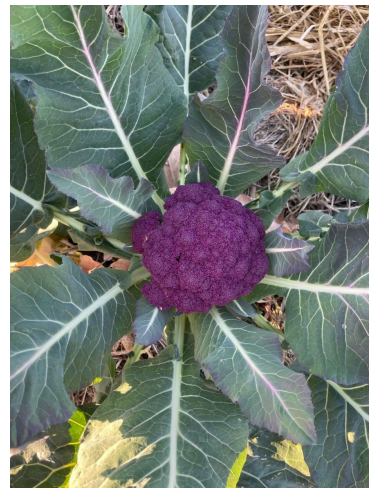
The rose mallow is native to the most southern part of our region (zone 8-10) this unusual perennial needs to be planted in warmer microclimates within the garden and protected with mulch if the weather takes a real turn to cold.

One can generally expect the plant to reach 1 - 3 feet tall and wide. It wants full sun to partial shade and a dry, well-drained soil. If you have a gravel area, it will make this plant even more lovely. I don't see it regularly in our nurseries but in Texas it's nearly a wildflower in the dry canyons and chapparal areas.

Submitted by Cynthia White

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite Street in Williams





Learning and Expanding

Last month was a busy one in the garden! We hosted our Perennial Pruning Workshop on January 25th (top left photo) and battled some strong winds, but we got through the lesson portion quickly and finished the task to prune back our native landscape garden. We have started the process of adding 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!

Seeding and Planting

From September through November, the Master Gardeners were busy in the garden planting lettuce, beets, kale, radishes, carrots, broccoli, cabbage, cilantro, spinach, chard, and celery! We just planted some lettuce donations that we received in January.

Growing and Harvesting

Most vegetables that we planted in the fall are growing and thriving! The cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli starters that were planted directly into the garden rows are growing more every day. In November and December, we were able to harvest some broccoli, cauliflower, radishes, beet leaves and kale. Since then, we have harvested white and purple cauliflower, more broccoli and radishes, a couple of beets, kale, 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 at the beginning of January.

Gardener's Corner

Planting Summer Bulbs



Planting Summer Bulbs

Summer bulbs are flowering bulbs that grow and bloom during the summer. Unlike hardy bulbs like daffodils and tulips that go dormant in the cold winter temperatures before emerging in the spring, this category of bulbs gives you beautiful blooms and bold foliage through the hottest days of the year. Here are some of the popular varieties that will liven up your garden: Asiatic lilies, bearded iris, calla lilies, cannas, dahlias, daylilies, gladiolas.

When shopping for bulbs, look for fresh firm bulbs without blemishes. Store them in a cool dry place until ready to plant.

Bulbs are programmed to grow and bloom on their own. They can be planted just about everywhere. In containers, window boxes, garden borders, around trees and in some cases, they can be forced to bloom indoors.

We divide bulbs into fall planting bulbs and spring planting bulbs. Common fall planted bulbs we plant in the ground before the first frost are tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocus and muscari. Spring bulbs planted for summer blooming are crocosmias, freesias, liatris, dahlias, and gladiolas. Today we want to go over some spring bulbs and their advantages.

Now let's talk about planting: Most bulbs need well-draining soil as well as full sun. Check out the average last frost date in spring. You will be safe to plant when you normally plant spring vegetables. Many bulbs come with planting instructions on the package and will let you know the sunlight requirements that will ensure your plants will thrive.

Next, plant in soil that is not compacted. You may need to mix compost to improve drainage. Avoid heavy clay soil and weedy areas. Now is a good time to assure a clean flowerbed. Weeds compete with plants for nutrients. You can add fertilizer meant for bulbs such as bone meal or bulb

meal. Follow directions on the package. Also, on the package you will find the correct planting depth for your specific bulb. If not, the common recommendation is three times as deep as their diameter. Plant bulbs with the nose up and roots down. Occasionally it is difficult to determine the right side to plant. So, the bulb can be planted on its side and will still find its way up. Give bulbs a good drink of water to settle air pockets. After planting, add a layer of mulch over bulbs to suppress weeds and to slow evaporation. You may want to mark your planting spot so as to not accidentally disturb your bulbs.

