



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ UC Master Gardener Program

A Garden Runs Through It

November 2025

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

In This Issue

- Plant of the Month - Wonderful Fava Beans
- Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden
- Recipe of the Month - Apple Crumb Cake
- Gardener's Travels - Wineland Walnut in Chico
- Safety Notes - Hearing Protection
- Recent Event - Pumpkin Centerpiece Workshop
- Garden Guide
- Science Word of the Month - Humus



Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram



Listen to our Podcast

Upcoming Events

CCOE Day for Dads

Date: Saturday, November 15

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Location: CCOE Education Village
499 Margurite Street in Williams**

Are you a dad, grandpa or father figure looking for something fun to do with your little one? Come see us at the Colusa County Office of Education Day for Dads! There will be a pancake breakfast, vendor fair, resources, activities, games and a raffle. Weather permitting, we will be outside giving garden tours and will have a booth set up with activities for children and gardening resources for dads.

[Click here to sign up](#)

A DAY FOR DADS

CELEBRATING FATHERS, FATHER FIGURES, AND MALE ROLE MODELS

November 15 • 9:00am - Noon



**CCOE Education Village
499 Margurite Street
Williams, CA 95987**

- Pancake Breakfast
- Vendor Fair
- Resources
- Activities
- Games
- Raffle

**FREE
EVENT**

Scan the QR code
to sign up today!



To become a vendor, contact Joe Moyer at (530) 458-0350



Save-the-Date

December 2, 2025 - Midnight to Midnight



UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Giving Tuesday

December 2, 2025

Midnight to Midnight

Save the Date! Giving Tuesday is your chance to donate to the UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County and support all of the work we do in the community. Your donation helps us grow fresh vegetables for the Ministerial Association Food Distribution and the CCOE Community School Cafeteria, purchase materials for workshops and classroom visits to teach adults and children in Colusa County about gardening, integrated pest management, and assists our efforts to protect the environment and conserve natural resources.

Look for the link to donate in next month's issue of our Newsletter.

Plant of the Month

Wonderful Fava Beans



Wonderful Fava Beans

Fava beans are tasty jewels, the emerald-green beans are often mixed in with pasta. Intrigued, I started asking for them at farmers markets and quickly discovered that favas aren't your average bean. Fresh favas are never found in summer; they're a winter and early spring crop.

When other beans are wrapping up for the season, favas are planted now, in early fall. They grow in winter with a harvest of full-size pods in earliest spring. Meanwhile, their leaves and immature beans are edible, too. Fava leaves can substitute for spinach; treat the baby beans including pods – no bigger than your pinkie finger – like green beans.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Submitted by Cynthia White

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite Street in Williams



Harvesting

We had several workdays in October to remove the pepper plants, cucumbers, eggplants and flowers that were left in the garden. We donated the vegetables to the CCOE Community School Cafeteria, and our volunteers and their cafeteria staff all took home bouquets of zinnias. We left one garden bed full of marigolds so that our volunteers and the cafeteria staff could cut flowers for Dia de los Muertos on November 2, but we will remove the spent flowers after that to fill the raised bed with onions and leeks.

Landscape

We expanded the landscape area even further this fall, using inspiration from the Arboretum All Stars Wildlife Attracting Landscape Plan. The bottom left photo shows all the plants set out as we prepared to plant them in front of our Little Free Library. We can't wait to see all these plants grow and fill the

space with life!

Planting

We were very busy in the garden this month! We planted broccoli, cauliflower, celery and garlic from starter plants. We also planted carrots, beets, kale, radishes, lettuce and spinach from seed since they all successfully grew from seed last year! Root vegetables like carrots, beets and radishes grow better when they are direct seeded, because it allows the root system to grow without disturbance but remember to plant in loose well-draining soil for larger vegetables.

Arboretum All Star Planting Plans

Recipe of the Month

Apple Crumb Cake

Apple Crumb Cake

Well, it is fall and time for apples in all their glory. Did you take a drive to Apple Hill and get carried away, buying too many? Take your pick of what kind is your favorite and make an Apple Crumb Cake! Gala and Honey Crisp come to mind for me as good choices. Delicious and Golden Delicious are not on my list for cooking. I think Granny Smith might be too firm and too tart, too. I'm headed to the kitchen right now!

