

## June To Do

**By Teresa Spence**, University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener of Calaveras County

Now is a good time to cage your tomato plants.

Caging the plants will help them produce more fruit than just staking them.

Make sure the cage material you use has space between the wires that is big enough for you to reach in to harvest the tomatoes.

Sweet pepper plants prefer a little shade in the heat of the day.

Stake up a shade cloth on the south side of the plant.

Pinch off some of the blooms especially in the "v" between the branches to prevent the branches from breaking and to help the plant set bigger peppers.

Water cucumbers, melons and tomatoes deeply about every 5 to 7 days.

Mulch around these plants to conserve moisture and to keep the roots cool.

Control earwigs by leaving out moistened rolled up newspaper.

Earwigs will find this to be a cozy place to be during the day.

Throw the paper and the earwigs, away in the morning.

To prevent ants and other insects from crawling up fruit trees, spread a band of Tanglefoot on the trunk.

Hand pick stinkbugs and tomato horn worms and drown them in water.

As temperatures rise it is importantly to irrigate wisely: use drip irrigation wherever possible and check emitters and sprinklers for clogs or damage.

Water early in the morning to minimize evaporation; water deeply and less often to promote strong and deep roots.

Avoid wetting foliage, especially on cucumbers, squash and melons; this will reduce the chance that they will develop powdery mildew and other fungal diseases.