Master Gardener
University of California Cooperative Extension

The Curious Gardener

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In This Issue

UC CE

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

To Fertilize or Not to Fertilize... That is the Question

Article and photo by Linda Menge, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

The first year I put in my garden in Grass Valley was 1988. It was glorious! We grew huge watermelons, big eggplants, juicy tomatoes and TONS of ZUCCHINI! We had so much that I drove around the neighborhood begging neighbors to "Please take as much as you want!" Thirty years later, my garden was pitiful. I couldn't even grow enough zucchini to save my soul. It wasn't until I became a Master Gardener that I learned, sometimes you just have to fertilize!!

I had so many questions: What does it mean to fertilize? Why should we fertilize? Do we have to fertilize? When should we fertilize? What kind of fertilizer should we use? Is organic fertilizer better than inorganic fertilizer?


Photo by Linda Menge

Fertilizing means adding material to your garden to increase the nutrients in the soil. It is different than amending, which is adding material into the soil to improve soil structure. This difference is important because you may think you need to fertilize your garden, but in actuality you might only need to amend it. You may need to fertilize if the soil in your garden is depleted in a certain nutrient. You may need to amend the soil if your garden is mostly sandy or clay.

Most inorganic fertilizers have three magical numbers on the front of the package. These numbers correspond to the chemicals most often needed in a depleted soil: N (Nitrogen), P (Phosphorous) and, K (Potassium). Fertilizer companies sell many "specialty" fertilizer products for specific plants.

In Placer and Nevada Counties, our soils typically don't need potassium or phosphorus, but may need nitrogen, so buying a fertilizer with potassium and phosphorus included may be a waste of money and may do your garden soil and the environment more harm than good!

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So how do you know what your garden needs? A soil test is the best way to discover what your garden needs. You can usually have a soil test done for less than $50, and it may save you money and headaches in the long run to determine exactly what you need.

If your soil test comes back and your garden isn't lacking in nutrients, you are FREE, and you don't need to fertilize! But if you do, then what kind of fertilizer should you use, when is the best time to fertilize and how do you do it?

Always follow the directions on the package of fertilizers. Measure so you don't over fertilize. You can broadcast before or after planting, you can side dress, which is applying fertilizer around individual plants, or you can spray a liquid fertilizer on the plants themselves.

Many gardeners struggle with the notion of inorganic and organic fertilizers. So, what is best? Well…that depends…

For quick results, the inorganic fertilizer will do the trick. If you want to build up your soil along with adding nutrients, then organic may be better. Or, you may want to start with inorganic, and then throughout the year, amend your soil with organic fertilizer, compost, or worm castings.

So, how is my zucchini doing today? Well, my two rescue horses are not for riding, but they are great composters! My soil test showed that my garden needed nitrogen, but it wasn't bad. I scooped up seasoned manure, and mixed it into my planting areas. I now have enough zucchini pickle relish to last a lifetime!

References

- Pittenger, Dennis R. *California Master Gardener Handbook*. UCANR Publication #3382. 2020.
- Downer, Jim. *Fertilizers—a cautionary tale*. The Garden Professors. 9/27/2017. https://gardenprofessors.com/fertilizers-a-cautionary-tale/

Plant sale shoppers May 7th at the Nevada County Demo Garden. Photo by Ann Wright.

Youth program container. Photo by Heidi Wernke.

Nevada County Demonstration Garden News

by Ann Wright, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

With Jo Hathcock's beautiful sunflower mural as a backdrop, and with tons of new sand and soil spread throughout the garden, the setting was lovely for our spring plant sale in May, which was a huge success. Summer has been busy in the garden with the addition of new raised beds, a new/refurbished rock garden in the Foothill Mediterranean Garden, work on the meadow area, and continued use of the hoop house for plants from the propagation team.

Public workshops are now being held in the pavilion shelter at the garden including a new series for children, "Family Fun in the Garden"—being held monthly until the series ends in October with a Fall Celebration. Patricia Wolfe's new workshop presented in June, "Planning a Year-Round (Almost) Cutting Flower Garden" was a huge hit with over 50 people in attendance.

The welcome addition of new Master Gardeners has provided an influx of great energy and ideas for the garden. One of the goals in our three-year Strategic Plan is to promote the Demonstration Garden as a premier gardening education resource in Nevada County through public workshops, demonstrations and via new interpretive signage soon to be installed. As we ramp up more activities this fall, plans for a community-wide 40th anniversary party are under way for a big celebration in September, 2023.

