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In This Issue

UC CE

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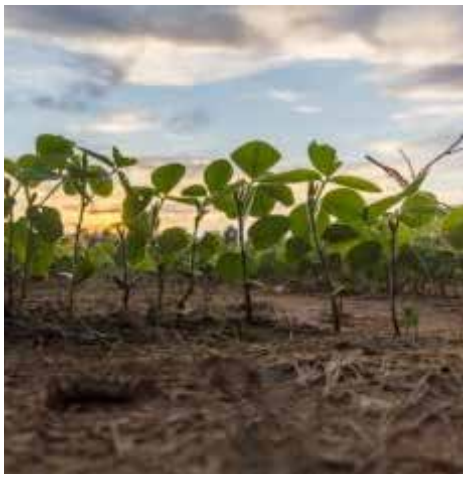
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Is Your Soil the Cause of Your Plant's Problems?

by Jan Birdsall, UC Master Gardener of Placer County



Are you thinking your plant damage is not just pest related, or have you eliminated disease as the source of your issue? Considering biotic disorders, caused by living organisms such as infectious diseases and/or arthropod pests, might be the first step in your investigation, but those are not the only sources of plant damage. The other culprits are abiotic disorders, which occur when environmental factors develop, such as weather related, human error or soil issues. This article will look at soil issues including soil compaction, nutrient deficiencies and pH imbalances.

Whether due to high traffic or high clay composition, soil compaction prevents good root growth, drainage, and aeration, which in turn obstructs the plant roots from getting the needed air, water and nutrients to grow and develop. Aeration and avoiding foot traffic on wet or dry garden bed areas will help as well using mulch on the soil surface. However, for serious compaction, your garden beds should likely be amended with compost, worm castings, or aged or composted animal manure.

Nutrient deficiencies are common but are normally solvable. In California, nitrogen is naturally low in most of our soils. There could be other nutrient deficiencies in the soil as well; therefore, testing your soil is a way to help find out and potentially solve this problem. Although there are over-the-counter soil test kits, we recommend sending your soil sample to a lab for a full soil analysis.

In California, soil typically is between pH 5.0 to 8.3. Disproportionate acidity or alkalinity inhibits certain nutrients from being absorbed in the soil and can

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release other nutrients and minerals in toxic amounts. For maximum nutrient absorption, the soil should be slightly acidic at pH 6.5 to 6.8, which can be ascertained by testing your soil with a lab test or do-it-yourself kit. In general, lime products like "Oystershell lime" can be used to increase soil pH while soil sulfur and compost are used to lower high pH.

Determining the solution to your plant's problem takes learning to become a garden detective!

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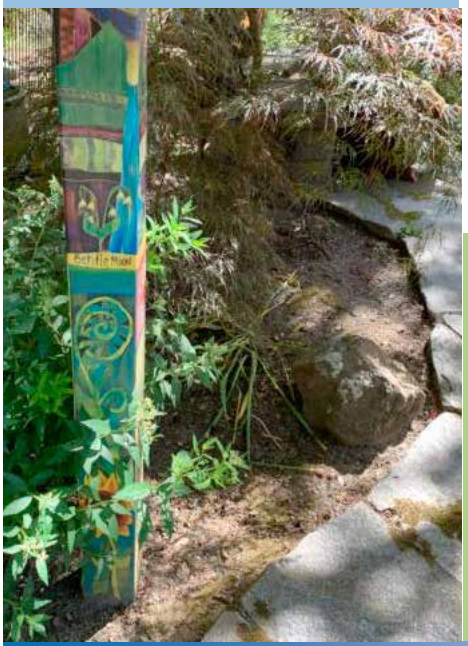
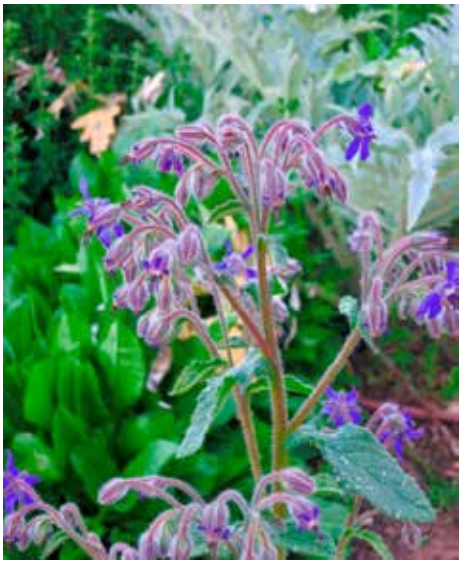


