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UC CE

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In This Issue

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Keep Your Home Garden Producing: The Art of Succession Planting

Article and photos by Ellie Lightfoot, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

While many home gardeners plant once and harvest once, succession planting can transform your backyard into a continuous source of fresh vegetables from spring through fall. As foothill gardeners, we can use any of these four approaches to keep our gardens continually productive.

Types of Succession Planting

The first approach—planting the same crop with staggered dates—works well with crops that mature all at once like lettuce and radishes. Prepare your planting area and sow seeds in one third of the area, returning to plant the next third when the first planting has its second leaves, then plant the final third two weeks after that.

The second approach means pulling spring crops when production slows and planting summer crops in the same area. For example, as spring peas finish, that same space can host summer beans.

Interplanting fast and slow-growing crops is the third approach. This looks like lettuce planted alongside cucumbers. The lettuce will be harvested before the cucumbers need space, making this perfect for small foothill gardens.

Interplanted squash, tomatoes, basil and snapdragons in a raised bed, planted on the north side of the tomato trellis.

The fourth approach—same crop with different maturity dates—works well with vegetables. Planting early, mid-season, and late varieties of tomatoes spreads your harvest across months rather than weeks.

Succession Success: Map the Garden, Keep a Journal

It's important to map out your growing space and keep records of what works. A simple sketch of each bed with planting dates and days to maturity provides valuable reference for future seasons.

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When planning, consider maturity times, spacing needs, and water requirements of plants being grown together. Plan for vining crops to be trellised and utilize the space underneath. Add compost between plantings to rejuvenate the soil.

Common Mistakes and Troubleshooting

One common mistake is forgetting to adjust planting dates for our varied elevation zones—what works in Auburn may need a two-week adjustment in Nevada City. Many gardeners also neglect soil rejuvenation between plantings, leading to disappointing yields.

Changing day length affects plant growth dramatically; spring spinach bolts quickly, while fall plantings grow more leisurely. Gardeners often overplant without considering harvest timing, resulting in feast-or-famine cycles. Perhaps most critical is inadequate irrigation for newly planted succession crops during hot summer transitions.

Combat these issues by keeping a garden journal specific to your microclimate, adding compost between plantings, and installing drip irrigation with separate zones for new plantings.

By mastering succession planting, you'll transform your garden from a one-time harvest into a continuous cornucopia. Your family will enjoy fresher, more diverse produce, while you'll experience the satisfaction of a garden that produces abundantly throughout the seasons.

These reference websites and publications are excellent sources for additional information to give you the knowledge and confidence to plant a vegetable garden:

- *Growing Vegetables in Placer County.* UC ANR UC Master Gardeners of Placer County. n.d. http://pcmg.ucanr.org/Vegetables_/
- *Home Vegetable Gardening.* UC ANR UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County. n. d. http://ncmg.ucanr.org/Seed_Germination_Charts_434/

Western Sierra Foothills Garden Guide. 2022. UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County. https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-master-gardeners-nevada-county/western-sierra-foothills-garden-guid

- *Succession Planting.* Oregon State University, OSU Extension Service. n.d. https://extension.oregonstate.edu/imported-publication/succession-planting

Succession planting of lettuce and cilantro.

In the 2019 trial, an unshaded plot (foreground) with poor plant growth and fruit sizing compared to a shaded plot (background).

Help your Plants Beat the Heat!

By Jan Birdsall, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Just like us, our gardens need a break from severe heat events. Last summer was a real challenge. Preparing now will get you started towards protecting your garden from extreme heat events. Make sure you understand your vegetables' and ornamental plants' needs when things get too hot.

For instance, tomatoes, sun-loving vegetables, will stop thriving and producing fruit in temperatures over 90-95 degrees. Some maple trees are also susceptible to extreme heat, resulting in burnt leaves and dead branches.

Early morning watering and providing mulching and shade protection can mean the difference between plants surviving versus health problems or death. Shade cloth can lower the temperatures plants are exposed to, reduce heat stress and sunburn, and minimize soil evaporation. You can buy shade cloth in a variety of sizes and types, blocking out anywhere from 10 to 90 percent of the sun's intensity, although 30 percent is generally recommended for vegetables.

