UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources
UC Master Gardener Program

UC CE

The Curious Gardener

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In This Issue

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Placer County Demonstration Garden Now Open in Loomis

by Karen Lopez, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

On March 27, 2024, after years of planning and months of preparation, the Master Gardeners of Placer County Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library and Community Learning Center was opened to the public with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. It was a cloudy day, but the rain held off and the crowd of about 200 that gathered to celebrate the occasion was in great spirits as the ribbon was cut by local Town of Loomis dignitaries, PCWA officials and proud master gardeners.

Guests included Loomis Mayor Stephanie Youngblood who, along with MGPC President Sandi Fitzpatrick, helped officially cut the ribbon. County Supervisor Jim Holmes, Town Council member Jenny Knisley and Town Manager Wes Heathcock also attended, representing the Town of Loomis. From PCWA, Board Chair Robert Dugan, spoke during the ceremony about the proud partnership between PCWA and the Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden and presented a check for $17,000 from PCWA to the Garden. Representing UCANR, Bruno Pitton and Dan Macon attended. Fellow master gardeners from neighboring Nevada and El Dorado counties joined as well.

Following the ceremony, the crowd was welcomed into the garden by our garden bed leads, members of our education committee and a group of newly trained garden guides. All were ready to answer questions about the plantings, the process it took to get us to this day and our plans for the future. Guests were treated to light refreshments provided by our Esprit de Corps committee.

It was a wonderful event that beautifully showcased our new garden and all that it has to offer. Already plants are quickly growing and blooming in the garden! We are looking forward to inspiring and educating the residents of Placer County in the future.

Come Visit the Garden

For address, open hours and information about the plantings go to https://pcmg.ucanr.edu/Demonstration_Garden/

Summer Fruit Tree Pruning—a Balancing Act

by Kathleen Wiersch, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Small fruit trees are easier to maintain, to protect from pests, to treat for disease. And who really wants 200 plums all at once?! Selecting trees with dwarfing rootstocks will help, but the key to keeping fruit trees small is summer pruning.

The timing of pruning fruit trees affects how the tree responds. Dormant (winter) pruning is the most invigorating and exactly what the Placer County Master Gardeners did to the new fruit trees planted in late fall in their newly opened Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library. The trees were "chopped to the knee" and responded as expected with vigorous new shoots at and below the pruning cut.

"Summer" pruning, which is actually done mid-spring through summer, is typically used to remove excessively vigorous shoots. When you prune in summer, you will primarily be using "thinning cuts", which remove a branch to its point of origin on a larger branch or the trunk. (See photo at right.) These cuts remove branches without causing the tree to respond with unwanted growth.

A "heading" cut removes a portion of a shoot or branch, leaving buds and smaller lateral branches on the remaining portion. If done in winter, this results in an increased number of branches. However, when done in summer, there will be less regrowth. This is why summer is a good time for some height reduction.

Summer is actually the only recommended time to prune apricot and cherry trees in California due to their susceptibility to Eutypa dieback. We do this inland in July and August so that the tree has plenty of time to heal its pruning wounds before the rains arrive. This summer pruning also promotes more blossoms the following spring. Bonus!

When major cuts are made, removing any significant amount of leaves or branches, we run the risk of sunscald (or "sunburn") year-round. Just like the newly planted trees were painted in winter with 50/50 interior latex and water "whitewash", you should also paint any branches that are newly exposed to sun from summer pruning.

A thinning cut removes a branch at its junction with another branch. Photo by Kathleen Wiersch.

In both the Placer County and the Nevada County Demo Gardens, Master Gardeners are trying to maintain the height of our trees so they can be managed without ladders. This will require both winter and summer pruning. If you have a fruit tree that is too tall already, you can do some reduction in height but it's much easier to maintain a tree's height than to reduce it. This UC ANR article can walk you through your options.

While summer pruning can be very valuable in maintaining tree height and keeping an open framework, it will always be a balancing act as we try not to overly stress our trees. Consider pruning on cooler days and either early in the morning or in the evening. We may not have a lot to prune in the Placer County Demo Garden this summer, but we'd love to talk to you about it. Please stop by on our open garden days (second Saturday of each month, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm). Or visit the Nevada County Demo Garden to see their more mature fruit trees (Weekdays: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; Weekends: 8:00 am to 3:00 pm).

References:

- *Pruning and Training.* University of California / The California Backyard Orchard. 2024. https://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Pruning_&_Training/
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- Vossen, Paul M. and Deborah Silva.*Temperate Tree Fruit and Nut Crops.* Chapter 16, California Master Gardener Handbook, Second Edition. UC ANR Publication 3382. 2015.