agri-cola, ae *m* tiller of the field, farmer, husbandm
caulis, is *m* stalk, stem of a plant; cabbage
colo, colui, cultum 3 to care for; a) to till, culti
farm; b) to tend; *adj.* **cultus** 3 cultivated, t
ta, orum *n/pl* tilled land, gardens, plan
cresco, crevi, (cretum) 3 to grow
cultus *m* cultivation, labor, tilling; a
b) care, training, education; c) c
florens, tis blooming, flowerin
floreo, ui 2 to bloom, blosso
flos, oris *m* flower, blosso
fodio, fossom 3 to dig, c
folium, i *n* leaf; folia
herba, ae *f* grass,
hortus, i *m* gar
radix *f* root;
viridis, e
vita, ae
xyle
zen

BotLat Corner

Find Out What Those Weird Plant Names Mean



by Peggy Beltramo, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Winter weather means less time in the garden and that leaves more time in the kitchen, so let's look at BotLat words for plants used in recipes, namely herbs.

There are several specific epithets (descriptive second word of a plant name) commonly used for edible plants. Let's take them in alphabetical order.

First, *officinalis* which comes from Latin, meaning 'of the officina,' which was the storeroom in a monastary where provisions and medicines were kept. For instance *Melissa officinalis*, or lemon balm, is a common herb plant with lemony leaves. The genus of this plant, *Melissa*, comes from the Greek for honeybee. Other herbs with this epithet are *Zingiber officinale* (ginger), and *Calendula officinalis*, (pot marigold). Note: a specific epithet matches the gender of its genus word, so two different forms—*officinalis* and *officinale*.

Next in line is *sativum*, meaning 'cultivated.' An example is *Coriandrum sativum,* which is actually two herbs: the plant's strong-scented foliage (cilantro) and its aromatic seeds (coriander). The genus, *Coriandrum*, comes from Greek, *koriandron*, referring to the unpleasant smell of its unripe fruits. Two other 'cultivated' culinary plants are: *Allium sativum* (garlic) and *Avena sativa* (oats).

Finally, we come to *vulgaris*, which translates as 'common.' The first herb, *Foeniculum vulgare* (fennel), is typically grown in vegetable and herb gardens for its anise-flavored foliage and seeds. The genus name comes from the Latin name for this traditional salad and potherb which, in Italian, is called *finocchio*. Other common herbs include: *Thymus vulgaris* (thyme) and *Beta vulgaris* (beets.)

So now, when you encounter one of these specific epithets in a BotLat name, you will know that it has edible or herbal properties, somewhere in its past. Let's go cook something.

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Site Conditions of a Shade Garden

Article and photos by Annette Wyrick, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Most gardeners have one trouble spot in the garden and it is almost always in the shade. You may have tried planting different plants, but they just do not thrive. Let's tackle these tricky garden spots by choosing plants that will! Sun exposure and the physical properties of your soil are key factors of planting success.

The first step to selecting plants is to evaluate your garden. A plot plan is useful as a base for mapping your plants and it will indicate which direction is north. If you don't have a plot plan of your property, a hand drawn outline of structures on your property will do. A quick map search online will show you how your property sits in relation to north. So why is knowing which direction is north in your garden important? It will help you understand sun exposure in your planting areas. There are multiple degrees of sun exposure from full sun to full shade. As you take an inventory of your garden, note the sun exposure levels described in Table 1.

Before you move to the next step of plant selection, it must be brought to your attention that the amount of sunlight a location receives will change throughout the year. For example, it is the middle of winter and you noted on your garden map a planting area that receives full shade. A structure will cast the most shade in winter when the sun is at a lower angle to the horizon. During summer, the sun is at a much higher angle to the horizon and the shadow will be much shorter. In summer, your full shade bed may have full sun if there aren't any other trees or structures nearby to provide shade.

