



# THE YOLO GARDENER

Spring 2023

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE UCCE, MASTER GARDENERS OF YOLO COUNTY

## Large Varieties of Tomatoes Available at WCC Spring Sale

*Tanya Kucak, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County*

Getting a good harvest of tomatoes in our increasingly hot summers requires several strategies. For tomato sandwiches, the luscious large-fruited heirlooms can't be beat. But the larger the tomato and the longer it takes to mature, the more chances there are for something to go wrong: missed pollination, nibbles by critters, a heat wave that scorches the exposed fruit. So, it's a good idea to diversify. Plant some medium-size and cherry tomatoes as well as beefsteaks. Pick tomatoes at first blush or at breaker stage, particularly if they are large varieties that become fragile as they mature, and especially if a heat wave is forecast. Let them ripen indoors; the flavor will still be there.



*Benevento F1*  
Photo by Artisan Seeds

If you don't have a garden space with full sun (six or more hours of direct sun), you can still plant smaller-fruited varieties and get a harvest with as few as four hours of direct sun. Or if you have a small, paved area that gets full sun, try planting a bush variety in a container.

This year, the tomato seedling sale that is part of the annual Woodland Community College plant sale, will offer thirty-three varieties, including many old favorites as well as an expanded selection of earlier-maturing and smaller-fruited varieties, and container-friendly plants. For information on the dates, times, and location of the sales please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter.

Here are the tomatoes listed by color and size of plant. The dwarf and compact indeterminates stay under six feet high. The asterisk (\*) denotes varieties that are new this year.

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**Red Indeterminate**

Carmello F1  
 Costoluto Genovese  
 \* Indigo Cherry Drops  
 \* Geranium Kiss (dwarf)

**Red Determinate**

Legend

**Pink Indeterminate**

African Queen  
 \* Ozark Pink  
 Rose  
 \* Rugby F1

**Pink Determinate**

\* Early Wonder [Pink]

**Black/Purple Indeterminate**

Black Krim  
 Black Plum  
 Cherokee Purple  
 \* Japanese Black Trifele  
 \* Polaris  
 \* Rosella cherry

**Green When Ripe Indeterminate**

\* Cherokee Green  
 \* Green Gables (compact)  
 \* Green Tiger

**Orange/Yellow Indeterminate**

\* Beam's Yellow Pear  
 \* Flaming Burst (compact, 4' high)  
 Hawaiian Pineapple

\* Indigo Pear Drops  
 Pork Chop  
 \* Valencia

**Orange/Yellow Determinate**

\* Orange King

**Striped Indeterminate**

\* Benevento F1  
 \* Brad's Atomic Grape  
 \* Girl Girl's Weird Thing  
 Pink Berkeley Tie Dye  
 \* Prairie Fire (compact)  
 \* Striped German

**Striped Semideterminate**

\* Maglia Rosa

In rough order of earliness, the earliest-maturing varieties are

- Maglia Rosa
- Early Wonder [Pink]
- Rugby F1
- Orange King
- Indigo Pear Drops
- Prairie Fire
- Legend
- Indigo Cherry Drops
- Ozark Pink
- Green Gables
- Flaming Burst
- Rosella Cherry

The latest-maturing varieties, starting from the latest, are

- Hawaiian Pineapple
- African Queen
- Girl Girl's Weird Thing
- Japanese Black Trifele
- Cherokee Purple
- Black Krim

The other fourteen varieties fall in-between. At best, the days-to-maturity is a rough comparative estimate.

As for size of fruit, the smallest ones, from half an ounce to two or three ounces, are

- Rosella Cherry
- Indigo Pear Drops
- Flaming Burst
- Black Plum
- Beam's Yellow Pear
- Indigo Cherry Drops
- Maglia Rosa
- Brad's Atomic Grape
- Green Tiger
- Prairie Fire
- Geranium Kiss

Next come the four-to-six-ounce tomatoes.

- Early Wonder [Pink]
- Japanese Black Trifele
- Orange King

Most beefsteaks weigh in at about six to twelve ounces each, but only two varieties have the potential to weigh in at a pound or more.

- Hawaiian Pineapple
- African Queen

Two varieties have peak flavor before they reach peak color:



- Maglia Rosa, a striped pink egg-shape semi determinate early cherry, reaches its peak fruity flavor just as it turns light pink. If you wait until this tomato turns dark pink, you might not want to eat it!
- Black Krim, a popular purple/black beefsteak, is best picked and eaten when it is still half green. As it turns fully purple/black, it becomes increasingly fragile and quickly turns into an overripe puddle.

Here is the complete list of tomato varieties offered by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Yolo County at the Woodland Community College Annual plant sale. Many of the varieties of tomatoes below have been grown for several years by local Master Gardeners. The variety description is taken from seed catalogs. The “Yolo County” comments are based on our experience growing them, and taste tests at the Woodland Farmers Market.

\* New this year

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
African Queen	Large potato-leaf plants produce heavy crops of 1-2 lb., 3-5”, jade-pink lightly fluted beefsteak tomatoes with red flesh and rich flavor. Grows well in heat. Yolo County: Great flavor, good producer. Heirloom from North Carolina.	Indet. Pink Lg beefsteak	Late
*Beam’s Yellow Pear	Cute yellow pear-shape tomatoes are 1.5” long. Crispy flesh with a spicy sweet taste. Taste-test winner in a Seed Savers trial of 25 yellow pear varieties. Heirloom from Indiana.	Indet. Yellow Mini pear	Mid
*Benevento F1	Vigorous hybrid vines produce beautiful medium-large yellow-striped red fruit with heirloom flavor and long shelf life. Deep watermelon-pink interior. Long ripening window. A favorite slicer, salad, and sauce tomato of Bay Area chefs. Bred by Fred Hempel, Artisan Seeds. Yolo County: Productive, tasty, and disease resistant.	Indet. Red w/yellow stripes Beefsteak	Mid
Black Krim	Ukrainian heirloom with intense flavor. Purple/black 8-16 oz. fruits with green shoulders, slightly flattened. Harvest this delicate heirloom tomato at first blush. At half green and still firm they are already dead ripe and perfectly delicious. If you wait till they are fully purple, you will not be able to get them from garden to table intact. Also a richly flavored cooked tomato. Yolo County: Good producer, scores high in taste tests, MG favorite.	Indet. Purple/ black Beefsteak	Mid- Late
Black Plum	Deep mahogany-brown thin-walled 1 oz. plum tomato for snacking, drying, or sauce. Sweet, tangy, full-bodied flavor. Russian heirloom. Yolo County: Good flavor, produces steadily all season.	Indet. Black Small plum	Mid
*Brad’s Atomic Grape	Elongated large grape or small plum, 1-2 oz. Lavender and purple stripes, turning to olive-green, red, and brown/blue stripes when fully ripe. Olive green interior is blushed with red when ripe. Crack-resistant and sweet! Fruit holds well on the vine and off. Wispy foliage. This Wild Boar Farms variety won best in show at the 2017 National Heirloom Expo.	Indet. Striped Lg. grape	Mid