You can secure shade cloth to PVC structures you can easily build yourself, or use tomato cage structures with zip ties or bungee cords. Large triangle pieces of shade cloth can be secured to fencing, stakes, poles, or temporarily your house. The ends of the shade cloth can be secured to the ground with tent stakes or landscape staples. These anchors are easily movable. This allows shade cloth to be rolled back during normal sunlight hours but used during extreme heat times.

Shade cloth is a great way to let your plants take a break from the extreme heat during afternoons.

Pollinator Week 2025

by Bonnie Bradt, Entomologist and UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

The start of the now international celebration of Pollinator Week came about under the auspices of the Pollinator Partnership, headquartered in San Francisco. They are the largest nonprofit in the world dedicated solely to the protection and promotion of pollinators—all pollinators.

The celebration is June 16-22, 2025. We will be celebrating all of these essential critters, from the bees we all know, to butterflies, moths, bats, beetles, and hummingbirds. They all have a place in the pollination of the world's plants. They are the heroes behind the food we eat and the beauty of the plants around us. Pollinator Partnership encourages us to understand the impact of our actions upon these critical members of our ecosystems, as our actions will determine whether their future will be a struggle or a success.

The Pollinator Partnership website is filled with information on tools that we all can use to study, encourage or teach others about the pollinators around us. One way is to adopt a concept named "Bee Friendly Gardening." After all, by far most households in the U.S.A. have some sort of outdoor space. Whether it is a window box or balcony or acres of land, that space could be put to the use of inviting pollinators to visit. One Xerces society blog points out that a great thing about pollinator conservation is that even a single person with a batch of flowers near a fence or some

pots on a deck can make a difference. It's not like saving raptors or wolves or pandas who need large, connected swaths of appropriate habitat, often far from people. Pollinators will visit flowers and fly between sources no matter where they are or how close to people.

Pollinators require floral resources to thrive, and the more varied, the better. Pollinators have different preferences in flowers just as some of us humans like okra and some don't! Depending upon how much area you have, plant flowers of various colors, heights, shade or sun preferences. Don't forget the grasses! Try to provide even a small source of water, like a slowly dripping hose over a rock. That is enough for wandering bees to hydrate as they fly by. Also, try to plant flowers for all seasons. Everything is blooming in the spring and summer, but think of the fall and even the winter.

The story of what is threatening the world's pollinators is a huge one. It cannot be covered easily. So, in honor of Pollinator Week, please make an effort to seek information on such things as the effects of pesticides, large monoculture areas of crop production, habitat loss, changing climate, and the ever-increasing demands of humans for space, non-native landscapes, large lawns, and the introduction of invasive plants that outcompete the natives. A chilling quote from the Pollinator Partnership website states "…Without the actions of pollinators, agricultural economies, our food supply, and surrounding landscapes would collapse." Let's work together against this final calamity.

References:

- *Pollinator Week*. Pollinator Partnership. n.d. https://pollinator.org/pollinator-week
- Shepherd, Matthew. *Bring Back The Pollinators During National Pollinator Week*. Xerces Society. June 17, 2019. https://xerces.org/blog/bring-back-pollinators-pollinator-week

Changes Coming to *The Curious Gardener*— Your Action Needed to Remain a Subscriber

From a mimeographed hardcopy in the 1980s to the emailed full color PDF you are reading now, *The Curious Gardener* has seen improvements over the years. Once again, in order to serve you better, the UC Master Gardeners of Placer and Nevada Counties will be updating the format and distribution process for this free quarterly newsletter.

To remain a subscriber, you will need to click on this link (https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/DC9mBn6) **and enter your email address, county affiliation, and zip code.** If that's all you have time to do, hit submit and you're done. But, if you have time, we'd love for you to answer the additional questions to help us tailor our content to your gardening needs.

