



UC Master Gardener Program of Santa Barbara County

The Santa Barbara County Bountiful

Upcoming Events

#BigDigDay is June 5!

ucanr.edu/sites/BigDig

- Gardening is an affordable way to relax, reconnect, and help the world around us—whether we grow flowers for pollinators, or food for ourselves. On Friday, June 5 we invite you to support our mission to extend sustainable gardening practices in our communities.
- We call it **Big Dig Day**—a day to ‘dig deep’ to support the program you care about. Now more than ever, we know the value of community, outreach, and science-based information. **In times of crisis and beyond, we are here.**
- Or, follow us on Facebook: [@sbmastergardeners](https://www.facebook.com/sbmastergardeners)

“Getting Dirty” with the SB Public Library: How to Grow an Herb Garden

Date & Time: Summer, TBD
Location: Online

@sbmastergardeners



From the Field:

Students in the UCSB Latino Business Association learned how to plant bare root fruit trees from UC Master Gardeners at a workshop hosted by Mesa Harmony Garden. (Santa Barbara, January 2020)

Meet a UC Master Gardener: Trudy Adair-Verbais is a retired educator who founded 11 school gardens in Santa Barbara County. She loves teaching others about growing tomatoes and healthy soil.



Trudy Adair-Verbais
Photo credit: Santa Barbara County Education Office

What’s your favorite garden plant right now? This is a banner year for my Epiphyllums, with **loads of saucer-sized blooms:** white, pale pink, red, yellow, orange, and hot pink with purple centers!

What gardening tasks are you making time for? Regular watering, fertilizing, and mulching for the **most impact** from my spring-planted ornamentals and vegetables--well into fall.

What led you to the UC Master Gardener Program?

I learned about it at help tables at the Farmers Market and Orchid Show. **I planned five years before retiring** that after stopping work I would apply to this Program!

Ask a Master Gardener

“Advice to Grow By”



“The more articles I read, the more conflicts I find about the consumption safety of using chicken manure for fruits and vegetables in my Santa Maria garden. What do I do?”

Fresh chicken manure is so rich in nitrogen that it can burn plants—and it contains unsafe pathogens! It must be aged for six months, or hot-composted and then aged for two to four months, before turning it into the soil. Wait 120 days between application and harvest to minimize health risks and maximize garden benefits. Washing your garden harvest helps remove germs, too!

Home Gardening Helpline

“Advice to Grow By”

Email: anrsbmg@ucanr.edu

Online: ucanr.edu/sbmg-help

What do you enjoy about volunteering as a UC Master Gardener? I enjoy contributing to my community by being part of a Program that’s **dedicated to public service through education**. I like sharing time and information with fellow volunteers and learning each day.

What tip would you give to beginner gardeners? Gardening is support for your **mind, body, and soul**. Remember to enjoy and appreciate the wonders of the garden—and the cycles of change and renewal. Have fun! ~ *Trudy*

Victory with Vegetables! Since 2018 we’ve taught over 150 county residents how to confidently and sustainably garden in their own spaces in our “Victory Vegetable Gardening for TRUE Beginners” class series.



Graduates from our recent “Victory Vegetable Gardening for TRUE Beginners” class series. (Carpinteria, Fall 2019)

I grew a pumpkin for the first time in my life. I have kept so many plants alive because of the beginners’ class, I am so happy and so, so grateful.”

~2019 Victory Vegetable Gardening graduate

As soon as it’s safe to do so, we look forward to offering this popular class again at **La Purisima Mission State Historic Park!**