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
Carmello F1 VFNT	A classic French slicing tomato. Rich, balanced tomato flavor for salads and sauces. Heavy producer of medium-size disease-resistant 10-12 oz. red fruit. (Last year, we also offered the hybrid. Some years ago, we offered the dehybridized open-pollinated variety called Carmello OP.)	Indet. Red Medium	Mid
Cherokee Green	Unique color, great flavor. Medium size, 6-12 oz. green fruits turn yellowish-orange on the blossom end when ripe. Lime green and chartreuse flesh is meaty and has bold, acidic, complex tomato flavor. This is an outstanding color mutation from Cherokee Purple.	Indet. Green Medium	Mid
*Cherokee Purple	Famously rich flavor and texture. Medium-large flattened globe, 8-12 oz. fruits. Color is dusky purple-pink with dark shoulders. Relatively short vines. Heirloom from Tennessee. Yolo County: More disease resistant and reliable than many other heirlooms, with rich flavor and good production.	Indet. Purple-pink Beefsteak	Mid-Late
Costoluto Genovese	Heat-loving, meaty, heavily lobed 7 oz. red fruits. This heirloom is a standard in Italy for both fresh eating and preserving, and known for its slightly acid, intensely flavorful, deep red flesh. Good for sauce. Yolo County: Abundant producer.	Indet. Red Medium	Mid
*Early Wonder [Pink]	Early maturing and compact variety yield an abundant crop of round, dark pink, 4-6 oz. fruit. Smooth flesh with excellent balance of sweet and tart. Larger and tastier than most other early varieties. A good choice for container gardening and to ensure early and late crops. Pink variant of a red California heirloom. Yolo County: Productive when planted ASAP so it can bear fruit before the heat waves.	Det. Pink Medium	Early
*Flaming Burst	Golden orange 1 oz. pear-shape cherry tomato. Sweet and tangy with a firm texture. High-yielding plants are short indeterminates that grow 4' tall. Bred by Tom Wagner, selected from a cross with Jaune Flamme.	Indet. Golden orange Mini pear	Mid
*Geranium Kiss	Good container variety. Stocky plants, 1.5-4' high, produce large cherry to salad-size red tomatoes with a point on the tip. Late-blight resistant. Rugose foliage. Bred by Alan Kapuler, Peace Seeds. Yolo County: Multiflora variety gets loaded with fruit on a compact plant.	Dwarf indet. Red Lg cherry	Early
*Girl Girl's Weird Thing	A mutation of Green Zebra originally found in a Canadian garden and named after the gardener's dog, Girl Girl. Gorgeous, dark red olive-skinned fruit with red/pink striping, 8-16 oz. The flesh is reddish-purple with complex, balanced, intense sweet and mild flavor. Perfect for sandwiches, slicing, and platters.	Indet. Red w/green stripes Beefsteak	Mid-Late

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
*Green Gables	Potato-leaf compact indeterminate plants produce sweet, fruity 5-10 oz. green-when-ripe tomatoes. Yolo County: Reliable producer of medium-size tomatoes.	Indet. Green Medium	Early-Mid
*Green Tiger	Super-sweet snacking tomato! Green striped with yellow, with a lime-green interior. Julienne tomatoes look like small, elongated plums, about 2" long, 1" wide, and tapered at the tip. Bright and acidic yet sweet flavor. The taste is like that of Green Zebra, refreshing and delicious. Wispy foliage. Bred by Fred Hempel, Artisan Seeds.	Indet. Green w/yellow stripes Julienne	Mid
Hawaiian Pineapple	Large 16-24 oz. golden orange beefsteak with scarlet blush. Fruity and sweet flavor with hints of pineapple. Very late, producing ripe fruit about 93 days after transplanting. Heirloom from Indiana. Yolo County: Scores high in taste and appearance.	Indet. Golden Orange Lg beefsteak	Late
*Indigo Cherry Drops	Round 1" fruits have dark purple shoulders with rosy undersides and deep red flesh, 1-2 oz. Excellent sweet flavor and huge yields. Good leaf cover to prevent sun scald. Bred by Dr. Jim Myers at Oregon State University. Yolo County: Nonstop producer of tasty cherries.	Indet. Red Cherry	Early-Mid
*Indigo Pear Drops	Vast clusters of pear-shape yellow to sunny-orange 1" fruits with dark purple shoulders. The flavor is delicately sweet, balanced with great tomato taste. Bred by Dr. Jim Myers at Oregon State University.	Indet. Orange Minipear	Early
*Japanese Black Trifele	Unusual pear shape and burgundy color. Good yields of 4-6 oz. fruit with excellent, rich flavor. Harvest when shoulders are still green for best flavor. Potato-leaf plants. Russian commercial variety. Tolerates drought and heat.	Indet. Black Pear	Mid-Late
Legend	Good for containers. Short, bushy plants produce large glossy round red 4-5" parthenocarpic fruit, 8-16 oz.. Bred by Dr. James Baggett, Oregon State University. Great for salads and canning. Yolo County: Must-have for many master gardeners.	Det. Red Medium	Early
*Maglia Rosa	Beautiful 1-3 oz. egg-shape cherry tomato that got its name from the mottled pink jersey worn by the lead racer in the Tour of Italy. Highly productive semi determinate variety, 2-3' high, does very well in pots and small spaces. For peak flavor, pick tomatoes just as they transition to light pink, even with hints of green. Wispy foliage. Bred by Fred Hempel, Artisan Seeds.	Semi-det. Pink w/stripes Lg cherry	Early
*Orange King	One of the best producers of early 4-6 oz. meaty orange globes. Blemish free and durable fruit with sweet, fruity flavor. There are other varieties with the same name, but this Orange King was bred by Tim Peters of Peters Seed and Research in Oregon. Good for containers.	Det. Orange Medium	Early

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
*Ozark Pink	Flattened pink globes, uniform shape with few defects, 4-8 oz. Productive with good shelf life. Similar to Arkansas Traveler but earlier. Mildly sweet main-crop variety. Bred by Joe McFerran at the University of Arkansas to withstand stresses from heat and disease.	Indet. Pink Medium	Early-Mid
Pink Berkeley Tie Dye	Heavy producer of dark pink/purple fruit with metallic green stripes, 8-12 oz. Very meaty with excellent sweet, rich dark-tomato flavor. Bred by Wild Boar Farms. Good disease tolerance, keeps well. Yolo County: Favorite for master gardeners' own gardens.	Indet. Pink/purple w/ green stripes Beefsteak	Early-Mid
*Polaris	Ripe fruits are deep burgundy in color with a velvety soft core, 7-10 oz. Vigorous and productive potato-leaf variety, relatively early compared to similar varieties. Taste is rich, complex, and sweet. Excellent texture that's perfect for sandwiches. Bred by Karen Olivier in British Columbia, Canada. Yolo County: A favorite for tomato sandwiches.	Indet. Purple Beefsteak	Mid
Pork Chop	Slightly flattened beefsteaks have a sweet flavor with a refreshing citrus component. The 8-12 oz. lemon-yellow tomatoes start off with thin green stripes that ripen to yellow and progress to a golden orange. From Wild Boar Farms. Yolo County: Longtime favorite of master gardeners.	Indet. Yellow Beefsteak	Mid
*Prairie Fire	Elongated plum or julienne tomato, 1" x 3", red with gold stripes, bred by Cream of the Crop. Brix of 10: intensely sweet! Compact vine, wispy foliage. Yolo County: Top scorer at the 2022 Woodland tomato tasting.	Indet. Red w/gold stripes Julienne	Early-Mid
Rose	Amish heirloom. Crack resistant, meaty, dusty-rose 10 oz. fruits. Luscious flavor — sweet, rich, and well-balanced — is considered by some to rival Brandywine. Plants are vigorous and strong with good leaf cover and disease resistance. Yolo County: Good producer, excellent flavor.	Indet. Pink Beefsteak	Mid
*Rosella Cherry	Rich-flavored half-inch dark-pink cherry with few seeds, ideal for snacking or sauce. The intriguing taste hints at a complex blend of raspberries, blackberries, and other summer fruits. Bred by Gourmet Genetics.	Indet. Dark pink Cherry	Mid

Variety	Description	Type Color Size	Ripens
*Rugby F1 VFF	Heart-shape, firm, productive 7 oz. pink paste tomato with well-balanced flavor for fresh eating or canning. High-yielding plants have great foliage cover to protect fruits. Resistant to tomato mosaic virus, leaf mold, fusarium crown and root rot, and bacterial speck. Bred by Geosemselect in Bulgaria. Yolo County: Good production.	Indet. Pink Heart	Early-Mid
*Striped German	Yellow beefsteak with red stripes, 12 oz., variable shoulder ribbing. The marbled interior looks beautiful sliced. Meaty fruits have a complex tropical flavor and an excellent smooth texture. Heavy yielder. Earlier than Virginia Sweets or Big Rainbow. Heirloom probably from West Virginia.	Indet. Yellow w/red stripes Beefsteak	Mid
*Valencia	Round, smooth 8-10 oz. orange fruits with meaty interiors and few seeds, with gorgeous color. Low-acid and mild, but still sweet and flavorful. Vigorous plants display impressive disease resistance for an heirloom. Slow Food Ark of Taste variety. Heirloom from Maine.	Indet. Orange Beefsteak	Mid

### Explanation of Terms

**Early/Mid/Late** Produces ripe fruit an average of less than 70 days/ 70-80 days/ more than 80 days after transplanting, respectively.