Visit UC Master Gardeners at Your Local Farmers' Market

UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County
have a table at the Growers Market
Pine Creek Shopping Center
Freeman Lane, Grass Valley
Saturdays
8:00 am to 12:30 pm
from June to the first weekend in August

UC Master Gardeners of Placer County
have a table at the following Farmers Markets:

Roseville Fountains
1198 Roseville Pkwy, Roseville
Tuesdays
8:30 am to 1:00 pm
May thru October

Lincoln Fowler Ranch
3111 Lincoln Newcastle Hwy, Lincoln
1st and 3rd Sundays
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
March thru mid-November

Sun City Lincoln Hills
965 Orchard Creek Lane, Lincoln
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
8:00 am to noon
June thru September

Old Town Courthouse Parking Lot
150 Auburn Folsom Road, Auburn
1st and 3rd Saturdays
8:00 am to noon
May thru October

Hotline FAQs

How can I control leafminers on my vegetable plants?

by Linda Wold and Lynn Merrick, UC Master Gardeners of Placer County

Leafminers (larvae of small flies) can be tricky to remove from the garden because they cannot be found on the exterior of the host plant like so many other insects. Using Integrated Pest Management controls (IPM) is your best bet. In brief, IPM control methods include:

1. Identification and Monitoring:

- Monitor your plants at least weekly.
- Make sure you have correctly identified the pest and record how many there are over time. Often, they go away in a short amount of time, or their populations are small enough to tolerate and no control is needed.

2. Cultural Controls: *Things you do to the plants or the environment to control the predators naturally.* These are the preferred methods since they have minimal impact on the environment and on beneficial insects and pollinators.

Have gardening questions? Contact a Master Gardener!

Placer County
530.889.7388
or submit a question electronically

Nevada County
530.273.0919
or submit a question electronically

- The insects often attack the first true leaves of the plant. Check the bottom of all the leaves for eggs, and crush any that you find. If you find tunnels on the leaves, squash the larvae at the end of the tunnel. You can remove the infected leaves but not more than 1/3 of the leaves on any one plant.

3. Biological Controls: *Usually predators you release in the affected area so that they can eat the problem.*

- There are certain beneficial parasitic wasps that you can purchase that will kill the leafminer pupa.
- Consider using plant species that attract beneficial insects as companion plants to battle pest infestations.

4. Chemical Controls: *Use of insecticides to kill the problem pest as a last resort.* They are generally more expensive than cultural or biological controls and worse for the environment. The University of California has indicated that insecticides are not very effective for leafminer control because the larvae hide inside the leaf where they are protected from insecticide.

Overall, plants need to be kept in tip-top condition. If they are healthy and thriving, they can better withstand leafminer damage. Make sure your plants have enough water and fertilize them as recommended. Remove leaves and plant debris each season. If you have a few leaves with evidence of leafminers, remove and destroy them.

Learn more here.

Master Gardeners of Nevada County Demonstration Garden News

by Ann Wright, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

Flowering Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia californica) on gate in Cottage garden. Photo by Ann Wright.

As we round the corner from a lovely spring toward summer, the Demonstration Garden is alive with color, new growth and a sighting of Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia californica*)! May was a busy month with our spring plant sale on May 11, and we participated with the May 18/19 Soroptimist of the Sierra Foothills Garden Tour as one of the featured gardens. We have had a number of busy workdays, including a day to install a lovely hand-crafted wood box to house our projection screen.

The propagation teams were active starting perennials and unusual flowers for the plant sale, as well as planting raised beds. The meadow area survived the winter and is now lush, with no-mow grass. The "Zen" peace garden was nipped by hungry deer, but the addition of deer fencing minimized the damage, and it is looking vibrant once again.

This past spring the oak habitat team submitted a proposal to the Xerces Society to participate in the Hedgerow Habitat kit program. If awarded this grant, this fall we will receive around 90 woody and herbaceous plants to transplant, including milkweed and native bunch grasses intended to create or enhance pollinator and Monarch habitat.

We are looking forward to starting our Master Gardener training classes in July. It will be great to get to know these new volunteers and see them working alongside us in our Demonstration Garden!