Create Habitat with Hedgerows

Article and photographs by Marianne L. Calhoun, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Are you considering planting a hedge for privacy or to screen your street, neighbors, or a wooden fence? Fall is a perfect time to get new plants established due to cooler temperatures with anticipated winter rains.

One traditional approach to screening in residential neighborhoods is to plant a hedge, essentially a tight row of the same species of an evergreen shrub. This solution may require frequent watering and shearing, become challenging when individual plants don't thrive, and perhaps appear a bit boring.

Another approach is to learn from farmers and landowners who have planted hedgerows for centuries. Hedgerows are wider than hedges and combine trees, shrubs, grasses, plus perennial and annual flowers. Farmers use hedgerows to define fields, protect crops from erosion, wind, and weeds, plus deter animals from wandering.

Research by the University of California on the ecosystem services of hedgerows is pertinent to all homeowners interested in enhancing wildlife habitat. Farmers may want to consult the 2010 publication "Establishing Hedgerows on Farms in California". In addition to advice on selecting sites, this publication diagrams a wide row of plants between access roads that is bordered by native grasses, herbaceous perennials, and annuals. It also suggests appropriate California natives to plant in Yolo County, many of which are appropriate for Placer and Nevada Counties as well.

Homeowners in residential neighborhoods may be fascinated to learn that research found that bird species doubled in the presence of hedgerows, especially for migratory songbirds, and bird numbers tripled. You may already appreciate that birds help with pest control by feeding on unwelcome insects and rodents. Research also found that enhancing habitat increases the number of beneficial insects, including native bees, to aid in the pollination of nearby plants.

Screening the street, large native toyons (Heteromeles arbutifolia) alternate with California lilacs (Ceanothus thyrsiflorus 'Skylark') and manzanitas (Arctostaphylos x 'Sunset') *plus spider flowers (Grevillea rosmarinifolia* 'Scarlet Sprite'*) from Australia.*

Along the driveway, native California lilacs (Ceanothus maritimus 'Valley Violet'*) and manzanitas (Arctostaphylos* x 'Sunset'*) alternate with germanders (Teucrium fruticans* 'Azureum'*) from the Mediterranean*

If you're interested in welcoming birds, butterflies and bees, consider creating habitat with a hedgerow or a mini-hedgerow depending on space. Instead of planting a hedge of the same species, alternate three to five flowering shrubs that visually complement each other plus provide a variety of heights for wildlife. To best provide habitat, select shrubs that will attract birds, pollinators, and beneficial insects with flowers, fruit, and/or seeds during more than one season. Adding herbaceous plants (grasses, perennials, annual wildflowers, and bulbs) between woody shrubs will fill in the gaps when shrubs are young plus quickly establish low growing habitat.

Did you know the most appropriate plants for a hedgerow are those native to your county? In addition to being well adapted to the climate, natives are preferred sources of food and shelter for local wildlife. California Native Plant Society's Calscape website is a wonderful tool for selecting plants. Use the Advanced Search feature to narrow your choices.

I now realize I planted a wide hedgerow five years ago to screen a busy street plus a narrow hedgerow along our driveway. I encourage everyone to transform their property into welcoming gardens for both humans and wildlife by planting one or more hedgerows!

Reference

- Zagory, Ellen. *Make Habitat a Habit: Growing Natives to Support Natural Diversity*. UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden. February 25, 2022. https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/blog/make-habitat-a-habit

Hotline FAQs

Have gardening questions?
Contact a Master Gardener!

Placer County
530-889-7388
or submit a question electronically

Nevada County
Office currently closed. Contact us through our Facebook page or submit a question electronically

Taking a soil sample with an auger. Note that organic debris on the surface has been moved aside prior to taking the sample. Photo by Dr. Daniel J. Geisseler. © The Regents of the University of California.

What are the benefits of testing my soil? Where can I get a soil test done?

By David Warman, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Why soil test?

Healthy soil is essential to thriving gardens. If you are just getting your garden started, or you have an established garden that isn't thriving, soil testing can provide an understanding of the base line of nutrients in your soil. An accurate soil test will give you the proper information needed to adjust nutrient levels to improve yields and plant health.

Soil tests can:

- Help us find out why plants are not growing well.
- Help us grow healthy plants and more fruit and vegetables.
- Tell us about nutrient levels of nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus as well as the soil's pH level which measures whether the soil is neutral, acidic, or alkaline.
- Alert us to the presence of heavy metals including lead; so we can take appropriate precautions.
- Commercial testing can also test for organic matter or other micronutrients.

Where to start to get your soil tested?