**F1** denotes hybrids, which are a cross between two or more plants. Seed saved from a hybrid variety or from cross-pollination will not always grow true to type.

**Open-pollinated** Seeds from open-pollinated (OP) varieties can be saved and used to reproduce the same tomato.

**Heirloom** An open-pollinated variety that has been passed down for at least 50 years in a family or other group, or was commercially introduced before 1940.

**VFNT** These letters indicate that the particular tomato variety is resistant to Verticillium wilt, Fusarium wilt, Nematodes and Tobacco mosaic virus.

**Det.** Determinate: Short, bushy plants with terminal blossom clusters (meaning the top of the stem is usually flowers, not foliage). Most produce fruits in a short time span while others may produce all season. Usually 4' high or less and may not need staking, and often can be grown in containers.

**Indet.** Indeterminate: Long vines with subterminal blossom clusters (meaning flowers occur along the sides of the stem), usually produce well until frost. The plant grows continually until it dies at the end of the season. Plants can get quite large and most often produce best when staked or grown in a wire cage.

**Rugose foliage** Crinkly, wrinkled leaf texture, common in dwarf tomato varieties.

**Wispy foliage** Tomatoes with wispy foliage may seem droopy and sparse, but this graceful fernlike habit is normal for them. The leaves may be thinner than other varieties as well. Plant these varieties where they won't get the brunt of afternoon sun, especially if their fruit is not protected by enough leaf cover.



**Potato leaf** Potato-leaf tomato varieties have broader leaves without the lobes and serrations found on regular-leaf tomatoes.



## The Other Plants

*Wilda Knoesen, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County*

As observed in another place in this newsletter the annual plant sale at Woodland Community College is widely noted for its variety of heirloom tomatoes. However, UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County, also have been hard at work propagating numerous garden ornamentals as well. These will be available at the sale with prices for quarts set at \$4.50 while gallons will be sold for \$6.00. The date, times, and location appear on a flyer at the end of this newsletter. The list of varieties available follows.

### BULBS & RHIZOMES

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Amaryllis belladonna</i>	Naked Lady Lily
<i>Iris</i>	Bearded Iris purple or white
<i>Narcissus species</i>	Daffodil
<i>Narcissus tazetta</i>	Tazetta daffodil
<i>Zephyranthes candida</i>	White Rain Lily

### CALIFORNIA NATIVES

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California Buckwheat
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon Red Berry
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i>	Lippia
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	California White Sage

### PERENNIALS

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Arctotis</i> hybrid 'Orange'	Orange African Daisy
<i>Asteriscus maritimus</i>	Gold Coin Daisy
<i>Buddleja globosa</i>	Orange Butterfly Bush
<i>Buddleja species</i>	Compact Purple Butterfly Bush
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud
<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>	Variegated Spider Plant
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Pink Rockrose
<i>Dymondia margaretae</i>	Dymondia groundcover
<i>Echium wildpretii</i>	Tower of Jewels
<i>Eremophila</i>	Emu Bush
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Emerald Gaiety'	Fortune's Spindle
<i>Fuchsia species</i>	Red & White Fuchsia
<i>Fuchsia triphylla</i> 'Gartenmeister Bonstedt'	Lady's Eardrop Fuchsia

*Hebe 'Amy'*  
*Lavandula dentata*  
*Lavatera thuringiaca*  
*Leonotis leonurus*  
*Leucophyllum frutescens*  
*Lobelia laxiflora*  
*Lychnis coronaria*  
*Nepeta x faassenii*  
*Origanum vulgare 'Betty Rollins'*  
*Osteospermum*  
*Pelargonium 'Snowflake'*  
*Pelargonium species*  
*Pelargonium species*  
*Perovskia atriplicifolia*  
*Polygala dalmaisiana*  
*Salvia elegans*  
*Salvia gregii*  
*Santolina rosemarinifolia*  
*Scutellaria suffrutescens*  
*Spiraea japonica*  
*Stachys byzantina*  
*Stevia rebaudiana*  
*Tagetes lemmoni*  
*Teucrium chamaedrys*  
*Tulbaghia violacea*

Amy Hebe  
 French Lavender  
 Pink Tree Mallow  
 Lion's Tail  
 Texas Ranger  
 Mexican Lobelia  
 Rose Campion / Mullein pink  
 Dwarf Catmint  
 Betty Rollins Marjoram  
 White/purple African Daisy  
 Scented Snowflake Pink Geranium  
 Geranium pink  
 Scented Pink Geranium  
 Russian Sage  
 Sweet Pea Bush  
 Pineapple Sage  
 Autumn Sage (Pink)  
 Green Lavender Cotton  
 Cherry Skullcap  
 Japanese Spirea  
 Lamb's Ear  
 Candyleaf / Sweetleaf  
 Copper Canyon Daisy  
 Wall Germander  
 Society Garlic

## SUCCULENTS

**Scientific Name**  
*Aeonium arboreum*  
*Agave americana medio-picta*  
*Bulbine frutescens 'Hallmark'*  
*Cotyledon orbiculata oblonga*  
*Crassula ovata*  
*Crassula tertragona*  
*Epiphyllum*  
*Graptopetalum*  
*Sedum confusum*

**Common Name**  
 Green/purple Tree Aeonium  
 Century plant (Smaller form)  
 Orange Bulbine  
 Pig's Ear (pointed leaf)  
 Jade plant  
 Miniature Pine Tree Succulent  
 Orchid Cactus  
 Graptopetalum  
 Stonecrop Sedum



## The Other Sale

*Sue Fitz, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County*

Hi, everyone! It's that time of year again, Woodland High School's spring plant sale is scheduled for Saturday April 1, from 9 to 1, at 21 N. West Street, Woodland, CA, so mark it on your calendar. Here's hoping that the abundant winter rains will ease drought restrictions so our gardens can recover. We make a point of selling mainly drought tolerant plants, once they are established, they should be able to tolerate being watered only two or three times a month if they are well mulched.

Have you shopped at a nursery recently and been stunned at the steep price increases?! We've been trying not to raise prices if we can, but supplies (pots, soil, fertilizer) have almost doubled in price, so this may be the last time you can buy our plants at such low prices, so be sure to load up!

On a more positive note, we have a dozen new plants on offer, we are sending our plant list is below, so be sure to take a look.

One more thing- if significant rain is predicted for April first, we will cancel the sale and have it the following weekend on April eighth. If the sale does occur on the first, we will head over to Woodland Community College's plant sale on the eighth, with our leftovers, so if you can't come on the first, there is a second chance to buy plants on the eighth.