Unusual Edible: A High Octane Berry

Article and Photos by Julie Lowrie, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

If you've never tasted an Alpine strawberry, *Fragaria vesca*, you don't know what you are missing! These little berries pack a delicious, sweet flavor punch like no other strawberry you've ever tasted. The Alpine strawberry is an herbaceous perennial, considered a wood strawberry growing wild in California, including locally, in the Sierra foothills and Tahoe basin areas, flourishing well in USDA Zones 5 through 9, in full sun and part-shady areas, blooming from May to August with moderate watering. They make a great edible ground cover or addition to your woodland or rock gardens, producing red or white fruit during the summer.

Historically, strawberries were not grown for their fruit, and indigenous peoples harvested their leaves and roots for medicinal teas. Farmers began developing strawberries for their fruit beginning in the 15th century. A 2020 scientific study reported that *Fragaria vesca* is rich in phenolic compounds such as flavonoids, tannins, and phenolic acid, which can provide anti-inflammatory, anticoagulant, vasodilatory, and antioxidant effects. And, its leaves have antiseptic, emollient, and dermatological protection properties, derived from its bioactive compounds.

Read more information about this plant, also know as woodland or wild strawberry, from the Missouri Botanical Garden and Calscape.

Become Water Smart and Make Your Plants Happy

by Marianne Locher Calhoun, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

As a gardener living in our Mediterranean climate with rainy winters and hot, dry summers, you're most likely interested in the most efficient application and amount of water for your plants. You can lower water and landscape maintenance costs by improving the water efficiency of your irrigation system.

Did you know there is a regional organization focused on water efficiency best management practices? The Regional Water Authority (RWA) is a unified voice for El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, and Sacramento counties. One member headquartered in Granite Bay, the San Juan Water District, estimates that "outdoor water use in the Sacramento region accounts for more than half of a household's total water use. About 30% of outdoor water use is wasted by overwatering and is lost through evaporation."

Grants to RWA enable members to offer significant rebates to their customers for upgrading irrigation systems. The top priority for water districts is for their customers to upgrade to smart irrigation controllers. With a manual controller, you may not remember to adjust your irrigation seasonally and your plants may be getting overwatered. University of California's Center for Landscape & Urban Horticulture's website has a section on Smart Irrigation Controllers. They are a "new generation of irrigation controllers that utilize prevailing weather conditions, current and historic evapotranspiration, soil moisture levels, and other relevant factors to adapt water applications to meet the actual needs of plants."

RWA's Be Water Smart program estimates you will save 100 to 150 gallons of water per day with a smart controller. Program the controller for our region's hottest month, July, and the subsequent irrigation schedule will be adjusted daily. Be Water Smart offers a free Smart Irrigation Scheduler for the greater Sacramento area to assist with programming, as well as short videos

Smart controller display showing six watering zones.
Photo by Marianne Calhoun.

demonstrating irrigation topics. Once your smart controller is programmed, monitor your plants and soil moisture levels for several weeks and make any necessary adjustments. Then you'll be able to enjoy vacations and no longer worry about watering your garden.

Overhead irrigation sprinklers are best used only on your lawn. UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources has been promoting the replacement of older sprinklers with high-efficiency rotary sprinklers for over ten years. This UC ANR News Release states, "The nozzles shoot out streams of water that provide very uniform watering. They have been shown to improve efficiency by 10 to 20 percent." Rebates from your water district may be available when updating components.

Some smart controllers are wi-fi enabled and download weather information from the internet. Others are connected to weather sensors attached to the home, like this one.
Photo by Elaine Kelly Applebaum.

According to UC ANR Publication 8504, "Drip irrigation can significantly reduce water waste and be used successfully in any part of your landscape not planted with a lawn or groundcover. Drip emitters apply moisture directly into the root zone of plants, minimizing evaporation of water from the soil surface between plants."

So become water smart and check out rebates from your water district for upgrading your irrigation system. The result may be happier plants in your garden plus longer vacations with your family!

References:

- *Smart Irrigation Controllers.* University of California's Center for Landscape & Urban Horticulture. https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water_Use_of_Turfgrass_and_Landscape_Plant_Materials/Smart_Irrigation_Controllers_947/
- Warner, Jeannette E. *Conserve water with proven landscape irrigation strategies*. UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. March 6, 2014. https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=13043
- *Sustainable Landscaping in California*. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 8504. 2014. https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8504.pdf
- *Top Ways to Save*. Be Water Smart Regional Water Authority. https://bewatersmart.info/top-ways-to-save/

