



A Garden Runs Through It

January 2026

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

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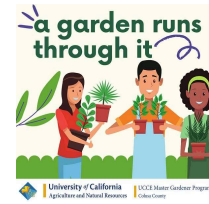
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Upcoming Events

Colusa Farm Show
61st Annual Colusa Farm Show
The Granddaddy of all Farm Shows!

For six decades, the Colusa Farm Show has been the one stop shop event for agricultural professionals, farmers, and rural enthusiasts.

Explore the latest innovations in farm equipment, technology, and services. Connect with industry experts, farmers and ranchers. Discover new products and services to enhance your agricultural operations.

Join us:

- 300+ EXHIBITORS
- FREE ADMISSION
- FREE PARKING
- FOOD CONCESSIONS
- COFFEE VENDOR

BECOME AN EXHIBITOR

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COLUSA FARM SHOW
Est. 1965
FEB 3RD-5TH 2026

February 3, 4, & 5 Colusa Fairgrounds

For 61 years, the Colusa County Farm Show has been the one-stop shop event for all things agricultural, celebrating innovation from across the country. With **free parking and free admission** to all attendees - farmers, suppliers, and buyers meet to explore the latest in modern farming equipment and techniques. Join us for an unparalleled opportunity to stay ahead of the curve and revolutionize your farming practice.

Plant of the Month

Russian River Coyote Mint

Russian River Coyote Mint -*Monardella vilosa*

This pleasantly scented plant will spread out to about 18 inches and stand from 12-18 inches tall. The mint family is prolific in our area and this one has many extra features to sell itself for your garden area.

[Click here for more information](#)

Submitted by Cynthia White



Activities at the Donna Critchfield Demonstration Garden

499 Margurite Street in Williams



Harvesting and Growing

Harvest of radishes for the CCOE kitchen continues and a new crop is growing strong. Onions and leeks doing well - carrots are slowly growing as are the spinach plants. Brassica plants (broccoli, cauliflower) are still struggling - a big change from last year, but this is probably due to either gophers or rabbits munching on our plants. Our recently planted blackberry and boysenberry vines are thriving however. Herb garden perennials are looking good and the basil has been taken out - done for the year.

Landscape

Perennial plants, including all salvias, are still blooming and attracting hummingbirds. We will cut them all back later in the winter. We are also pleased that people appear to be enjoying our Free Little Library.

Planting

Spring is right around the corner and we are putting together plans for the garden.

Recipe of the Month

Butter Chicken and Rice Pilaf

It is a "two-fer" this month! Butter Chicken just begs to be served with Rice Pilaf, but plain rice works, too!

The chicken recipe comes with 5 stars from over 900 comments. I love how Sam Sifton from the New York Times edits a classic recipe making it approachable for just about anybody. This makes plenty for 6 people, so feel free to cut it in half for smaller households. The pilaf recipe is one of my family's staples and the rice is great to soak up all that yummy butter chicken sauce.



[Butter Chicken Recipe](#)
[Rice Pilaf Recipe](#)

Recipe submitted by Penny Walgenbach

Gardener's Travels

Bidwell Mansion

Bidwell Mansion

I just finished reading an article in the Chico Enterprise Record about the potential for restoration of the Bidwell Mansion in Chico, which was destroyed by an arson fire on December 11th last year. The image shows the mansion in its heyday before the fire. The bulk of the building still waits to see what the future might bring. The mansion has always represented the Bidwell family that founded the City of Chico and the mansion was built to establish their presence.



Submitted by Cynthia White

Thinking Safe and Green

Master Gardener Program



2. Feed Soils Naturally

Add a thin layer of compost to your soil. Compost adds nutrients and microbes to the soil. Feed turf by topdressing with compost instead of commercial fertilizer. Apply compost 2-4 times a year to your plants instead of commercial fertilizer. If you use chemical fertilizers, please read the label and follow the instructions.

3. Minimize Chemical Pesticides and Herbicides

Many products are toxic to microbes and other soil dwelling creatures as well as people

Nurture the Soil

1. Mulch regularly

Mulch is any material spread over the soil. It can be leaf litter, bark or rocks. You need 2-4 inches at all times to suppress weeds. Mulch protects the soil from compaction.

and pets. Worms are great workers and we need to keep them alive. Try integrated pest management techniques (IPM) first, information available at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu. If pesticides are needed, choose the least toxic first. Always read and follow the label instructions.

Gardening Guide

UC Master Gardener Program of Colusa County Zones 8 and 9

	January	February	March
Planting	<p>This is the time to plant bare root roses, trees, and vines. 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>	<p>Plant in vegetable garden by direct seeding: radishes, beets, chard, and peas.</p> <p>Start tomato, pepper and eggplant seeds indoors.</p> <p>Flowers to transplant or direct seed: snapdragon, candytuft, larkspur, coral bells, and stock.</p>	<p>Prepare garden beds by incorporating compost before planting spring vegetables. You can plant lettuce, carrots, and cilantro directly in the vegetable bed. Mid-March is a good time to plant potatoes.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 degrees.</p>
Maintenance	<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>	<p>Finish pruning roses.</p> <p>Fertilize spring blooming and fall-planted perennials.</p> <p>Fertilize mature trees and shrubs after spring growth starts.</p> <p>Mulch 3 inches deep around plants (without touching stems) to conserve soil moisture.</p>	<p>Check your irrigation system and do necessary maintenance.</p> <p>Fertilize roses, annual flowers, and berries with slow-release fertilizer when spring growth begins.</p> <p>Prune and fertilize spring-flowering shrubs and trees after they finish blooming.</p> <p>Fertilize the lawn with a slow release fertilizer.</p>
Prevention	<p>Spray horticultural oil on pruned fruit trees to control scale, mites and aphids.</p>	<p>Be sure to remove and discard (do not compost)</p>	<p>Watch for aphids on new growth on the roses; spray with a strong spray of</p>

	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>water to remove them, or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray. Keep on the weed patrol; pull them while they are small. Use iron phosphate bait for slugs and snails or go on a night hunt and kill them up when you find them.</p>
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Science Word of the Month



Dormant Spray

One of the ways to protect your fruit trees, roses and other plants is to apply a dormant spray during the fall, winter and early spring after leaves fall and before growth begins. These are the times of the year when insect pests and some diseases are "asleep" or dormant and are therefore easiest to control. There are any number of commercial products available but the strategies are pretty simple. Oil based products coat the insect or its eggs or larvae and smother them with little, if any, residue left after the seasonal rains wash the plant. Soap based products can work similarly and can be far less toxic to our beneficial critters. Products containing copper or synthetic materials are particularly effective on fungal spores and bacterial diseases like peach leaf curl, powdery mildew, and fire blight. Carefully identify your specific problem and select the right material for your problem. Always read product directions carefully and follow them to the letter!



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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[Master Gardeners | Colusa County](#)

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