### PERENNIALS Quarts \$4.00

<i>Alcea rosea</i> – Hollyhock 'Halo'	<i>Lavendula multifida</i> – Fernleaf Lavender
<i>Aquilegia</i> – 'McKana Giants Columbine	<i>Lavendula stoechas</i> – Spanish Lavender
<i>Arctotis</i> hybrid – dark orange	<i>Leonotis leonurus</i> – Lion's Tail
<i>Arctotis</i> hybrid-pink	<i>Lepechinia hastata</i> – Chilean Pitcher Sage
<i>Asclepias curassavica</i> – Tropical Milkweed	<i>Limonium perezii</i> – Sea Statice
<i>Berlandiera lyrata</i> – Chocolate Flower	<i>Lobelia laxiflora</i> – Mexican Lobelia
<i>Brugmansia</i> – Double White	<i>Lychnis coronaria</i> – Rose Campion
<i>Buddleia davidii</i> – Dwarf Violet	<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> – Russian Sage
<i>Bulbine frutescens</i> – Orange Bulbine	<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> – Jerusalem Sage
<i>Calandrinia grandiflora</i> – Rock Purslane	<i>Phlomis purpurea</i> – Purple Phlomis
<i>Catananche caerulea</i> – Cupid's Dart	<i>Rubeckia hirta</i> – Black-eyed Susan
<i>Cistus alba</i> – Dwarf Pink Rockrose	<i>Russelia equiformis</i> – Firecracker Plant
<i>Coprosma repens</i> – Purple Mirror Plant	<i>Salvia</i> 'Amsted'
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i> – Bicolor Tickseed	<i>Salvia</i> 'Swingtime'
<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i> – Red Flowered Tickseed	<i>Salvia chamaedryoides</i> – 'Marine Blue'
<i>Correa</i> 'Dusky Bells'	<i>Salvia farinacea</i> hybrid – Mealycup Sage
<i>Cuphea ignea</i> – Cigar Flower	<i>Salvia greggii</i> – pink, purple
<i>Cuphea</i> 'Starfire'	<i>Salvia leucantha</i> – Mexican Bush Sage
<i>Cuphea micropetala</i> – Candy Corn Flower	<i>Salvia microphylla</i> – Hot Lips Sage
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> – Purple Foxglove	<i>Salvia</i> 'Waverly'
<i>Dorycnium hirsutum</i> – Canary Island Clover	<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i> – Lavender Cotton
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> – Purple Cone Flower	<i>Scabiosa ochroleuca</i> – Yellow Pincushion
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> – Gaura	<i>Sideritis cypria</i> – Cyprian Ironwort
<i>Gazania rigens</i> – Gazania	<i>Tagetes lemmonii</i> – Mexican Bush Marigold

*Heliochrysum italicum* – Curry Bush  
*Lantana camera* – Lantana  
*Lavendula dentata* – French Lavender  
*Lavendula* ‘Goodwin Creek Grey’

*Tecoma stans* – Yellow Bells (orange form)  
*Teucrium marum* – Cat Thyme  
*Verbena bonariensis* – Tall Verbena  
*Vitex agnus-castus* – Chaste Tree (white form)

### CALIFORNIA NATIVES Quarts \$4.00

*Aesculus californica* – CA Buckeye  
*Arctostaphylos densiflora* – 'Howard McMinn'  
*Arctostaphylos* ‘Dr. Hurd’  
*Asclepias fascicularis* – Narrow Leaf Milkweed  
*Calliandra californica* – Baja Fairy Duster  
*Ceanothus* ‘Concha’  
*Ceanothus* ‘Ray Hartman’  
*Epilobium californica* – CA Fuchsia  
*Erigeron glaucus* – ‘Bountiful’  
*Eriogonum fasciculatum* – CA Buckwheat  
*Eriogonum grande* – Red Buckwheat  
*Frangula californica* – San Bruno Coffee Berry  
*Grindelia camporum* – Great Valley Gumweed  
*Heuchera maxima* – Island Alum Root

*Iris douglasiana* – Douglas Iris  
*Juncus patens* – CA rush  
*Lepechinia fragrans* – Fragrant Pitcher Sage  
*Limonium californicum* – California Statice  
*Penstemon heterophyllus* – Foothill Penstemon  
*Penstemon heterophyllus* – 'Catherine de Mere'  
*Penstemon pseudospectabilis*  
*Prunus ilicifolia* – Catalina Cherry  
*Salvia spathacea* – Hummingbird Sage  
*Sidalcea malviflora* – Checkerbloom  
*Sphaeralcea ambigua* – Globemallow  
*Sisyrinchium bellum* – Blue Eyed Grass  
*Trichostema lanatum* – Woolly Blue Curls  
*Verbena lilacena* – Cedros Is. Verbena

### HOUSEPLANTS – 4-inch \$3

*Billbergia nutans* – Queen’s tears  
*Coleus*  
 Cymbidium Orchids (\$5.)

*Sansevieria* – Snake Plant  
 Florist Kalenchoe- pinks, orange, red

### HOUSEPLANT HANGING BASKETS- \$12.00

*Ceropegia woodii* – String of Hearts  
*Cissus discolor* – Rex Begonia Vine  
*Dichondra argentea* – Silver Ponyfoot  
*Flowering Purslane* – Red  
*Gibasis pellucida* – Tahitian Bridal Veil  
 Golden Sweet Potato  
*Hoya carnosa* – wax flower vine  
*Pilea glauca* – Silver Baby Tears

*Plectranthus* sp. – Variegated Swedish Ivy  
*Pothos* – variegated  
*Tradescantia fluminensis* – Yellow Variegated Spiderwort  
*Tradescantia mundula* – Tricolor Spiderwort  
*Tradescantia* ‘Nanouk’  
*Tradescantia* ‘Red Gem’  
*Tradescantia zebrina* – Variegated Inch Plant

### SUCCULENTS 4 inch \$3

*Aloe* hybrid – Miniature Aloe  
*Crassula muscosa* – Watch Chain  
*Crassula multicava* – Fairy Crassula  
*Crassula sarmentosa* ‘Comet’  
*Euphorbia horrida*  
*Euphorbia tirucalli* – Sticks on Fire  
*Gasteria* hybrid  
*Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi* – Lavender Scallops  
*Kalanchoe marnieriana* – Marnier's Kalanchoe  
*Kalanchoe millotti*

*Rhipsalis salicornioides* – Drunken Bottle Plant  
*Sedum* ‘Blue Spruce’  
*Sedum dasyphyllum* – Corsican Stonecrop  
*Sedum* ‘Fire King’  
*Sedum morganiatum* – Donkey Tail Sedum  
*Sedum pachyphyllum* – Giant Jellybeans  
*Sedum rubrotinctum* – Jellybean Sedum  
*Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina'  
*Sempervivum* – Live-Forever  
*Senecio articulatus* – Candle Plant

*Orbea variegata* – Star Flower  
*Portulacaria afra* 'Variegata'  
*Portulacaria afra macrophylla*

*Senecio rowleyanus* – String of Pearls  
 x *Sedeveria* hybrids

### GALLON OUTDOOR SUCCULENTS- \$5

*Agave desmettiana* 'Variegata' – Variegated Smooth Agave  
*Agave mediopicta alba* – White Striped Century Plant  
*Aeonium haworthii* – Pinwheel Aeonium  
*Aloe nobilis*  
*Crassula tetragona* – Pagoda Plant  
*Crassula falcata* – Propeller Plant  
*Cotyledon orbiculate* – Silver Pig's Ears  
*Cotyledon orbiculata* Var. flanganii  
*Echinopsis spachiana*- Golden Torch  
*Gasteria* hybrid