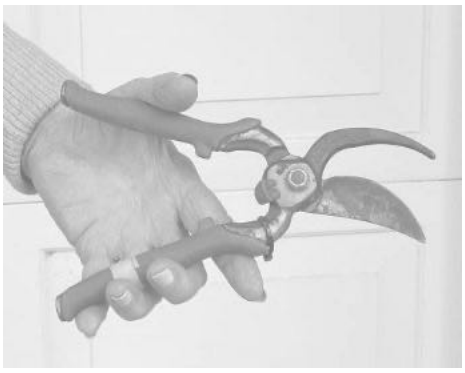
Ergonomic Tools

by Ann Beinhorn, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

As a wise gardener, you are probably already remembering to keep your tools well-oiled and sharp, to reduce the force you exert and to avoid damage to your plants. But have you considered there are tools designed to reduce exertion and avoid damage to YOU as you work in your garden?

Perhaps you have noticed that nurseries are now stocking garden tools that are labeled "ergonomic". Ergonomics is defined by the California Department of Occupational Safety and Health as the science of fitting the job to the person. Ergonomic tools were first designed for industrial workers. If a tool fits a user, the user will have greater comfort and safety. Now, ergonomics has overflowed to items in the general market.

To be "ergonomic" a tool must be appropriate to the task and fit the user's hand(s) without causing awkward postures, harmful contact pressures, or other safety and health risks. Photo by Marianne Calhoun.



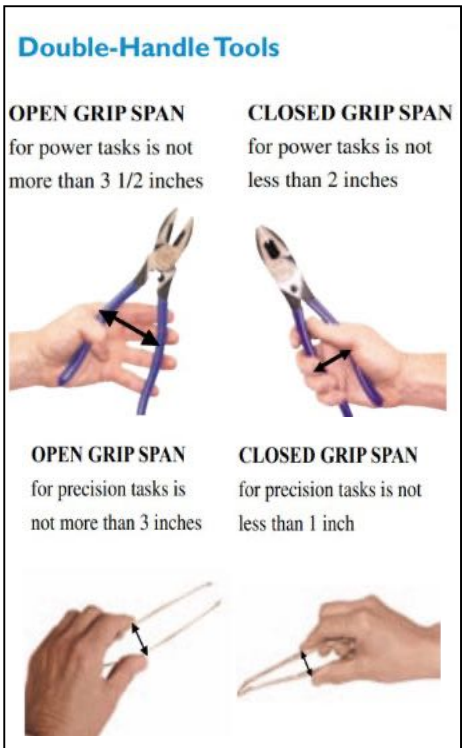
A "power grip" tool that opens too far causes contact stress and discomfort in the fingers. Photo by Ann Beinhorn.

NIOSH defines anthropometry as "the science that defines physical measures of a person's size, form, and functional capacities." Thus, you have the arm and leg length, hand width and length, arm reach, etc. Scientifically, you can also predict how much force a person can exert to operate a tool comfortably. These measurements are applied to tool and equipment design to prevent both chronic and acute injuries caused by repetitive motions or forcing the user to use excessive force when using the tool or equipment. Repetitive motions happen in industry, but also with gardeners, who use their preferred tools repeatedly over a span of hours or days. Not every tool fits just any user.

When making tools, manufacturers are trying to avoid the discomfort people feel, especially in their joints. The OSHA standards are their guide. Awkward postures are those that take joints out of their midrange. An example of this is opening your hand too widely when a spring forces it to that position. The discomfort builds up over time. A "power grip" (gripping with the whole hand) is strongest and most efficient when placed in a neutral position, such as the elbow bending nearly 90 degrees, wrists straight, and all fingers comfortably flexed. In contrast, a "precision grip" tool is held between the thumb and fingers.

A tool is "ergonomic" when it properly fits the user. OSHA standards dictate that:

- The open grip span on a "power grip" tool should be no more than 3½", and the closed grip span should be no less than 2".
- The open grip span on a "precision" tool (photo below) should be no more than 3", and the closed grip span should be no less than 1".



From the CDC booklet A Guide to Selecting Non-Powered Hand Tools.

To maintain the springs on pruning tools, use the parts provided to store them in the closed position when not in use.

Be sure a tool handle fits you. Contact stress occurs when, for example, you use a tool pressing on the fingers instead of the palm. Also, tool handles should be lined with sufficiently soft materials, in different sizes to fit the user. If a handle cover comes off, you will realize how much you miss it.

Force requirements and repetitive motions might work against you in gardening. If the tool is bent or long, and you're trying to balance it, is it forcing your joints to bend beyond comfort?