[Click here for the full recipe](#)

Recipe submitted by Penny Walgenbach



Gardener's Travels

Wineland Walnut in Chico



Wineland Walnut

Contrary to popular belief, pruning does not involve turning an overgrown shrub into a rounded green mound. The worst thing you can do to a shrub is shave it to a round shape that is never found in nature and then wonder why the shrub never offers anything special for your landscape. Ornamental pruning allows the best features of a plant to shine and enhances the ordinary into the extraordinary. There are people who specialize in this and recently I had the pleasure to encounter one of those talented folks whose mission it is to make the natural shapes of shrubs and small trees the beauties they can be.

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

Submitted by Cynthia White

Thinking Safe and Green

Master Gardener Program

Hearing Protection

According to information from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 25% of employees age 55 or older have developed significant hearing impairments when exposed long term in the workplace to an average noise level of about 90 decibels (dBA). English and Spanish language safety videos on hearing protection are also available for loan from the ANR Environmental Health & Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.

[#15 Hearing Protection](#)



Pumpkin Centerpiece Workshop

October 16, 2025





Pumpkin Centerpiece Workshop

Our Pumpkin Centerpiece Workshop was a hit! Thank you to everyone who came out to decorate a beautiful centerpiece! We know everyone had a great time because they left with smiles on their faces! We hope to see many of you at upcoming UC Master Gardener events!

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County Zones 8 and 9

	November	December	January
Planting	<p>You can still sow seeds of wildflowers this month. Plant California poppy, calendula, clarkia, and sweet peas.</p> <p>In the veggie garden plant seeds for lettuce, mustard, spinach, radishes, and peas.</p> <p>If you didn't get your new tree planted last month, it is not too late to take advantage of the fall root growth that will give your new tree a strong start in the spring.</p> <p>Also, this is the time to plant the chilled bulbs, and the spring flowering tubers and corms.</p>	<p>Plants and seeds make awesome holiday, hostess and mystery gifts</p> <p>What to plant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bare-root roses Bulbs Camellias Cyclamen Hellebore Living Christmas trees Bare-root fruit and landscape trees 	<p>This is the time to plant bare root roses, trees, and vines.</p> <p>You can still plant pansies, violas, snapdragons and fairy primroses.</p> <p>Plant rhubarb, strawberries and cane berries. Plant seeds for peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach.</p> <p>NOTE: Beware of digging in soggy soils. All plantings should be well-drained; the new plants might rot if soil is soggy.</p>
Maintenance	<p>Look at your camellias and remove excess buds to get larger flowers.</p> <p>In the middle of the month fertilize the veggies and flowers that were planted in October.</p>	<p>Adjust your irrigation</p> <p>Protect citrus and other sensitive plants</p> <p>Apply dormant spray</p> <p>Add mulch to beds</p> <p>Divide perennials</p> <p>Throw out fallen rose leaves</p>	<p>Roses, fruit trees and other perennials can be pruned this month.</p> <p>Do not prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom.</p> <p>Later in the month you can divide Shasta daisies, daylilies, chrysanthemums, and other perennials.</p>
Prevention	<p>Clean up all the fallen/falling</p>	<p>Catalogs are arriving to get</p>	<p>Spray horticultural oil on</p>

	leaves and other plant debris and dispose of diseased materials.	you excited about what to plant next year. You might want to consider removing some lawn area and creating a new planting bed to make room for all the new plants in the catalogs.	pruned fruit trees to control scale, mites and aphids. Thorough coverage will kill over-wintering eggs. Later in the month, spray neem oil on roses to control mildew, rust, and black spot. Do not apply oils unless there will be 24 hours of dry weather following application. Be sure to clean up debris (leaves and twigs) around roses and fruit trees to help prevent disease.
--	--	--	--

Science Word of the Month

Humus

Humus is the organic matter in soil that results from the decomposition of dead plants, animals, and other organic materials by microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi. It is typically dark brown or black in color and has a loose, crumbly texture. Humus is rich in nutrients, including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, which are essential for plant growth.



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

UC Cooperative Extension of Colusa County
P.O. Box 180
100 Sunrise Blvd., Suite E
Colusa, CA 95932

Did a friend send you this newsletter?

You can get your own newsletter sent directly to your inbox, just click to subscribe.



530-458-0570
cecolusa.ucanr.edu



Read UC ANR's non-discrimination Statement [here](#).

UC Cooperative Extension - Colusa County | 100 Sunrise Blvd., Ste. E | Colusa, CA 95932
US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!