Considerations before Transforming your Paved Driveway

Photo and article by Marianne Locher Calhoun, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Do you have cracks in your asphalt or concrete driveway that get wider and longer each year? Do you want to change your driveway into a surface that is more ecologically friendly? Transforming a paved driveway can be a significant investment. After ten years, my husband and I agreed it was time to invest in our cracked driveway curving around mature trees. Before obtaining bids, we determined a budget and then considered aesthetics, adjacent trees, drainage, and surface material.

Aesthetics

As driveways make a strong visual impression, first consider the style and colors of your home. Complementing your home's country, contemporary, or traditional look will enhance your overall curb appeal. Do you wish to modify the driveway's shape, color or texture? Do you know that dark colors absorb the most heat? I consulted with a landscape designer about improving our curb appeal, transitioning to our entry path, and protecting adjacent trees. You also may benefit from selecting a certified landscape designer via the California Chapter of Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

Adjacent trees

Shade trees are a valuable asset to your property that can take decades to reach mature size. Have you noticed a tree's growing roots influencing your paved driveway? We were concerned about the longevity of native oaks if we installed a new surface material. UC Agriculture and Natural Resources' webpage on managing landscape trees and TreesAreGood.org provide useful information. I highly recommend a free consultation with a licensed arborist.

Roots of mature shade trees have cracked this asphalt driveway.

Drainage

A driveway project is the ideal time to improve how water flows on your property. After rainstorms, are there standing puddles or does water seep into your garage? Would you prefer to retain rainwater as a resource for nearby landscaped areas rather than funneling it into storm drains? As a UC Master Gardener, I'm interested in a watershed approach to our property. My goal is for precious precipitation to be absorbed into our sandy loam soil to nurture mostly low water plants before filtering into our groundwater.

Consulting with licensed paving contractors was our next step. The options to improve our driveway's drainage while capturing rainwater included re-grading the lowest area, installing a permeable surface material over crushed rock, and directing water from the driveway and roof downspouts into landscaped areas.

Surface Material

Selecting a driveway's surface material is where your desires meet the reality of your budget, soil, slope, and any constraints placed by an HOA. Residential driveways are traditionally paved with impervious concrete or asphalt that do not allow water to pass into the soil. Gravel and decomposed granite can be more environmentally friendly and economical options. Other permeable pavement options may be interlocking permeable pavers, pervious concrete or porous asphalt. While fewer bonding ingredients allow rainwater to flow directly into the ground, the price for these pervious materials increases from traditional materials.

As every property is unique, enjoy crafting a solution that transforms your driveway and surrounding landscape and still honors your budget.

References:

- *Landscape Design & Water Quality.* UC IPM/Pests in Gardens and Landscapes: Quick Tips. August 2024. https://ipm.ucanr.edu/QT/landscapedesigncard.html
- Berstler, Pamela. *The Watershed Approach to Landscaping.* California Native Plant Society. March 28, 2018. https://www.cnps.org/gardening/the-watershed-approach-to-landscaping-7431
- Nations, Cynthia. *When It Rains: Ancient Wisdom for Today's Troubled Waters.* UC Master Gardeners of San Mateo & San Francisco Counties. September 6, 2023. https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=57814

Garden Q&As

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

Photo by Kathy Ikeda.

How Can I Create a Garden on a Budget?

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

Here are a few strategies to effectively budget while planning your garden:

1. Cultivate Your Own Plants:

Rather than purchasing seedlings, consider starting your plants from seeds, either by germinating them indoors or sowing them directly in your garden. Once your plants produce seeds, collect and save them for future planting. Additionally, you can propagate new plants from cuttings or divisions. Consider exchanging your new plants with friends, neighbors, or family members.

2. Embrace Small and Sustainable Choices:

Instead of relying on annual plants that require replacement each year, choose perennials that will flourish for several seasons. There is a wide variety of compact vegetables and herbs suitable for limited spaces. To save money, start with inexpensive one-gallon plants instead of opting for larger ones that are pricier. Maximize your space by utilizing containers or implementing vertical gardening techniques. You can also create raised beds from re-purposed materials, allowing you to refresh and reuse them annually.