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page
Does the tool weigh too much when you reach? Ergonomic tools should be comfortable for you to use depending on your personal size and abilities. Be sure to try the tools before you buy them. Check out the branch loppers that have telescoping handles, allowing you to stand straight and reach comfortably. If a weeding tool handle is curved, hold it where you can meet the resistance within a horizontal plane (keeping your wrists straight).

When using a tool that is bent (like a one-hand-held pick axe), you should be able to operate it by bending the elbow while the wrist stays straight; this is possible when the contact end is at 90 degrees from the handle (like a hoe).

Save yourself both pain and work by choosing tools that are designed and sized for you.

A two-handed tool that is too long and heavy for the user makes the wrists bend awkwardly, causing the lower arms and hands to work too hard. Photo by Ann Beinhorn.

References

- *Anthropometry*. CDC, NIOSH. August 30, 2022. https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/anthropometry/default.html#
- *Easy Ergonomics: A Guide to Selecting Non-Powered Hand Tools.* CDC, Cal OSHA, NIOSH. 2004. https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2004-164/pdfs/2004-164.pdf
- *Ergonomics*. OSHA Safety and Health: Ergonomics. NIOSH, US Dept. of Labor. 2015. https://www.osha.gov/ergonomics

Tips for Creating and Using Microclimates in your Yard

by Jan Birdsall, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Are there areas of your garden where you have too much sun and not enough shade? Or the reverse? Welcome to the topic of microclimates and how you might create new ones or use existing microclimates to their best advantage. Alterations to the microclimate can extend your plant choices.

There are microclimates in your yard that you need to identify. Start by mapping your existing plant features, permanent structures, sun and shade exposure (full or partial) and dry and moist retention areas. Note the aspect—the direction your yard faces. Solar energy is the major driver behind temperature and moisture retention and there is a definite difference between morning and afternoon sun. Ways to identify and map your microclimates are described in this evaluation form put together by the UC Master Gardeners of Marin County. Once you are familiar with your property's microclimates, you can plan to harness or modify them; details can be found in this article.

For example, do you have an area of relentless and prolonged sun? Try planting fast growing tree(s) that when mature will provide shade, or build a large or small shade structure to give plants relief from late afternoon searing sun. Less permanent but more economical, tie shade cloth to existing features that can be removed in late fall until early summer. If your area is too shady because of trees or tall shrubs, consider trimming or removing them to provide more sunlight. Use concrete walkways or stone walls to create a microclimate to absorb heat during the day and be released during winter nights to protect frost intolerant plants. Placing a plant in a hostile microclimate without providing for its needs can make the difference between thriving or just surviving.

Microclimates can vary within neighborhoods, or even in a single backyard. Photo by Dale Cecchettini.

Coral Fountain
Russelia equisetiformis

by Donna Olson, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Coral fountain (also known as firecracker plant) will be a splendid addition to any sunny garden. Its arching stems produce bright coral-red tubular flowers that are attractive to hummingbirds. It blooms from spring to fall in most locations; if the location is protected or the climate is very mild, it may bloom all year. It is happiest in a sunny location but will also grow in a semi-shady spot, although with fewer blooms. Under ideal conditions it may reach five feet tall and wide at maturity. Light pruning can keep the size in check. The Arboretum All-Stars website this as a low to medium water user. According to the University of Arizona, it is cold-hardy to 25 degrees F.

In your landscape, coral fountain makes a lovely accent in a rock garden, or it can be used as an informal hedge. This plant also does well in containers or hanging baskets, which can be brought inside during the winter months in our colder areas.

If you want to see this plant at the arboretum in Davis, it is located in the Southwest U.S.A. and Mexican Collection.

For those of you who would enjoy a guided tour of the UC Davis Arboretum featuring seasonal highlights, check out Walks with Warren. Your guide will be Warren Roberts, superintendent emeritus of the arboretum.

agri-cola, ae *m* tiller of the field, farmer, husbandma
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
(**culta, orum** *n/pl* tilled land, gardens,
tions),
cresco, crevi, (cretum) 3 to grow
cultus *m* cultivation, labor, tillin
land; b) care, training, educa
civilization,
florens, tis blooming, flow
floreo, ui 2 to bloom, bl
flos, oris *m* flower, bl
fodio, fossom 3 to
folium, i *n* leaf
herba, ae *f* g
hortus, i *m*
radix *f*
viridi
vit

BotLat Corner

What's in a Name

by Peggy Beltramo, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

I thought this issue of BotLat was going to be a short column about plants whose botanical names have changed. This happens often now, as we rely increasingly on scientific knowledge more than visual characteristics as was the rule in earlier times; however I stumbled on a nest of intrigue with the common tomato.