*Graptopveria* 'Fred Ives'  
*Kalanchoe luciae* – Flapjack Plant  
*Mangave* hybrid  
*Opuntia subulate* – Eve's Needle  
*Opuntia snow* 'Ursine'  
*Yucca elephantipes* – Tree Yucca  
*Senecio barbertonicus* – Green Bush Senecio  
*Senecio mandraliscae* – Blue Chalk Sticks  
*Senecio vitalis* – Narrow Chalk Sticks

### HANGING BASKET SUCCULENTS \$12.00

*Aporocactus flagelliformis* – Rat Tail Cactus  
*Othonna capensis* – Ruby Necklace  
*Sedum morganianum* – Donkey Tail Sedum  
*Sedum burrito* – Baby Burro's Tail Sedum  
*Senecio* – String of Dolphins

*Senecio jacobsenii* – Hanging Jade Plant  
*Senecio radicans* – String of Bananas  
*Senecio rowleyanus* – String of Pearls  
*Stapelia gigantea* – Giant Starfish Flower

### VEGETABLES \$3

Basil, Oregano, Parsley  
 Bell & Jalapeno Pepper  
 Cantaloupe  
 Burpless and Lemon Cucumber  
 Celebrity Tomato

Early Girl Tomato  
 Straight neck Yellow Squash  
 Vegetable Spaghetti Squash  
 Zucchini



## *A New Beginning for the Old "Garden Doctor"*

*Kathy Ruiz, Judith Riegel, and Michael Kluk, UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County*

For several years, the UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County authored a monthly column in the *Davis Enterprise* titled *The Garden Doctor*. The *Enterprise* has recently welcomed a revival. The title and publication schedule are yet to be decided but, if you are an *Enterprise* subscriber, keep your eyes open for it. It will probably find its way onto our web page as well. The format of the new column will feature answers to questions that came into the UCCE Master Gardener Help Desk during the previous month. So, the topics will be timely and of interest to most in the Yolo County gardening community. The following provides a peek at our new column.

Every month this column will provide answers to selected questions that recently came into the UCCE Master Gardener-Yolo Co. Help Line.

**Question:** Hi there – We just bought a newly built home and are excited about creating our new landscape/garden. We are looking for ideas and resources for drought tolerant, water-wise plantings.

**Answer:** Hello. We can't recommend specific commercial products. However, there are some great resources we can point you to for suggestions on water-wise plants for our region.

First is the UC Davis Arboretum. Below are links to (1) planting plans they have developed and (2) their Arboretum All Stars database, with which you can find information on specific plants they recommend for our region.

<https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/planting-plans> There you will find planting plans for the Arboretum Teaching Nursery, a garden to attract wildlife, a low maintenance garden and a California native plant garden.

At <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum-all-stars>, you will find a data base of one hundred plants that are specifically chosen as they are well adapted to our environment, the Arboretum All-Stars. The data base lets you search by plant type, tree, shrub, vine etc., plant size, color, water needs, bloom time and wildlife value. You can also search for California natives exclusively.

Next is Calscape, a database developed by the California Native Plant Society. When you enter your zip code or address, it will pull up plants that are native to our area. And they provide great descriptions of each plant and its cultural needs. <https://calscape.org>

Third is WUCOLS (Water Use Classification of Landscape Species), a data base developed by UC Davis which provides information on water needs of a huge variety of plants. It will let you group plants with similar water needs together so that you can more efficiently water with a drip system or by hand. <https://ccuh.ucdavis.edu/wucols-db>

Good luck and have fun creating your new garden! UCCE Master Gardeners-Yolo Co.

**Question:** Hello, If I plant a native currant, do I need to worry about it being toxic to dogs? I understand that *Zante currants* may be the greatest concern. One article said that grapes, currants, and gooseberries are all related. I'd appreciate any help. Thanks.

**Answer:** Hello, thank you for contacting the Master Gardener Office. Common plant names are often the cause of confusion with plant identification. That is one of the reasons we recommend using the scientific plant name (consisting of the genus, species and if applicable subspecies) when researching and selecting plants. The native currant that you are considering planting is most likely in the genus "*Ribes*". Calscape.org names 69 species within the *Ribes* genus that are native to California. Unfortunately, as you found out, common names for the *Ribes* genus are currants and gooseberries. Grapes, which include *Zante* currents, raisins and sultanas are in the *Vitis* genus, the species most likely being *vinifera*, with many subspecies.

We saw several sources indicating grapes, *Vitis vinifera* can be toxic for dogs. Here is a link to an article from Tufts University on the subject. <https://vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2021/04/in-the-news-updates-on-grape-toxicity/>

Regarding the safety of *Ribes*, the only source we could locate was the Calscape.org page on dog safe plants. The Red Flowering Currant, *Ribes sanguineum*, is listed as being "dog safe." <https://calscape.org/plantlist/26840> You may want to consult your veterinarian for a definitive answer on other *Ribes* species. Best regards, UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County.

**Question:** I heard that marigolds will repel nematodes. If I plant marigolds around the border of my raised vegetable beds, will it get rid of nematodes? Thanks

**Answer:** Hello, nematodes are microscopic roundworms. Many species are beneficial but root knot nematodes feed on plant roots and can cause real damage, reducing the vigor of susceptible varieties. There is some evidence that marigolds will repel nematodes but it is not really a practical solution for the home gardener. Marigolds must be planted densely in the entire bed for at least two months and then taken out before planting the crop you want to protect. And, it must be the right marigold variety for the species of nematode you are trying to control.

If nematodes are a problem in your vegetable garden, there are a few steps you can take. The first is not to move them from one bed to another. They generally hitch a ride on tools. So, clean your tools carefully when moving from a bed you suspect has nematodes to one that does not. Solarizing has also been shown to be effective to at least suppress nematode populations. That involves covering the soil with clear plastic to heat up the soil during the summer. Here is an article on solarization.

<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74145.html>

The other approach, and probably the easiest, is to plant resistant varieties. Some tomatoes and peppers, for example, are resistant to nematodes. Look on the back of the seed packet or ask at the nursery if you are purchasing starts to identify nematode resistant varieties. Some types of vegetables are generally less susceptible to nematode damage, including, broccoli, beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, collards, corn, peas, garlic, mustard, onions, and potatoes. You should always rotate your vegetable crops between beds. Plant nematode resistant plants for three years between more susceptible varieties to reduce populations. Happy gardening, UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County!

If you have a gardening question, you can contact the Master Gardener Help Line at (530) 666-8737. Or, send an email, with pictures attached if that would be helpful to [mgyolo@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgyolo@ucdavis.edu).



## Praying for Mantids

*Michelle Haunold Lorenz, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County*

I was happily cutting back my pink jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*), which had taken over the trellis running up the side of the house. It was a hot late summer day. The hat I had on was slipping lower over my eyes than I wanted, so I stopped to adjust it. As a bead of sweat rolled down my face, I reached up to wipe it away and felt a prickling on the back of my hand, like tiny feet delicately stepping across my skin. Startled, I jerked my hand down from the brim of my hat and was surprised to find a pair of large green eyes staring at me.

They were back! The [Praying Mantis](#) had returned. Commonly called Praying Mantis, this distinct insect gets its common name from its Latin name *Mantis religiosa*. The correct name is Mantid; mantis refers only to the genus Mantis, while mantid refers to the insect itself. These delightful creatures get their name from the pair of large limbs held in front of their body in a prayer-like fashion. Known as a beneficial insect to gardeners because of their voracious carnivorous appetite, their biological control of garden pests can help maintain a healthy ecosystem. They are not discriminating in their diets, however, and will eat butterflies, lacewings, bees, and other beneficial



*They're Back!*  
Photo by Michelle Haunold Lorenz

insects as well as garden pests. Myth suggests the female eats the head of the male after mating, but studies show this rarely happens in nature, although if food sources are limited, the mantid is cannibalistic and will consume another mantid. According to the UCANR depending on mantids as biological control is relatively ineffective as their indiscriminate consumption of insects is not enough to help control pests, so purchasing them from garden centers for this purpose is not recommended. Regardless, they are beautiful and delightful to watch and provide a wonderful opportunity to hold and study nature up close.