	TABLE 1: Sun Exposure Defined
Full Sun	6 + hours of sun a day
Partial Sun	4 to 6 hours of sun a day, shaded during the most intense sun
Partial Shade	4 to 6 hours of morning sun, with shade the rest of the day
Dappled Sun	Receives a mix of sun and shade throughout the day
Full Shade	Receives very little direct sunlight

The most common shady garden areas are north and east sides of structures and under structures and trees. Some examples of residential structures are house walls, fences, pergolas, decks, and sheds. The amount of shade beneath a tree depends on the density of its canopy. In general, you will have dappled shade under trees and partial sun to partial shade on the east side of a structure. You may have a shade garden with a combination of these areas. For example, you may have some shrubs planted along the east side of your house and a tree that shades them too. These shrubs will most likely be in a full shade zone.

Next, it is time to take a closer look at the soil. Some physical properties of soil include structure, texture, and moisture content. Soil structure is the arrangement of groups of soil particles. A soil that has good structure contains pores for air, water, and nutrients to move through. Roots can grow through soil with good structure easily. Soil texture is the proportion of sand, silt, and clay present. In general, the soil in Placer County contains a large amount of clay. While soil texture is difficult to change, in most situations soil structure can be improved by amending with compost and a topcoat of mulch. For more information on Foothill soils, see http://pcmg.ucanr.org/files/166289.pdf

Let's examine some common shady areas. In shady areas along the north side of a home's foundation, the soil moisture can vary. Soil closest to the house may be protected from the home's eves and dry. If the area receives supplemental irrigation, the soil may remain moist and cool. The soil beneath a mature tree will contain an extensive root system and may be compacted. This means the soil structure is poor. Tree roots typically occupy the top 18 inches of soil and will spread well beyond the canopy of the tree. Anything planted in this zone will be competing with the tree for root space, air, moisture, and nutrients. For example, a redwood tree has shallow and matted roots which makes it difficult to underplant. Most trees have soil spaces among the root system. You will have to carefully investigate where roots are

Continued on next page

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located. If you decide to plant between the roots, plants with small root systems would be a good choice. Prostrate plants will fill a larger space with less soil disturbance. Please note that trees do not like their roots disturbed and the soil level should not be altered. An alternative to planting in this zone is to add a 2 inch layer of mulch starting about 4 inches away from the tree trunk. For more information on planting below trees, visit https://lancaster.unl.edu/hort/articles/2011/PlantingUnderTree.shtml

By surveying your garden, you will be able to identify the type of shade in your planting areas and soil moisture content and structure. If you are adding plants to an already established planting bed, the new plants should have the same water requirements as the established plants. Additional plant characteristics such as hardiness zone, function of the plant, mature size, deciduous or evergreen, foliage and flower color, and tolerance of deer should be considered when selecting plants. The table below provides some plant suggestions.

Name	Comments	WUCOLS*	Exposure	Soil
*WUCOLS: Water Use Classification of Landscape Species, https://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/				
Arctostaphylos sp. Manzanita	Many varieties offer a range of sizes. Ground covers tend to be slow to establish among tree roots. These evergreen plants have small white to pink bell shaped flowers in spring. Oak tree compatible.	Low to Moderate	Part Sun to Dappled Shade	Average, Well-drained
Calycanthus occidentalis Spicebush	An evergreen shrub with maroon spring flowers that are wine scented.	Moderate	Part Sun to Dappled Shade	Adaptable
Carpenteria californica Bush anemone	An evergreen shrub with white Camellia-like flowers. Deer tolerant. Oak tree compatible.	Low	Part Shade to Full Shade	Adaptable
Cercis occidentalis Western Redbud	A small deciduous tree with green heart shaped leaves. It has magenta spring flowers and yellow to red fall foliage. This plant likes afternoon shade in the hot inland valley. Deer tolerant. Oak tree compatible.	Very Low	Part Sun to Dappled Shade	Well-drained
Iris sp. Iris	Small rhizomes fit among most tree roots. Deer tolerant. Oak tree compatible.	Low to High depending on variety	Part Shade to Dappled Shade	Average, Well-drained
Leymus triticoides 'Lagunita' Lagunita Wild Rye	1-2' tall spreading grass will go summer dormant if water is withheld. It will stay green in summer with 2 waterings per month. Few seed heads develop and are pet friendly. Good among tree roots. Deer tolerant. Oak tree compatible.	Low	Sun to Dappled Shade	Adaptable
Rhamnus sp. Coffeeberry	Evergreen shrubs with small yellow flowers that develop into multi-colored berries in fall. Deer tolerant. Oak tree compatible.	Low	Sun to Full Shade	Average, Well-drained
Ribes sp. Currant and Gooseberry	Deciduous shrubs with erect vase shape. Gooseberry plants have spines. Ribes sp. produce multi-colored berries. Flower color depends on the variety. Deer tolerant. Oak tree compatible.	Low	Part Sun to Dappled Shade	Adaptable
Satureja douglasii Yerba Buena	A member of the mint family, this evergreen ground cover slowly spreads. Deer tolerant.	Moderate	Part Shade Dappled Shade	Adaptable
Sisyrinchium bellum Blue-Eyed Grass	A herbaceous perennial that will go summer dormant. It has grass-like foliage and blue spring flowers. Good among tree roots.	Low to Moderate	Part Sun to Dappled Shade	Adaptable, Tolerates heavy clay

