



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ UC Master Gardener Program

## *A Garden Runs Through It*

**September 2025**

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

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## **Upcoming Events**



### **Colusa County Employee Benefits, Safety and Wellness Fair**

**Date: Wednesday, September 10**

**Time: 10:30 am - 12:30 pm**

**Location: Veterans Hall  
126 Main Street in Colusa**

Stop by our booth at the Colusa County Employee Benefits, Safety and Wellness Fair, and ask us all of your gardening questions and about how to become a Master Gardener, we can't wait to see you!

### **Senior Spread**

**Date: Friday, October 10**

**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 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm*

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

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:**  
**530-458-0570**



## Pest of the Month Elm Leaf Beetle

### Defoliating elm trees? -THE CULPRIT IS THE ELM LEAF BEETLE

In case you are wondering what is happening to the majestic elm trees in town – here is the answer. Elm Leaf Beetle! The pest isn't normally a big problem in California but this year we have been struck when the leaves are usually providing the best canopy for our late





summer heat. Some trees are nearly in a state of total defoliation! We do have help available. The UC Master Gardener Pest Notes has a clearly written set of instructions and information that will relieve a great deal of anxiety but also let us know we have to be proactive. Here is the link to the [IPM Pest Notes](#).

[Click here to learn more](#)

Submitted by Cynthia White

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## Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite Street in Williams







### **Vegetables and Herbs**

Our harvesting season is starting to slow down. Pictured above, are the cucumbers and eggplants that we harvested at the end of August. Our tomatoes did not grow well this year. We were barely able to harvest any because they grew small, and stayed green, rather than ripening. We are assuming it is because of the fluctuations of very hot and cooler weeks we experienced throughout the summer.

### **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 also added a Little Free Library to our landscape area, with hopes of people visiting the garden to borrow a book and sit and enjoy the space we have curated. 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 planted zinnia, marigold and cosmos seeds in the raised beds, as well as zinnia and celosia starts.



Flowers are now blooming in all the beds, and they are looking very tall and lush. We will need to start cutting some for bouquets!

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## Recipe of the Month

### Chicken with Corn and Basil/Lime Butter



Looking for something delicious to grill as summer comes to an end? This recipe would be delicious as is, or would be great in pasta, salads, sandwiches and quesadillas!

[Click here for the full recipe](#)

Recipe submitted by Penny Walgenbach

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## Gardener's Travels

### Great Smokey Mountains National Park



#### Great Smokey Mountains National Park

I'm sitting at my desk watching the rest of the lovely elm leaves fall to the ground nearly 3 months ahead of schedule due to the elm leaf beetle infestation and wondering how to overcome my melancholy and anger. It made me remember the amazing display of color that we were fortunate to experience during our 11 year residence in the state of Tennessee. We were very young with two young children and without excess funds to go to exotic places for vacations. Our lives will always be enriched by the time we spent camping in the Great Smokey Mountains of east Tennessee. Before the kids started school we were able to head over before the crowds of late October arrived to watch the transformation of the many hard wood trees as they changed into a magical melody of reds, oranges and yellows.

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

Submitted by Cynthia White

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## Thinking Safe and Green

### Master Gardener Program

## Grass and Hedge Shearing Safety

Data available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicate most manual lawn trimmer or edger injuries that received hospital treatment, during 2008, were lacerations to fingers. In addition to physical injuries, there are the potential for ergonomic injuries associated with repetitive hand-squeezing and stooping and bending motions frequently utilized when using grass or hedge shears. Many of these injuries are avoidable and are due to inexperience or lack of training or improper or inattentive use of grass or hedge shears.



### [#24 Grass and Hedge Shearing Safety](#)

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## Little Free Library Our Newest Garden Addition



### Little Free Library Grand Opening

On August 13, we hosted a mini grand opening for our Little Free Library at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden. This project would not have been possible without the collaboration of Christopher Roland, Terri Swiggum and Karyna Barrera. Karyna contacted Terri, the Scout Troop 5 Leader, and Christopher took on the project as his Eagle Scout Project. He worked with Karyna to decide the design and placement of the Little Library, and he followed all of the Master Gardeners' recommendations for weather proofing the structure and worked hard to create something for the whole community.

The Little Free Library is located in the landscape area of our plot, and between the Colusa County

Office of Education Community School, and Woodland Community College, to encourage the use of this space for learning and education. We added gardening books, children's books and novels. Please stop by and borrow a book to read and enjoy the work that we have put into the garden.

## Gardening Guide

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

	September	October	November
<b>Planting</b>	<p>Cool-weather annuals like pansies, violas, snapdragons can be transplanted now. Also, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale transplants can be planted this month</p> <p>Direct seed spinach, radishes, carrots, and lettuce</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>If you don't have a winter garden, consider planting a cover crop to be tilled in next spring.</p> <p>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.</p>	<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. 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>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>October is a good time to consider reducing the size of your lawn. You can still rejuvenate a lawn with over-seeding.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<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>
<b>Prevention</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>This is also the month to dig, divide, and re-plant overgrown perennials that have finished blooming. Be sure to clear out any weeds that developed in the perennial bed.</p> <p>Check azaleas, gardenias and camellias for leaves yellowing between the veins. Apply chelated iron if this condition is present.</p>	<p>Clean up all the fallen/falling leaves and other plant debris and dispose of diseased materials.</p>



Be sure to deadhead your roses following the October bloom.

Keep your compost bin covered with a plastic tarp when rains begin.

## Science Word of the Month

### Deadheading (flowers):

Deadheading flowers refers to the practice of removing wilted or faded blooms from plants. This process is important for several reasons:

- It helps to maintain the plant's appearance by keeping it neat and tidy
- Removing spent flowers encourages the growth of new blooms, promoting longer flowering periods
- It can prevent the plant from going to seed, which can divert energy away from producing new flowers



## 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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