3. Seek Out Deals:

Look for opportunities to acquire plants through plant exchanges, sales at retail nurseries, or botanical gardens and horticultural clubs, where you can often find diverse plants at reduced prices.

4. Utilize Available Resources:

Depending on the county where you reside, you can access valuable gardening information from the UC Master Gardeners of Placer County or the UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County. Both websites offer a wealth of resources, including workshops and events. You can also submit gardening questions for assistance from trained UC Master Gardeners.

Photo by Dvortygirl, CC BY-SA 3.0

Photo by Steve Conger CC-BY-NC 4.0

Future Favorite: California Blue-eyed Grass

By Donna Olson, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Recently, I was walking through a local park with a friend and saw several little grassy clumps of violet flowers. Neither of us knew what they were, so we took a picture. Using a photo ID app, we discovered they were California blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*).

Later, I was trying to pick a Future Favorite for this article and lo and behold California blue-eyed grass was in the list! In spite of the name, it is not a grass, but rather is a member of the Iris family (*Iridaceae*). The flowers range from blue to violet to purple, with yellow centers. It is a California native so is well adapted to our Mediterranean climate. According to Calscape, blue-eyed grass is "moderately hardy and will tolerate temperatures down to 20 degrees F." It grows throughout California, even at altitudes up to 8,000 feet. It prefers loamy soil, but will tolerate a wide variety of soils. It attracts birds, bees, and butterflies. Depending on the location within our area, blue-eyed grass blooms anywhere between January and July. Calscape lists it as a low water usage plant, although some irrigation in the dry months may keep it from going dormant.

It can be propagated from seeds and freely reseeds itself. Other methods of propagation are division of the rhizomes and even the flower stems will root.

It's not fussy, it attracts pollinators, and in the spring it will reward you with a cheerful display of blue-violet flowers. I hope you'll give this little plant a try. For the full list of UC Davis Arboretum Future Favorites, click here.

Western alligator lizard (Elgaria coerulea) with cricket—the harmony of IPM.

Myths-busters: Debunking Common Myths About Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Article and Photos by Brooke Johnson, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

University of California Master Gardeners' preferred approach to pest management is called Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It is considered a sustainable way to manage pests. However, I'd like to clear up several myths that surround it.

First, some think IPM is organic farming. IPM does share similar methods to organic farming; such as reducing pesticide use. However, IPM encompasses biological, cultural, physical, and chemical means to address pest problems.

Another common myth is that IPM doesn't allow for pesticide use. The main goal in IPM is to apply pesticides only when absolutely necessary. This is to help protect beneficial insects and minimize any impact on the environment.

Finally, some believe that IPM is a one-time use method. However, IPM is an ongoing process that requires regular monitoring and adjustments.

By debunking these myths about IPM, we can have effective and sustainable pest management.

Praying Mantis (Mantis religiosa) ready to strike.

Unusual Edible: Miner's Lettuce—A Nutritional Gem of the West

By Julie Lowrie, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

This year, you may have seen miner's lettuce, also known as winter purslane, *Claytonia perfoliata*, growing in your yard or garden. Many consider it a weed to remove. But did you know that its leaves are edible and contain a high source of vitamin C?

Its name originates from the California gold rush in the mid-1800s, when miners consumed the plant to prevent scurvy due to its high vitamin C content. Historically, Native American tribes, including the Miwok and the Pomo, recognized the plant's nutritional value and medicinal properties. They utilized miner's lettuce in various ways, often incorporating it into salads.

In California, miner's lettuce is commonly found in moist, shaded areas, particularly in the Sierra Nevada and coastal regions. It typically grows in spring and early summer, forming a rosette of succulent, round leaves often mistaken for a small, delicate flower. The plant features white to pinkish flowers that bloom on slender stalks, adding to its visual appeal.

Beyond its historical significance, miner's lettuce is celebrated for its health benefits. Rich in vitamins A and C, and essential minerals like calcium and iron, it is a nutritious addition to salads and other dishes. The plant is also known to have anti-inflammatory properties.

Today, miner's lettuce is gaining popularity in modern culinary practices, appreciated for its unique flavor, rich heritage, and health benefits, making it a true gem of the West.