Kniphofia 'Christmas Cheer' **Christmas Cheer Poker Plant**

by Jan Birdsall,
UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Why not add a plant to your holiday wish list which will bloom before the holiday season and provides brilliant orange buds which open to deep gold tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds and bees? Well, you can find that and more in the drought tolerant UC Davis all-star Kniphofia 'Christmas Cheer' which is a hybrid of vigorous species Kniphofia rooperi. This plant blooms in fall, continues through late spring in mild winter areas or fall to first frost elsewhere. Flowers are on top of four to five foot tall stems. The leaves can be as much as five feet long and two inches wide, and form a medium-large or six to eight foot mass across as it gets older.

'Christmas Cheer' is a perennial, likes to be planted in full or part sun and is deer resistant. As the flowers age they get darker in color, from dark red orange at tip to burnt orange to golden yellow at the bottom, and should be eventually deadheaded because old spikes are not very good-looking. In addition, leaves collapse on the ground and will smother any plants in their way. After blooming season, you can trim down the plant's mass and it will come back. You can divide this plant after blooming; however, it doesn't seem to need dividing to stay vigorous. Hope you receive one for the holidays!

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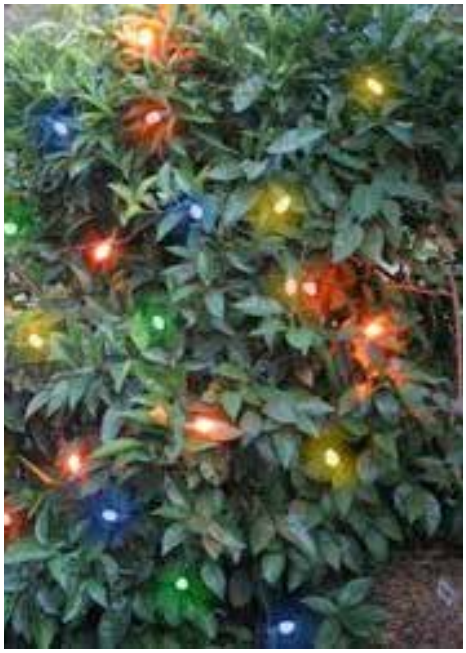

The warmth from incandescent holiday lights can help protect sensitive plants from frost damage.

Frost Protection

by Carol Feldman,
UC Master Gardener of Placer County

How low will it go? Frost is coming and has many wondering what to do about their sensitive plants. Here's some advice on how to prepare when the forecast says hard freeze, and how to recover afterwards.

When the prediction calls for temps below 30 degrees, try to water your plants in advance, because damp soil holds more heat than dry soil. If you can, cover plants that are known to be frost-tender, and/or lay out some incandescent Christmas lights for a little warmth. And afterwards, don't prune off dead-looking branches. Wait until the spring thaw because those damaged areas can still help protect the plant.

Check out this informative article on frost from the Sacramento County Master Gardeners: http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Frost_Protection/

GO EASY! How to Prune California Native Plants

by Laurie McGonagill, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

The saying that pruning is an art as well as a science is especially true when applied to California native plants. The natural form of shrubs and trees, subshrubs, and herbaceous perennials really shines when care is taken to reveal beauty through careful and limited trimming at the proper time. Native plants do not respond well to constant shaping, as in topiary, or shearing to control size which are common practices with plants in our domestic landscape. They do like a **light prune** or **trim** especially if they look shaggy or leggy or to improve their health. But you can also leave them alone to reveal their natural shape.