*Mantid Egg Case*  
Photo by Michelle Haunold Lorenz

The praying mantid begins its life cycle as an egg, overwintering in a brown scaly egg sack called an ootheca attached to twigs and branches of trees. In fact, what led me to write this article was the discovery of several of these hard shell-like structures attached to the branches of my dwarf nectarine. I am ashamed to say, I cut these branches off during pruning recently, thinking the structures were a larger version of the pesky scale bug. After unconsciously cutting off and tossing a number of these strange brown structures, curiosity got the better of me and I took a branch with the curious inch-long casing inside to do some research to determine just what it was. When I realized it was an egg sack for the praying mantid, I felt sick to my stomach, and was very sad, realizing my garden could have been host to thousands of baby mantids as each egg sack could contain up to 200 eggs.

From then on, I was very careful to prune around these structures, finding them also attached to the branches of my apple tree. If you do need to cut a branch away with one of these egg sacks attached, place the severed branch nestled securely within the crevice of several intact branches, away from the ground to protect the sack from ground-dwelling predators such as ants.

When the babies hatch in early spring, they come out looking like miniature versions of the adult. You likely will not see them until late summer when they reach their adult size, up to 3" in length. Their green-brown camouflaging is remarkable, allowing them to blend into a plant where they await a meal. Mantids are not dangerous to humans, and when they do crawl onto you, take a moment to hold them close up so you can observe them. They move cautiously about, gently stepping over one's skin, and are very easy to observe because of this.

To attract these creatures to your garden, first and foremost maintain a pesticide-free space. Creating a beneficial insect-friendly garden is a sure way to attract these creatures. Plant a variety of plants that are attractive to these insects, such as oregano (*Origanum vulgare*), marigold (*Tagetes* spp.), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), anything from the carrot family (*Apiaceae*) including anise (*Pimpinella anisum*), cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*), dill (*Anethum graveolens*), and carrots (*Daucus* spp.), then let these herbs flower, then go to seed which is a normal part of their growing cycle. The impulse is to chop these plants back when they reach this stage, but if you let them flower, you will be amazed at the variety of beneficial insects that flock to your garden, including ladybugs and lacewings.

Provide a variety of shady places for the shy mantid to hide, such as shrubbery and climbing vines, including the pink jasmine mentioned at the beginning of the article and honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), clematis (*Clematis* spp.) and passionflower (*Passiflora incarnate*). Dwarfed fruit trees including apples and nectarines, peaches, and cherry trees are also ideal hiding spots, as are rose bushes, which tend to attract aphids, an easy food source for mantids and other beneficial insects. This is also where the adult mantis will finally lay their eggs in late fall to overwinter. Always provide a water source such as a birdbath much as you would for bumblebees. Then keep your eyes peeled. By late August or early September, the mantid will have reached its adult size and

be much easier to spot, gently picking its way among the leaves and branches, or waiting in the shadows in prayerful repose for a meal to come along.

Consciously planning your garden space each year to attract these insects is fun, and creating a space where they can complete their full life cycle can give you a sense of accomplishment, knowing you provided an excellent environment for this important part of nature to thrive.



## *Renewing Your Weed Bucket*

*Peg Smith, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County*

**D**o you have a raggedy, torn weed bucket? Here's a way to give it new life. Most weed buckets are made of a simple wire frame structure covered by material similar to shade cloth. It is a fairly simple process to recover the wire frame structure. I had some leftover shade cloth from a previous project, so I used that. This was not intended to be a fine quilt project so there's no need for perfection just practicality. Don't trim off the old cover from the frame until the end of the process only trim away any old pieces as needed to sew the new cover. My cover was in shreds so I used clips to hold it together in order to get a reasonably accurate measurement for the replacement cover.

### *Step 1*

You will need a piece of shade cloth big enough for you to cut the new covering.

Measure the bucket circumference, add 2".

Measure the diameter of the bottom, add 2".

Measure the height of the bucket, add 2".



*Measure the bucket circumference and height + 2"*



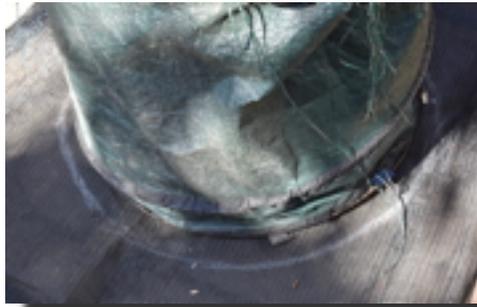
*Measure the diameter + 2"*

On your material measure out a rectangular strip of material with a length being the measurement of the circumference + 2", and the width being the height of the bucket + 2".



***Cut out the rectangular piece***

Use the bucket as a pattern to cut the bottom new cover. Place the bucket upright on the spread-out shade cloth or material, using chalk, mark a circle that is about 2" greater diameter than the wire from bottom circumference.



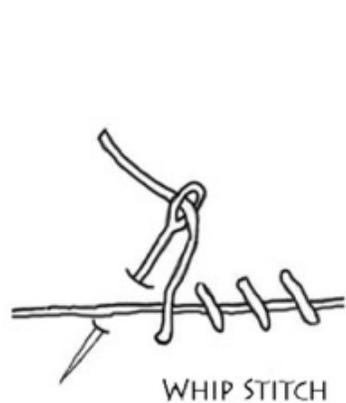
Cut out your measured pieces. You will need strong thread, I used upholstery thread, a curved needle, and a thimble.



**Step 2**

Wrap the material you cut for the side around the bucket allowing it overlap equally on the edge of the bottom circumference and the top circumference. Make sure you don't pull it too tightly and have an even amount of material overlapped for the side seam from the top to bottom - the side seam is where you will join the two ends of the piece on the side of the bucket as you complete wrapping the circumference. I used long sewing pins and spring clips to hold it to the frame securely for sewing. Clothes pins may also work.

I used a whip stitch to attach the material to the bottom and top circumference wire.

**Step 3**

Attach the circular bottom piece similarly. Clip and pin the circular bottom piece in place, this time allow some overlap up the side of the bucket. I used backstitch to secure the bottom to the side.

**Step 4**

Smooth the side material to the top circumference of the bucket. Fold over any excess material into the inside of the bucket, smooth out the circumference material and clip or pin the material around the upper circumference. Backstitch around the upper circumference about ½" down from the rim.



**Step 5**

Smooth out the excess material in the inside of the bucket against the side of the bucket and then use a tacking stitch to hold the excess material in place. Also tack stitch, from the base to the top, the overlapped edges of the material used for the side.

Most buckets have a spiral wire attached to the upper and lower wire circumferences that holds the shape of the bucket. Whip stitch the new bucket cover to this spiral wire.

Trim any exposed remaining exposed ragged pieces of the old bucket cover if needed.



Then... start weeding, get them small, get them often! I recovered my bucket in 2020 and it is still going strong!



## *Spring Garden Tips 2023*

*Peg Smith, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County*

**O**ur 2022 year's spring advice was concentrated on how to manage our gardens with the drought conditions and well below normal rain. This year we have a completely different situation where the advice of our 2019 Spring Tips bears repeating.

“The ground, with all our wonderful rain, is saturated and patience will be needed before heading out to turn the soil or replant a bed. Walking on the ground when it is saturated will compact the soil and make it harder to weed or prepare any new beds for planting.” Walking on the saturated ground around established plants will

also compact the soil which will impede root, summer watering and fertilizer penetration through the soil.

