

A Garden Runs Through It

December 2025

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

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Upcoming Events



GIVING TUESDAY

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.

[Link to Donate](#)

Plant of the Month

The Mighty Oak Tree

The Mighty Oak Tree

As Thanksgiving moves us toward the wonderful holiday season I'd like to pay a bit of tribute to the mighty oak tree. Scientists have determined that the oaks appeared about 65 million years ago and that today we have about 500 species, twenty of which are native to California. Oaks thrive in our hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters and are considered to be a keystone species. That means that oaks are part of the glue that hold our ecosystem together.



[Click here to learn more](#)

Submitted by Cynthia White

Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite Street in Williams





Harvesting and Growing

We did a lot of planting in November, and the radishes were the first seeds to sprout! We already have radishes that are ready to harvest! Beet and carrots are also sprouting well, and the celery continues to grow bigger. The bottom left photo shows the boysenberry and blackberry plants that we planted on a trellis last fall, and we are excited to see them come back taller. We hope to harvest some berries in 2026!

Landscape

We expanded the landscape area even further this fall, using inspiration from the Arboretum All Stars Wildlife Attracting Landscape Plan. We planted several plants around the sign in the spring and summer, and all of those plants are thriving, as you can see in the top left photo.

Planting

We were very busy in the garden in November! 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! Something has been nibbling up our broccoli plants as soon as they get uncovered, so hopefully we can get them to grow big enough to harvest, before another critter eats them up.

Recipe of the Month

A Knock Your Socks Off Holiday Feast

A Knock Your Socks Off Holiday Feast

Here are some of my tried and true recipes for Thanksgiving or Christmas or any other get together. I have cooked turkey virtually every way except deep frying. That option simply leaves me cold and the cost of all that oil has always been a deal breaker. I have, however, done big turkeys in the Weber BBQ with rave reviews. For whatever reason, they tend to cook a lot faster in the Weber than in the oven and using the BBQ frees up space for more things to go into the oven. A win win situation.



Thinking Safe and Green

Master Gardener Program



Pruning Safety

Data available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission indicate approximately 27,000 people nationwide received hospital treatment for pruning injuries during 2006. Many of the injuries were to fingers and involved lacerations. English and Spanish language safety videos on tree care safety are available for loan from the ANR Environmental Health & Safety Library at <http://safety.ucanr.org>.

[Pruning Safety](#)

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County Zones 8 and 9

	December	January	
Planting	Plants and seeds make awesome holiday, hostess and mystery gifts What to plant: Bare-root roses Bulbs Camellias Cyclamen Hellebore Living Christmas trees Bare-root fruit and landscape trees	This is the time to plant bare root roses, trees, and vines. You can still plant pansies, violas, snapdragons and fairy primroses. Plant rhubarb, strawberries and cane berries. Plant seeds for peas, radishes, lettuce, and spinach. NOTE: Beware of digging in soggy soils. All plantings should be well-drained; the new plants might rot if soil is soggy.	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.
Maintenance	Adjust your irrigation Protect citrus and other sensitive plants Apply dormant spray Add mulch to beds Divide perennials Throw out fallen rose leaves	Roses, fruit trees and other perennials can be pruned this month. Do not prune spring flowering shrubs until after they bloom. Later in the month you can divide Shasta daisies, daylilies, chrysanthemums, and other perennials.	Finish pruning roses. Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials. Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts. Mulch 3 inches deep around plants (without touching stems) to conserve soil moisture.
Prevention	Catalogs are arriving to get you excited about what to	Spray horticultural oil on pruned fruit trees to control	Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost)

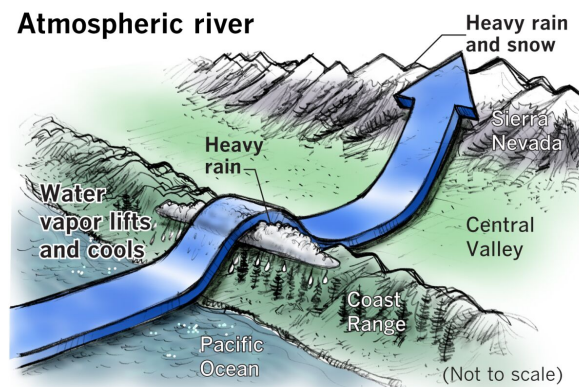
	plant next year. You might want to consider removing some lawn area and creating a new planting bed to make room for all the new plants in the catalogs.	scale, mites and aphids. Thorough coverage will kill over-wintering eggs. Later in the month, spray neem oil on roses to control mildew, rust, and black 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.	fallen camellia blossoms to reduce petal blight. Around Valentine's Day apply dormant copper spray to peach and nectarine trees no later than bud swell. Watch for aphids on spring blooming bulbs; remove with a strong spray of water. As the weather warms prepare to battle slugs and snails with traps or pet-friendly baits.
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Science Word of the Month

Atmospheric river

An atmospheric river is a narrow corridor or filament of concentrated moisture in the atmosphere. Other names for this phenomenon are tropical plume, tropical connection, moisture plume, water vapor surge, and cloud band.

Atmospheric river



Little Free Library

Remember to check out our Little Free Library at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden! It's packed with gardening books, novels and books for kids

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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