So, we talked about soil, fertilizing and planting depth. Now what to do at the end of the season. Many bulbs dry up. If you want your plant to return, leave the green leaves or blades on as long as possible so that next year's bulbs will develop. At the end of the season, trim off old dry leaves and don't disturb.

Combine different bulbs for more long-lasting color and plant several weeks apart to extend the season. Don't be surprised that many spring bulbs will naturalize and you will have yearly color displays.

We hope this has encouraged you to plant summer blooming bulbs and you will have many years of color in your garden to enjoy.

Submitted by Cynthia Peterson and Barbara Scheimer

Penny Pinching Tips from a Master Gardener's Kitchen



Chapter 7 Part 2

Like I said last month, once I got going... I had more information than I thought...So, here are some additional sauce-related recipes.

[Link to the complete article](#)

Submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Recipe of the Month

Magic Mayonnaise Chicken



Magic Mayonnaise Chicken

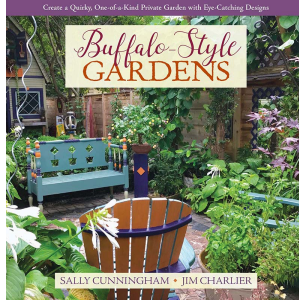
Versions of this recipe has been around for quite a while. It was recently featured in the NY Times Cooking - Five Weeknight Dishes e-mail. The mayonnaise keeps the chicken moist and the seasonings on the chicken while it helps with browning. Here is my rendition of the recipe with my usual multiple options.

[Click here for the full recipe](#)

Recipe submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Gardener's Literature

Buffalo Style Gardens by Sally Cunningham and Jim Charlier



Buffalo Style Gardens by Sally Cunningham and Jim Charlier

The book is filled with beautiful photos and expert guidance that could allow anyone to continue garden tourism in their area. Most all of the gardens are unique and show the owner's celebration of plants, creative use of outdoor spaces and joy of gardening. Check it out.

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

Submitted by Cynthia White

Thinking Safe and Green

Master Gardener Program



Continuous Standing

Standing for extended periods of time may cause back strain and decrease the blood supply to the lower extremities resulting in muscle fatigue and soreness in the legs and feet. In addition, prolonged standing causes excessive pressure to accumulate at the heels and balls of the feet. Accumulated pressure can strain and cause inflammation of the connective tissue along the bottom of the foot (i.e., the plantar fascia). Inflammation of the plantar fascia can be very painful and is termed plantar fasciitis (pronounced fashee-eye-tiss). This Thinking Safe and Green note presents information about how to reduce the potential for incurring back, foot, and leg discomfort or injuries due to continuous standing.

Click the link below to read this month's safety tip.

[**#21 Continuous Standing**](#)

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County **Zones 8 and 9**

	February	March	April
Planting	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.	Mid-March is a good time to plant potatoes. You can plant canna, gladiolus, and crocosmia for summer blooms. Early in the month you can still plant bare-root trees and shrubs if the garden center still has any. 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°.	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)
Maintenance	Finish pruning roses. Prune summer blooming shrubs now. Pest and Disease Control Watch for aphids on spring blooming bulbs; remove with a strong spray of water.	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	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

		after they finish blooming. Fertilize the lawn with a slow-release fertilizer.	gardeners. Keep the weeds from taking over and have fun!!
Prevention	<p>Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell. Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts.</p> <p>Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost) fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight.</p> <p>Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials.</p> <p>Mulch 3 inches deep around plants (without touching stems) to conserve soil moisture.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Prepare garden beds by incorporating compost before planting spring vegetables.</p> <p>Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small.</p> <p>Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The leaves restore the bulb; so, wait to remove them until they turn yellow.</p>

Science Word of the Month

Bareroot: A plant that is sold in a dormant state with its roots exposed (typically wrapped in burlap) as opposed to in a pot with soil. Bareroot fruit trees are a common sight at nurseries in the late fall or early spring.

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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