Unlike many non-natives that dot our landscape which have one dormant period, our native plants have two, summer and mid-winter. These are the most beneficial times to prune. Pruning in late fall or early winter will start new growth that does not have time to harden before it gets cold. Valuable pollinator food and habitat is also removed so it is best not to prune then. Mid to late winter is preferable, although in summer you can remove the stalks of herbaceous perennials to encourage a second bloom.

A few rules apply to pruning plants in general:

- Remove dead or diseased growth anytime unless the plant is frost-sensitive.
- Remove limbs that cross.
- Prune to create air flow and improve light penetration.
- Prune young shrubs and trees to promote good branch structure.
- Avoid pruning during wet weather to reduce the chance of infection.

Now, for California natives! Here is when to prune, types of plants to prune, and techniques to use.

1) Prune these evergreen shrubs and trees after they finish flowering:

Ceanothus spp. (California lilac), *Frangula californica* (coffeeberry), *Cercocarpus betuloides* (mountain mahogany), *Arctostaphylos spp.* (manzanita). Use a light hand with manzanita as there is no regrowth at a limb that is removed.

2) Prune broadleaf evergreen shrubs and trees in late summer:

Quercus spp. (oak), *Arbutus menziesii* (madrone), *Umbellularia californica* (California bay laurel), *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (toyon), even though you will get some of the berry growth!

3) Trim grasses such as *Muhlenbergia rigens* (deer grass) almost to the ground every other year or so in late summer.

4) Cut perennials and subshrubs almost to the ground in late fall or winter:

Epilobium canum (California fuchsia), you can mow it! *Romneya coulteri* (Matilija poppy), *Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina' (lilac verbena), flower stalks of penstemon, buckwheat, and salvia species.

5) Prune these deciduous plants in mid to late winter:

Aesculus californica (California buckeye), *Ribes spp.* (currant and gooseberry), *Lonicera hispidula* (honeysuckle), *Philadelphus lewisii* (mock orange), *Calycanthus occidentalis* (Western spice bush), *Vitis californica* (California grape), *Clematis lasianthus* (pipestem clematis), *Rosa californica* (California wild rose). Note: keep as much of the wild rose as possible since the brush and rose hips are important habitat and food for birds and other pollinators. **Exception:** Prune *Cercis occidentalis* (Western redbud) after flowering.

6) Cut plants to the ground (coppice) to rejuvenate:

Some plants to coppice include *Baccharis pilularis* (coyote bush), *Carpenteria californica* (bush anemone), *Cercis occidentalis* (western redbud). Coppicing acts on the plant as a wildfire would. This technique should be used sparingly on mature plants that have gotten ragged.

Learn by doing and don't be afraid to experiment!

Remember: Our native plants evolved to adapt to rocky, mineral-laden soil and long periods without rain. They generally don't need fertilizer, organic amendments and, once established, regular water. When in doubt, mimic nature!

Calycanthus occidentalis, western spice bush. Photo by Elaine Applebaum

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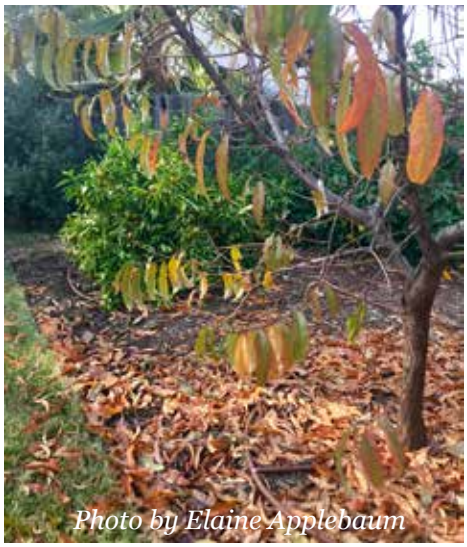
The December Garden—A Garden of Delights

by Ann Wright, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

And just like that—December is rounding the bend. Leaves continue to fall, dry winds come and go, and in hopes of the next welcome round of rain, the garden is still teaming with life. The rain will bring much needed relief to plants and trees, and will also bring a sense of relief to us as well. A stroll through the garden in December is a time to consider what is needed next—both in the garden and in our busy lives. In my Penn Valley garden, tomatoes are still ripening—not quickly, but some of the 'Camp Joy Cherry' and 'Red Racer' tomatoes are still bright and flavorful as are the San Marzano paste tomatoes. The garden is popping with color, shape and texture. The bright red-orange barberry (*Berberis thunbergia* 'Aurea') is eye catching, as are the remaining delicate 'Cupcakes' cosmos.