Cherry tomatoes. Photo by Carol Koenig.

Carl Linnaeus, the father of plant taxonomy, put it in the genus *Solanum*, along with the potato, due to physical characteristics he noted. Another botanist, Phillip Miller, disagreed and put it into the *Lycopersicon* genus. Recently, due to genetic science, tomatoes are back in the genus *Solanum*. This genus, the nightshade family, contains more than 3,000 species of plants, not to mention that there are more than 7,000 varieties of tomatoes!

Botanically, the genus name, *Solanum*, comes from the Latin word *solamen*, meaning "comforting" or "soothing." Tomato's specific epithet, *lycopersicon*, is a combination of *lycos*, "wolf" and *persicon*, "peach." Tomatoes were called "wolf peaches" due to a legend that eating a tomato could turn you into a werewolf. It bears noting that nightshades comprise poisonous plants and the green parts of tomato plants are toxic. So, when references are made to the taxonomic classification of tomatoes, they are referred to as *Solanum lycopersicum* syn. *Lycopersicon esculentum*, giving credit to its former classification.

Also in the *Solanum* genus is the eggplant. Its BotLat name is *Solanum melongena*. You already know the etymology of *Solanum* and *melongena* is in reference to its melon-shaped fruit. That's it! Over and out!!

UC Master Gardeners of Placer and Nevada Counties Workshop and Events Calendar

Always check our websites for the most up to date event information.

Nevada County: ncmg.ucanr.edu Placer County: pcmg.ucanr.edu

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Nevada County https://www.facebook.com/UCCEmastergardeners.nevadacounty/

June

June 1
10:00 am to Noon
Nevada County Invasive Plants: ID and Control – New topic!
Nevada County Demo Garden

June 8
10:00 am to Noon
Cut Flower Gardening
Nevada County Demo Garden

June 8
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Colorful Low Water Plants
Loomis Library

June 8
11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Open Garden Day
MGPC Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library

June 15
10:00 am to 11:30 am
What's the Buzz About Pollinators?
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Advance registration required by clicking here.

June 22
12:00 pm to 12:30 pm
Seed Saving & Planting
How-to Festival, Lincoln Library

June 22
10:00 am to Noon
What's Bugging You? Insect Pests and Friends
Nevada County Demo Garden

Nevada County Events in Green boxes

Placer County Events in Yellow Boxes

July

July 13
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Composting & Mulch
Loomis Library

July 13
11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Open Garden Day
MGPC Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library

July 13
10:00 am to Noon
Fire Wise Landscape & Maintenance
Nevada County Demo Garden

July 27
10:00 am to Noon
Healthy Soil and Cover Cropping – New topic!
Nevada County Demo Garden

August

August 7-11
10:00 am to 7:00 pm
County Fair time!
Visit our booth for workshops & gardening questions
Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley

August 10
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Lawn Replacement
Loomis Library

August 10
11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Open Garden Day
MGPC Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library

August 16, 17, & 18
10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Visit our booth at the Tri-County Home & Garden Show
At The Roebbelen Center, 700 Event Center Dr., Roseville

August 17
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Composting with Worms
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Advance registration required by clicking here.

August 17
10:00 am to Noon
Cool-season Vegetable Gardening (New – vegetable starts for sale)
Nevada County Demo Garden

August 24
10:00 am to Noon
Native Plants
Nevada County Demo Garden

Workshop Location Addresses

Nevada County workshops are held at
• **The Nevada County Demo Garden** on the NID Grounds, 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley.

Placer County workshops are held at one of the following:
• **The Loomis Library & Community Learning Center**, 6050 Library Dr., Loomis
• **The Roseville Utility Exploration Center**, 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville
• **The Lincoln Library**, 485 Twelve Bridges Dr., Lincoln.

About UC 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 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 UC Master Gardener of Nevada and Placer Counties Programs began soon thereafter in 1983.

Serving Placer and Nevada Counties for Over 40 Years

Have a Gardening Question?

Contact Us!

Placer County Residents

530.889.7388

or contact us through our website or Facebook

Nevada County Residents

530.273.0919

or contact us through our website or Facebook

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Production Information

The Curious Gardener is published quarterly by the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Placer and Nevada Counties. All information presented pertains to the climate and growing conditions of Nevada and Placer Counties in California.

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