Photo by Elaine Kelly Applebaum

The Allure of Hydrangeas

By Linda Wold, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Hydrangeas are a delightful enhancement to any garden, showcasing breathtaking blooms for extended periods. Like all plants, they have their own unique set of benefits and drawbacks. In this article, we will explore the advantages and disadvantages of this captivating plant, helping you set realistic expectations when considering hydrangeas for your garden.

Hydrangea macrophylla.
Photo by Jack Kelly Clark.

Benefits:

Variety: Hydrangeas come in an impressive array of species, offering a multitude of colors, sizes, and shapes that cater to a gardener's individual style. Among the various types are bigleaf, panicle, oakleaf, smooth, and mountain hydrangeas, each with its own unique characteristics and growing needs, providing a rich selection for gardeners to choose from.

Versatility: These plants are remarkably adaptable, fitting seamlessly into a variety of garden styles, whether it's a charming cottage garden or a more structured landscape. Hydrangeas flourish in both partial sunlight and shaded areas, making them suitable for flower beds and borders. Their compact varieties are ideal for container gardening and smaller areas, while the larger shrubs can serve as effective privacy screens or hedges. Once they are established, hydrangeas require minimal maintenance.

Environmental Advantages: Hydrangeas play an important role in supporting local ecosystems by attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies that provide cross-pollination of neighboring flowers. Their dried flower heads serve as a food source for birds, while the plants offer shelter to various wildlife. The extensive, fibrous root systems of hydrangeas also help to prevent soil erosion, particularly in sloped areas or places with loose soil.

Drawbacks:

Water Requirements: In hot climates, hydrangeas tend to have higher water demands compared to other plants. Oakleaf and panicled hydrangea require less water than other species. Consistent watering is crucial, particularly during dry periods. However, it's important to avoid overwatering or planting them in poorly draining soil, as this can lead to the decline or death of the plants. While these plants are often thought of as "water-hungry," choosing the right location and applying mulch thoughtfully can help minimize their water needs. Overall, managing the water requirements of hydrangeas demands careful attention, which can be challenging under drought conditions or for gardeners with busy lifestyles where they have limited time to devote to their gardens.

Pruning Needs: Hydrangeas are not all alike when it comes to pruning; their specific requirements vary by species. Some hydrangea types bloom on old wood while others bloom on new growth which necessitates distinct pruning methods. Failing to adhere to these guidelines can result in the removal of flowering branches. Additionally, the timing of pruning is critical and varies among the different types of hydrangeas.

Sensitivity to Environmental Factors: Hydrangeas are susceptible to extreme weather conditions, including droughts and severe winters. Some varieties can endure full sun, while others thrive in shaded areas, making it essential to select the appropriate type for its planting site. Some gardeners are aware that altering soil pH can influence bloom color. For those aiming for specific flower shades, managing soil pH can be quite labor-intensive, and some varieties will not change color regardless of efforts made.

Hydrangea can also fall prey to a number of diseases and insect pests. The UC Integrated Pest Management website has links to management strategies.

In summary, hydrangeas can serve as a beautiful and enduring enhancement to any garden, as long as gardeners carefully consider the benefits and drawbacks before making an informed choice about whether to plant them.

References

- *Hydrangea-Hydrangea spp.* University of California. Integrated Pest Management. n.d. https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/hydrangea.html
- Van Hoose, Kristin. *Hydrangeas Plus. General Care for Hydrangeas.* Oregon State University Extension Service. June, 2018 reviewed 2024. https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/flowers-shrubs-trees/general-care-hydrangeas
- *Hydrangea.* Chicago Botanic Garden. Plant Information Fact Sheet. n.d. https://www.chicagobotanic.org/sites/default/files/pdf/plantinfo/hydrangea.pdf

Planting the Seeds of Knowledge

By Kim Lockwood, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

In the last edition of The Curious Gardener we shared how UC Master Gardeners of Placer County are reaching out to the youth of their county through school garden programs.