A great place to escape the busy activities of the season, there are things to be done in the garden in December. Being mindful not to tread on soggy garden beds (which contributes to soil compaction) here are some garden tips for December.

- Continue to harvest what's left of summer crops, harvest winter vegetables and provide protection in case of a sudden hard frost. Clean up under fruit trees to remove any diseased fallen leaves or fruit.
- There is still time to plant Asian greens and lettuce—especially if a cold frame or row cover is used to protect plants. Check soil temperature and planting guidelines to make sure conditions are appropriate at specific elevations.
- Plant or transplant seedlings of pines, cedars, firs and spruces.



Remove fallen fruit and leaves under fruit trees to help avoid disease.

- Add fresh mulch to garden beds to insulate roots and help keep weeds from germinating during winter. Further prepare garden beds by adding compost material. If composting leaves of deciduous trees, shred large leaves before composting by weed whacking or running a lawn mower over them. Shredded leaves will compost more readily.
- If white moths or caterpillars are noticed in the garden now, look a little closer! Cabbage loopers, cabbageworms and diamondback moths can be present in winter gardens. The caterpillars are primarily foliage feeders that chew holes in leaves. Cabbage loopers feed on a variety of vegetable crops whereas cabbage worms and diamondback moth caterpillars eat primarily cole crops and other crucifers. Cabbage loopers are readily distinguished by their typical inch-worm type looping. Cabbageworm (also known as imported cabbageworms) are more sluggish. Cabbage loopers eat the leaves of broccoli, cabbage and other cole crops. There is not much that can be done about the moths, but the little green cabbage loopers can be picked off plants, seedlings being the most vulnerable. Cabbageworm larvae are green and very hairy, with an almost velvetlike appearance.
- Divide actively growing native perennials and grasses. Cut chrysanthemums six to eight inches above the ground after fall blooms. Where other perennials are good forage for birds, leave them alone, otherwise now is a good time to cut them to the ground.
- Have some fun with garden plants this holiday season. Wreaths can be created using cuttings from conifers or native plants such as toyon or coffee berry. Other landscape plants are rich in color this time of year and may add just the right accent to decorations around the house.
- If considering gifts for gardeners, there are a number of options. The gift of a plant may be a nice addition to someone's yard – if they are able to plant and then take care of it. Blooming plants are plentiful, and bare root trees are available to purchase or order now. Books or publications from the UCANR catalog may also be welcome gifts for gardeners. An heirloom apple tree might be a perfect gift for someone with tree space. The Felix Gillet Institute is a local organization dedicated to preserving and propagating edible and ornamental heirloom plants, including some of the area's most prized fruit trees. Check out the website at https://felixgillet.org. (The best time to plant bare root trees, blueberries, and canes is from December through January.)
- End of year and commemorative gifts are also thoughtful ways to gift in someone's name and support local non-profits. The Nevada and Placer County Master Gardeners appreciate donations to help fund our demonstration gardens and local projects. If you would like to donate to either local non-profit, go to the following website and be sure to select the county to which you wish to donate, under the designation section: http://donate.ucanr.edu.

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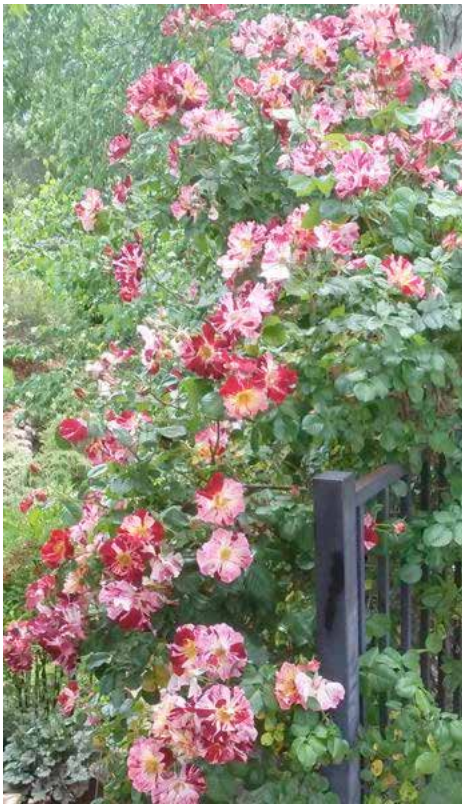
Hotline FAQs

Do you have gardening questions?