Adaption to the sine wave cycles of drought and flood are a significant part of a Yolo County gardener's world. As gardeners we need to consider the feast and famine nature of California's rainfall in our garden designs and plant selections.

When creating your garden consider establishing permanent pathways through both your ornamental and vegetable beds this will allow ease of access and make garden tasks easier whether the season is wet or dry. Raised beds for vegetable growing are a great approach as they allow a permanent planting area and permanent pathways which allow easy access to work and to plant the vegetables even if it is a wetter season. The elevated raised beds also improve drainage. Pathways through an ornamental bed do not need to be very formal, steppingstones work well. Also designated, well-mulched walking areas that allow reaching into the beds work well. The easier the access to your plants, the easier it is to identify problems or do the needed seasonal maintenance.

Several common diseases that affect our ornamental, fruit and vegetable plants are 'water borne' the fungal spores or bacteria are carried in the splashing rainfall or moisture laden air and then infect our plants. With all our rain we need to consider adjusting our plant and tree care being particularly vigilant as the season warms up for the beginnings of any evidence of diseased plant parts. The moisture and the warmth are ideal conditions for fungal and bacterial diseases to run rampant.

For example, with our steady rain cycles this season and moisture laden air there are some additional considerations in fruit tree care. Clear any remaining old fallen fruit from the ground or mummified old fruit still on the tree as these can be a perfect 'bank' of fungal disease spores that will be released by the splashing rain. The usual advice for pruning fruit trees is to wait until the rain stops and the air is less humid because pruning cuts will seal more quickly in the drier air. When we prune, we basically leave an open wound on the tree which is the ideal entry point for fungal spores and bacteria that cause several of the common fruit tree diseases e.g. [Fire Blight](#), a fungal disease, in apples and pears. It has certainly been a little hard to find a gap of a few dry days this pruning season. At this time of year, we dormant prune to stimulate growth, while summer pruning, when the trees are fully leafed, is for shape and size. March is the latest recommended time for dormant fruit tree pruning. If the very wet weather continues and you have kept up with regular pruning and your trees are in reasonably good shape, consider waiting until summer to do some reduction of the canopy pruning. If you skip the dormant season pruning, as the fruit comes on, make sure you thin the fruit so that you reduce the likelihood of limb break for the longer than usual limbs.

### SPRING CLEAN-UP

When we emerge into the garden after winter into the pleasant weather of spring (yes, we will get there) we have a tendency to grab a rake and enthusiastically clean up every scrap of debris in the garden. But lately I have noticed that under leaves and old collapsed stalks I am seeing lady beetles galore, very slow moving with the cold temperatures, so as you clean up take it slow and steady to see if any of our wonderful beneficial insects are still resting and not quite ready to assume their garden duties.

- Examine trees and shrubs for winter damage. Prune damaged foliage and branches.
- If you haven't pruned your roses and fruit trees, early March is the last month to ready them for their spring growth.
- Cut back seasonal grasses.
- Do not prune early flowering perennials such as viburnum and forsythia. It is best to prune them after the blossoms are spent or wait until early fall.
- Apply the final application of dormant oil spray to all fruit trees if the buds are not producing foliage or bloom. Roses need to be sprayed to prevent over-wintering insects and fungal spores. Last year's rose

leaves can be stripped off and discarded to reduce the numbers of overwintering spores. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/rose.html> \*

- Apply final application of copper and dormant oil to peach and nectarine trees if foliage and bloom have not pushed. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7426.html> \*
- Spray a fungicide to control anthracnose on Sycamore and Ash trees. <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7420.html#MANAGEMENT>
- For dormant oil sprays there are available both petroleum based dormant oil, such as Volk oil, and plant derived dormant oil such as Neem oil (certified for organic use). As always, please carefully read and follow label instructions and properly dispose of excess materials.
- Weeds are starting to sprout, so take care of them before they take over. “Get ‘em small, get ‘em often” is the best policy
- Once your spring bulbs have finished blooming, dead head (remove blossom stalks and finished blossom heads) however, don’t remove the leaves until they turn yellow. This will help the bulbs store energy for next spring’s bloom. The longer the leaves are left to ‘feed’ the bulb the more likely you will have blooms next spring.

## FERTILIZING, COMPOSTING AND MULCHING

If you need to lightly cultivate your perennial garden for weed control, take care not to dig too enthusiastically close to your plants. If the soil is not too wet to work use a weeder or a hori hori knife to loosen the weed’s roots, this will prevent too much disturbance of the established plant’s roots.

- Add soil amendments, such as compost and organic fertilizer.
- Roses and fruit trees need special attention now. In addition to organic rose food and soil amendments, add a cup of alfalfa pellets around each rose plant. Alfalfa contains a natural plant growth stimulant (triaconitol) that has been shown in some studies to improve plant growth and stimulate basal bud push.
- Be sure to use the fertilizer that is recommended for each plant type. Follow the application directions. Applying too much nitrogen will make a plant grow too quickly, producing growth which will not be as sturdy. This weaker growth is more susceptible to sucking insects. Too much nitrogen encourages leaf growth not blooms or fruits.
- As leaves and blooms push resume your normal fertilizing schedule for fruit trees. Spread a layer of compost around the fruit trees out to the edge of the leaf canopy. If using commercial fertilizer be sure to follow the directions – more is not better.
- Fertilize your spring blooming plants after they finish blooming and repeat for the next three months.
- Fertilize your houseplants.
- Apply mulch your garden to a depth of 4 inches keeping the crown of the plants clear so as not to encourage diseases such as crown rot. The reward will be fewer weeds and less watering in the months ahead.
- Mulch is good for water conservation but to attract our wonderful pollinator native bees, of whom several are ground nesting bees, leave some bare dirt, not mulched, that will not be disturbed. Some bare soil, some nesting possibilities, and a shallow water source combined with a selection of pollinator attractor plants should bring the native bees to the garden. <https://xerces.org/enhancing-habitat-for-native-bees/>

## PLANTING

Spring is a time when old, worn-out woody shrubs and roses can be replaced.

Perennial plants and shrubs need attention now.

- Remove any old woody non-productive growth, any dead branches, any crossing branches or branches that rub on one another.
- Dig and divide crowded perennial plants. Offer them to your neighbors if you have excess.

Select early blooming perennials and annuals.

- Plant candytuft, pansies, violas, dianthus. An easy-care plant, *Iberis sempervirens*, is a low-growing perennial candytuft that brightens a spring garden.

Select summer blooming plants.

- Bulbs, corms, tubers can be planted now.  
Some colorful choices are cannas, begonias, lilies, and dahlias.

Shade plants include:

- Columbine (*Aquilegia*) which comes in many colors. Coral bells (*Heuchera*) comes in a wide variety of bloom and foliage colors. Island Alumroot (*Heuchera maximus*) is the largest of the *Heuchera* and provides a beautiful show in the shade. Australian bluebell creeper (*Sollya heterophylla* a.k.a. *Billardiera heterophylla*) has evergreen mounded growth with a delicate blue flower.

Drought tolerant and sunny location plants:

- Island Pink yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), blue grama grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*), California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*), Santa Margarita foothill penstemon (*Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Margarita BOP', hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), and California goldenrod (*Solidago californica*) will all establish well and give seasonal color to the sunny waterwise garden.

Be sure to select these plants with care to ensure that they are strong, healthy, and not pot bound. Check the needed growing conditions so that you are placing them where they will grow and thrive. Plants that need 8 hours + of sun per day will not do well in the shade. Careful selection ensures healthy plants that are easy to grow and maintain. Young plants need additional water regularly to help them through their first summer as they establish a healthy deep root system.

After you have completed your planting, lightly fertilize your plants and mulch well. Plants do better if they are planted at or slightly above grade on a gentle mound with no root exposure.