The students of Nevada County are fortunate to have similar garden experiences at 14 of our local school campuses. These programs are joint efforts between the local schools and Sierra Harvest, a community program devoted to developing an awareness of healthy eating and growing food locally.

While the UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County support school garden programs in a variety of ways, we have also chosen to "take our show on the road" by providing educational experiences for families at community events. Families walk away from these activities with more knowledge and a better understanding of their natural world, as well as developing a heightened enthusiasm for gardening.

A few of this year's event activities included:

Spring Fest at Bridgeport State Park After identifying the local species tufted poppy (*Eschscholzia caespitosa*), participants wrote celebratory poems on poppy seed infused paper which they took home and planted.

Tufted poppies. Photo by John Rusk. CC BY 2.0

Banner Grange Seed Swap Families created seed bombs while learning about seed storage and sowing.

Nevada County Home and Garden Show With milkweed and pollen producing plants in hand, families learned about providing for all stages of a monarch butterfly's life cycle.

Agricultural Day 2nd and 3rd graders explored how worms compost kitchen and garden waste and transform it into fabulous fertilizer, while learning to set up their own worm composting system.

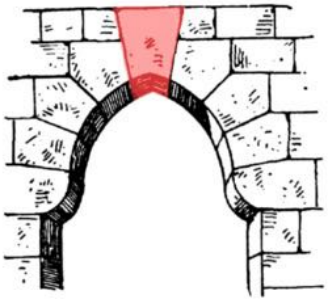
Bringing our "show on the road" has provided the UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County youth team the opportunity to share with families the joy of gardening, supported by research-based information while continuing to plant the seeds of knowledge.

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, i
(**cultа, orum** *n/pl* tilled land, gardens,
tions),
cresco, crevi, (cretum) 3 to grow
cultus *m* cultivation, labor, tilling
land; b) care, training, educat
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

Botanical Keystones

by Peggy Beltramo,
UC Master Gardener of Placer County



This issue of the BotLat column will focus on two important keystone species. Keystone species??? Okay, look at the picture of a Roman arch at the right. The stone in red at the top of the arch is the KEYstone—the one that balances all the other stones, keeping them in place. Keystones in nature can be animals, plants or microorganisms. Keystone plants are the ones that provide a large portion of the elements an ecosystem needs to survive, playing a critical role in the overall health and function of their environment.

One such plant is an oak tree—*Quercus* is its genus, and the Latin word for oak. There are 20 species of oaks in the Sacramento area. The largest of these is *Quercus lobata*. The BotLat species name, *lobata*, refers to its lobed leaves. So, the Botlat name of this tree translates to lobed leaf oak tree. Easy, right?

A second keystone species of Botlat interest is *Salix lasiolepis*, the arroyo willow. *Salix* is the genus name of a willow tree. The Latin word *salix* means willow. *Lasiolepis*, the species name, derives from *lasios*, meaning shaggy, wooly hair and *lepis*, which refers to a scale or shell. Look at the photo of the willow catkins to the left and you will understand. This tree's Botlat name means shaggy shell willow. Hmmm, seems to be a pattern here, huh!

Click here to learn more about the importance of keystone species and here to download a list of the best keystone plants for our region.

UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County Demonstration Garden News

Article and photo by Ann Wright, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

Candytuft (Iberis sempervirens) blooming in the Demo Garden.

The UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County Demonstration Garden in Grass Valley has been bustling with activity this spring and early summer. Lots of work has been done in preparation for our plant sale in May, as well as general maintenance and clean up. Intermittent rain has reaped a beautiful show of early spring flowers as we prepare for increased activities in the garden.

The new metal fencing around the raised beds and hoop house area helps show off the display within and deters visiting deer. The propagation bench is laden with potted plants which will be available for our plant sale. Many of the garden display areas are already brimming with blooming flowers and shrubs. In the raised bed area, the bridal wreath spiraea (*Spiraea prunifolia*) is flowing with striking white, lacy flowers. In the Foothill Mediterranean area, the candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*) is prolific and mixes well with other spring colors blooming in the zone. The bush germander (*Teucrium fruticans*) is eye-catching with bright purple flowers.