Call the Master Gardener Hotline in your county

Nevada Co. 530-273-0919

Placer Co. 530-889-7388



I have a heritage rose that I need to transplant. When is the best time to move it, and can you give me some tips on how to transplant it properly? I really don't want to lose it.

by Pauline Kuklis, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Mature roses can be a bit touchy about being moved. However, you will greatly increase your chances of a successful transplant by following the steps outlined below.

Choose the right time to transplant.

- In our area, that would be late winter to very early spring when there is little risk of a freeze and the plant is still dormant (little to no signs of new growth).

Get the rose ready for transplant.

- Water deeply about one week prior to the move, then once more a few days later.
- Prune as you normally would each year and remove all the leaves.

Prepare the new location for the rose.

- Dig a large hole in a location with good drainage (at least 2 or more feet in diameter and 15-18 inches deep).
- Unless a soil analysis has been done and shows deficiencies, adding anything to the soil removed from the planting hole is not recommended.
- Loosen the sides of the hole with a pitchfork or other tool to make it easier for the roots to penetrate.
- Place enough of the soil into the center of the hole to create a small mound.

Remove the rose.

- Place a tarp next to the rose (or in a wheelbarrow), so you are ready to transport the rose to its new location.
- Dig a circle about 12-18 inches from the rose and cut cleanly through any roots you encounter.
- Insert your shovel into the circle you have dug and rock it back and forth to loosen the rootball.
- Gently remove the rose, retaining as much soil on the rootball as possible and place it on your prepared tarp for transport.

Replant the rose.

- Place the rose in the new hole and spread the roots out over the mound of soil in the center (be sure the base of the rose sits a few inches above the top of the hole).
- Fill the hole about half way with the soil, then water well and tamp lightly.
- Once the water has fully drained, fill the rest of the hole and tamp it down firmly to remove air pockets.
- Water again, and continue to water regularly until you see new growth. Keep soil moist but not soggy.
- Fertilize lightly once the new growth begins.

Refer to the following for more information on rose care: http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PDF/PESTNOTES/pnrosescultural.pdf

Elderberry

by Joan Goff, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Elderberry is the elder tree of myth and medicine. If you are a Harry Potter fan, you will know that the most powerful wand was made of elder wood! Blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra ssp. caeruleas*) lives from western Mexico to the Canadian border. Black elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) is also a small tree native to California, as well as Europe, Africa and Asia. A related elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) is native east of the Rockies. An ancient source of medicine for native peoples of North America and in Europe, it is being researched for how it can heal wounds, lighten pain, reduce fever and more. In Europe elderberry was considered home of gods and fairies. It was a sacred tree not only due to its inhabitants but also for the healing properties it had.

In the landscape, it is a wonderful small tree or shrub, providing shade, food and habitat for native animals, birds and insects. It blooms in sprays of white or cream in the spring, followed by berries that turn from red to purple-black. While its blossoms and ripe fruit are edible; the unripe fruit, leaves, stems and roots are toxic due to cyanogenic glycosides and alkaloids present. Elderberry jam, pies and wine are creations from the ripe fruit. The red berries of other species are toxic and should not be gathered.

Elderberry is easy to propagate and grow. While it loves water, it can be very successful in dry places, once established. Elderberry can grow from a small plant into a nice tree rapidly when happy. It usually grows to 20 to 30 feet maximum. It often creates a shrub that has many stems, though it can be trained to a single leader. It is deciduous; losing its leaves in winter. Once established, it can live on little water and is happy in sun or shade.

The berries of this small tree are important sources of summer food for many kinds of songbirds such as the western bluebird, indigo bunting, common house finch, red-shafted flicker, ash- throated flycatcher, black-headed grosbeak, scrub jay, mockingbird and western tanager.