## VEGETABLES

If you are growing your vegetables from seed inside under grow lights by early/late April, you can 'harden off' your seedlings by moving them outside for a few hours each day. Start by taking the seedlings outdoors, placing them in partial shade, return them inside for the night. Steadily increase the time outside and extend the time in the sunlight each couple of days. As the nights warm the seedlings can be left outside overnight. When your seedlings are then transplanted into your vegetable garden, they will be able to tolerate the outside conditions both day and night. The soil temperature needs to be around 50°F before you set out your young plants. Tomatoes and peppers prefer about a 60°F soil temperature before transplanting out. April to May is the prime planting season for summer vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, cucumbers etc. For a year-round guide to vegetable planting <https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/206763.pdf>

## DISEASE AND PEST CONTROL

If you have applied your dormant oil and fungicide, your plants will be off to a good start.

- Periodically check plants, especially roses, for signs of [black spot](#), [rust](#) and [mildew](#). These often appear first on the interior, lower parts or back of the leaves of the plant. If the spring is especially rainy, you will need to be more vigilant, and either remove the affected leaves or spray more often.

If your rose leaves have neatly cut out curved sections that is just the native leaf cutter bee collecting leaf pieces to line the laying sites for their young – something we want to encourage in the garden.

- There are simple solutions to most garden pests <http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/> This Integrated Pest Management website is a great resource for the least environmentally toxic way of handling garden pests. Regularly examine plants for damage from caterpillars, slugs, snails or earwigs. As the weather warms, aphids, mites, thrips, and scale may show in your garden. These pests are usually kept in check by a variety of beneficial

insects such as lacewings, mantises, ground beetles, *Tachinidae*, and robber flies. Many plants attract beneficial insects including yarrow, alyssum, feverfew, dill, parsley, coriander, penstemon, and asters.

- Attracting birds to the garden with a shallow water source and plants such as sunflowers will also help with insect control. You may have a few torn leaves on your beets and chard from birds such as house finches feeding on the leaves but the balance and gain for the garden is the large volume of insects, scale etc. that they will consume.
- Consult <http://ipm.ucdavis.edu/> for guidance on commercial pesticides and information for alternative solutions for controlling pests and diseases with the least environmental damage.
- Here is the link to Seasonal Landscape IPM Check:  
<http://www2.ipm.ucanr.edu/landscapechecklist/checklist.cfm?regionKey=2>

### LAWN CARE (<https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/menu.turf.html>)

Lawn can still have a place in the garden when managed well. Deep soaking, without having water run-off, encourages deep root growth and this is the key to a healthy summer lawn. Lawn does not need to be watered every day. Even with our hot summers a deep soak once or twice a week will carry a lawn through the hottest season. Lawn does surprisingly well if given a modicum of care with deep soaking and regular fertilizing.

To allow water penetration into heavier clay soils you may need to adjust your irrigation cycle. The ideal length of time for watering depends on when the water begins to run off from the lawn and be wasted. Allow the sprinklers to run for 15-20 minutes if there is run off with this timing adjust the sprinkler system to water for a shorter duration. Then set the irrigation timing to repeat this cycle in about an hour. Doing two watering cycles close together but of shorter duration allows the water time to penetrate more deeply into the soil. This deeper penetration of water will encourage deeper root growth in the lawn so that in the summer your lawn will cope better with a very hot prolonged heat wave.

If you have been watering your lawn every day you will need to ‘adapt’ the lawn to its new watering routine. Use this spring to change your watering practices gradually over a period of weeks this will give the lawn time to acclimate and develop deeper roots with the new water saving routine.

Start by not watering on one day of the week. Slowly progress dropping more watering days. Choose the one or two days a week you want to water the lawn and using the above guidance to refine the duration of the improved watering cycles. Most lawns can manage with a deep soak once a week unless we have an extended period of over 100°F.

As spring gives way to summer raise the mower blade to a height of 3 inches to protect the crown of the grass from the heat.

- Re-seed thin spots in your lawn and begin your fertilizing and mowing schedule with the beginnings of vigorous spring lawn growth.
- While it is easier to use commercial fertilizer applying a light topcoat of compost to your lawn will greatly benefit your lawn’s growth and soil health.
- Leaving grass clippings on your lawn by using a mulching mower will return needed nutrients. Tolerating a slightly untidy lawn as the grass clippings break down will benefit the soil and the health of the lawn.

### FINAL SPRING TOUCHES

- Paint the lower trunks of young trees with water thinned interior white latex paint to prevent sunburn and borer problems. Stake tall growing perennials and vegetables before they begin to bend over in late spring.
- In late spring, thin fruit on the trees, leaving 6 inches between each fruit. This will help the remaining fruit to mature properly and keep the branches from being over-weighted with fruit causing splitting and breaking of the tree limbs.
- Deadhead spent flowers to assure a long blooming season in your garden.

- When California poppies begin to fade, trim them back to promote a second bloom.
- Plant containers with your favorite annuals and herbs.
- Keep bird feeders clean and well supplied.
- Sharpen and maintain garden tools.
- Hang your hammock or set out your favorite garden chair. Relax with some lemonade and take time to enjoy a new gardening book or listen to a local garden radio program.

**UCCE Master Gardener Events in Yolo County**

**Woodland Community College Plant Sales**, April 1 and April 8, 9 AM to 1 PM,  
2300 East Gibson Road Woodland.

**Farmers’ Market and ‘Ask a Master Gardener’ information tables**

Davis farmers’ Market Saturdays 9 – 11 AM.

West Sacramento Lowe’s Saturdays 10 AM – Noon.

Picnic Day (In front of Plant & Environmental Science Building)

April 15, 10 AM - Noon

Woodland Farmers’ Market beginning May 13, 9AM – Noon.



Questions about your garden?  
**We’d love to help!**

**UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County Hotline.....(530) 666-8737**

Our message centers will take your questions and information. Please leave your name, address, phone number and a description of your problem. A Master Gardener will research your problem and return your call.

**E-Mail..... mgyolo@ucdavis.edu**

**Web Site ..... <http://yolomg.ucanr.edu>**

**Facebook.....UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County**

# UCCE Master Gardeners-Yolo Spring Plant Sale

**Two Saturdays**

April 1 and 8

9 am until 1 pm

2300 E. Gibson Rd., Woodland  
(shadehouse and greenhouse)

**Perennial and drought-tolerant plants,  
and heirloom tomatoes too.**

**\$6.00/1 gallon**

**\$4.50/quart**

**\$3.00 tomatoes**

**CASH OR CHECK ONLY**



for more information, 530-666-8737 or [mgyolo@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgyolo@ucanr.edu)

Winters Community Library Teaching Garden

# Spring Plant Sale

SATURDAY APRIL 22 9AM-1PM

- Choose from pollinator plants grown by garden volunteers and from Morningsun Herb Farm, Vacaville
- Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions
- Gardening, nature, and cookbooks for sale—all proceeds support the library
- Fresh, fragrant sweet pea bouquets for sale



Top: Butterfly bush  
Center: Leafcutter bee, a pollinator,  
on Santa Cruz Island buckwheat  
Left: Teaching Garden view



**Information:**  
**(530) 760-7266**



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 Woodland, CA 95695

## *The Yolo Gardener – Spring, 2023*

Send a Letter  
to an Editor!

email: [mgyclo@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgyclo@ucdavis.edu)

Please put: *Yolo Gardener* in the subject line

or

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 Woodland, CA 95695

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This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the University of California Master Gardener Program of Yolo County and is freely distributed to County residents. It is available through the internet for free download:

<http://yolomg.ucanr.edu/>

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Baumbach".

Jennifer Baumbach, UCCE Master Gardener Program  
 Coordinator Yolo and Solano Counties