It is also gratifying to see that the new "baby" plants added to the Oak Woodland Habitat are thriving. The hedgerow plants were awarded through a Xerces Society grant which we acquired last fall. The little ceanothus are starting to bloom, with little purple flowers nestled beneath the protective wire "caps".

We are looking forward to summer growth and harvest. Tours of the garden are available by contacting us at 530-273-0919.

UC Master Gardeners of Placer County Demonstration Garden News

By Karen Lopez, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Thanks to the dedicated effort and collective knowledge of so many wonderful master gardeners, the UC Master Gardeners of Placer County Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library has exceeded everyone's expectations in its first year. We have welcomed almost 4,000 visitors since our ribbon cutting in March of 2024.

More than 100 master gardeners have volunteered over 3,000 hours in the demo garden since opening. Our amazing volunteers do everything from pulling weeds and spreading mulch to building an entrance sign and welcoming visitors in at events.

We were generously gifted a beautiful fountain by the wonderful team at Golden Pond in Loomis. Make sure to stop and enjoy it when you visit. You're likely to see many different birds enjoying it too!

We added some beautiful pots under an existing elm tree to help solve a difficult planting problem, as well as allow us to show our visitors how to create beautiful container plantings of California native plants.

One of the programs we are most proud of is a workshop, developed and led by UC Master Gardeners, that introduces youth to California native plants. Each participant gets a beautiful nature journal designed by UC Master Gardeners, as well as a unique hand-stamped canvas book bag that features an oak tree. We hope this experience will get them started on a lifelong love of native plants and nature journaling. Our demonstration garden serves as a living classroom for these workshops.

We look forward to introducing new programs and educational opportunities to the public as we move into our second year and beyond.

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

June

June 7
10:00 am to Noon
The State of ACP/HLB in California
Demonstration Garden, NID grounds

June 7
8:00 am to 3:00 pm
Open House
Demo Garden at the Loomis Library

June 14
10:00 am to Noon
Open Garden Day
Demo Garden at the Loomis Library

June 21
10:00 am to Noon
Cut Flower Gardening
Demonstration Garden, NID grounds

June 21
10:00 to 11:30 am
Designing Water-wise Gardens
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Pre-register in advance by clicking here

July

July 12
10:00 am to Noon
Open Garden Day
Demo Garden at the Loomis Library

July 12
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Fall is the New Spring!
Demo Garden at the Loomis Library

July 19
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Composting & Mulch
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Pre-register in advance by clicking here

July 26
10:00 am to Noon
Healthy Soil and Cover Cropping
Demonstration Garden, NID grounds

August

August 6-10,
10:00 am to 7:00 pm
County Fair time! Visit our booth for workshops & gardening questions
Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley

August 9
10:00 am to Noon
Open Garden Day
Demo Garden at the Loomis Library

August 9
10:30 am to 11:30 am
What's the Buzz?
Demo Garden at the Loomis Library

August 15-17
Visit our booth at the Tri-County Home and Garden Show
Roebbelen Center @thegrounds, Roseville
Check our website for details as the date gets closer.

August 16
10:00 am to Noon
Cool-season Vegetable Gardening (vegetable starts for sale, cash or check only)
Demonstration Garden, NID grounds

August 16
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Worm Composting
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Pre-register in advance by clicking here

August 16
11:30 am to 12:30 pm
Worm Bin Building
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Pre-register in advance by clicking here (Registration ends August 1st)

August 23
10:00 am to Noon
Gardening with Deer
Demonstration Garden, NID grounds

Find Us at These Farmers Markets:
Auburn, 1st and 3rd Saturdays
Fowler Ranch, 1st and 3rd Sundays
Grass Valley, Saturdays
Roseville Fountains, Tuesdays
Sun City Lincoln Hills. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Nevada County Events in Green boxes

Placer County Events in Yellow Boxes

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:
• **Demo Garden at the Loomis Library & Community Learning Center**, 6050 Library Dr., Loomis
• **The Roseville Utility Exploration Center**, 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville

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

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program