Blue elderberry is planted because of its forage and cover value, productivity, adaptability, and ease of establishment. It is a useful ground cover for stabilizing streambanks and eroding sites. It provides food, cover, perching, and nesting sites for many species of birds and food and cover for various other wildlife, and it is important as browse for mule deer and elk. It is also habitat for many moths.

Black Elderberry. Photo by Gene Sturla

References

- Bolli, R. *Plant Guide: Blue Elderberry.* U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service n.d. http://plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/cs_sanic5.
- *Blue Elderberry.* Calscape. California Native Plant Society. n.d. https://calscape.org/Sambucus-nigra-ssp.-caerulea-(Blue-Elderberry)?srchcr=sc5d9a2ec896f9f
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Photo by Elaine Applebaum

Confused About Dormant Fruit Tree Care?

by Elaine Applebaum, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Am I supposed to spray? If so, with what? And when? What about pruning? Homeowners with fruit trees may be asking themselves these questions over the winter months and it can sometimes seem overwhelming.

The UC California Backyard Orchard Website has a wealth of information to help you, including how to manage pests and diseases, pruning and training techniques, and details on maintenance and care for specific fruit trees. Are you just starting to think about growing your own fruit? This site has everything you need to consider to be successful.

Winter is the best time to tackle pruning and preventative spraying chores because the trees are dormant and beneficial insect predators are less likely to be around, so less likely to be harmed. Knowledge is power and the California Backyard Orchard website has all you need to know. Check it out!

Events Calendar

Nevada County Demo Garden
1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley (on NID Grounds)

Placer County Test Garden
11477 E. Ave., Auburn (Senior Garden, DeWitt Center)

All events are free unless noted otherwise

January

January 4
10:00 am – 11:00 am
Container Gardening
Loomis Library, 6050 Library Dr., Loomis

January 18
10:00 am – 11:00 am
Totally Tomatoes
Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St., Auburn

January 18
10:00 am – noon
Fruit Tree Care
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville
Small fee; register at 916-746-1550

February

February 1
10:00 – noon
12 Month Vegetable Gardening
Grass Valley Elks Lodge
109 South School Street

February 1
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Bird and Bug Bonanza
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville

Nevada County events in green boxes

Placer County events in yellow boxes

February 8
10:00 – noon
Pollinators
Grass Valley Elks Lodge
109 South School Street

February 8
10:00 am – noon
Totally Tomatoes
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville
Small fee; register at 916-746-1550

February 15
10:00 – noon
Straw Bale Gardening
Grass Valley Elks Lodge
109 South School Street

February 22
10:00 – noon
Native Plant Propagating
Grass Valley Elks Lodge
109 South School Street

February 29
10:00 – noon
Functional Irrigation
Grass Valley Elks Lodge
109 South School Street

March

March 7
10:00 – noon
Totally Tomatoes
Grass Valley Elks Lodge
109 South School Street

March 7
10:00 am – 11:00 am
Vegetable Gardening
Loomis Library, 6050 Library Dr., Loomis

March 14
10:00 am – noon
Summer Veggie Gardening
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville
Small fee; register at 916-746-1550

March 14
10:00 – noon
Bring Native Plants to Your Garden
Grass Valley Elks Lodge
109 South School Street

March 28
10:00 – noon
Flower Gardening from Seed
Grass Valley Elks Lodge
109 South School Street

Photo by Robyn Emme

Find Updated Events Information on our Websites:
http://pcmg.ucanr.org/
http://ncmg.ucanr.org/

About Master Gardeners

Our mission as University of California Master Gardener volunteers is to extend research-based gardening and composting information to the public through various educational outreach methods. We strive to present accurate, impartial information to local gardeners so they have the knowledge to make informed gardening decisions in regard to plant choices, soil fertility, pest management, irrigation practices, and more.

The Master Gardener volunteer program was started in the early 1970s at the Washington State University. Farm Advisors became overwhelmed by all the incoming calls from home gardeners and homesteaders so they trained volunteers to answer these questions and the "Master Gardener Program" was born. The first University of California Master Gardener programs began in 1980 in Sacramento and Riverside counties. The Nevada County and Placer County Master Gardener Associations began soon thereafter in 1983.

Over 35 Years of Serving Placer and Nevada Counties

Production Information

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Have a Gardening Question?

Call our Hotline

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530.889.7388

Nevada County Residents
530.273.0919

Master Composter Rotline
530.889.7399

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