The UC Master Gardeners do not offer a soil testing service. Cost effective and inexpensive do-it-yourself testing kits are available locally at a nursery. The option we recommend is commercial soil testing laboratory analysis, which will provide very accurate understanding of your garden soil. The Master Gardeners of Placer County does have a resource to find some relatively local soil testing laboratories. Please click here for the list of laboratories.

We suggest calling several labs and get an idea of costs and timing since commercial soil testing can be expensive. Note that labs vary widely in their final reports; some give detailed results and explain what the numbers mean and how to remediate the soil based on the results. Others provide the numbers but not a lot of explanation as to what the numbers mean or what to do to remediate the soil to fix deficiencies in the soil. All testing labs can provide you with a sample report so you can see what a typical report looks like, how detailed it is, and if it suits your needs.

Links to learn more

We suggest reading the information at these links before calling labs so you have some idea of the key questions you will want to ask.

- Soil Testing and Soil Contaminants: https://ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanAg/Production/Soils/Soil_Contaminants_and_Soil_Testing/
- Healthy Soils for a Healthy California: https://ucanr.edu/sites/soils/
- Cornell Guide to Soil Testing and Interpreting Results: http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/guidetosoil.pdf
- Home Gardens and Lead: https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8424.pdf

You may want to familiarize yourself with the online resources available from the labs themselves; some are extremely helpful and give you a very good idea of the type of services offered.

Cercis occidentalis, Western Redbud

By Laurie McGonagill, UC Master Gardener of Placer County


Photo by Laurie McGonagill

If you want a small native deciduous tree or shrub with show-stopping magenta blooms, Western redbud fills the bill. *Cercis occidentalis* has deep pink/purple blooms which embrace the branch and leave you astonished with its gorgeous display. It blooms February through April, depending on location, and before the leaves emerge. Western redbud is a member of the pea family and the resulting reddish-brown seed pods are striking against the large dark green heart-shaped leaves. As with many native drought-resistant perennials, you must water every two weeks or so in the dry season in the first years of life. After that, it develops into a sturdy backbone of your garden.

Bees and other pollinators love this plant. You might see round holes cut out of the leaves which means the leaf-cutter bees have been busy lining their nearby nests. Deer do not care to munch on it.

It is tolerant of soil types from acidic to alkaline and likes full sun or partial shade.

Western redbud is versatile—it can be pruned as a single stem or a multi-stem tree or shrub. It doesn't get over 15 or 20 feet tall, has a pleasing full rounded shape, and is on the Sacramento Tree Foundation's recommended 'Shady Eighty' shade trees.

Plant one or more Western redbuds, tend with water for the first two or three years, then stand back and be rewarded!

For more information and photos of this winning plant, check out Selec-Tree from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo and Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences—Department of Horticulture.

Unusual Edibles: Name Games

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

A name like longbeak rattlebox (*Crotalaria longirostrata*) might deter gardeners from cultivating this edible plant. However, Mexico is home to twenty-one *Crotalarieae* varieties, with this specific edible variety, named 'chipilin', 'chepilin', or 'chepil' in Spanish, native to Mexico and Central America. Along with other native wild greens, Mexico's indigenous population cultivate chipilin (pronounced as "chee-pee-leen") to harvest leaves as an important food source to their native cuisine. Leaves can be parboiled, eaten with lemon juice and salt, or added to meals giving a powerful punch of minerals, vitamins, and protein besides adding a unique flavor to their daily diets.

While termed a perennial, chipilin behaves like an annual leguminous shrub growing from seed to approximately 3 to 3.5 feet high with multiple branches of three-part leaves. Chipilin tends to reseed itself so harvesting or cutting off the seed heads at the end of the season will help reduce any unwanted spreading in the garden. Chipilin is a popular crop for our indigenous gardeners in community gardens in Placer County.

Some safety notes from University of Texas El Paso:

- The safety of taking products made from this plant during pregnancy and lactation has not been established.
- This plant should be consumed only in moderation.
- Avoid ingesting the seeds, as they are toxic.
- Before you decide to take any medicinal herb or herbal supplement, be sure to consult with your health care professional first. Avoid self-diagnosis and self-medication: Always be on the safe side!


Photo by Julie Lowrie

Reference

- Rojas-García, Adelaido R., Maldonado-Peralta. M., and Sánchez-Santillán, P., et. al. *Scarification treatments in chepil seeds (Crotalaria longirostrata Hook. & Arn.) used to improve their germination*. Agroproductividad. Vol. 14., No. 2. February 2021.

Insect Trivia

by Bonnie Bradt, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

How important are insects, really?? Insects have been involved with almost every aspect of earthly life for millions of years. They are among the true under appreciated foundations of life on earth. They multiply our food by pollination, act as food themselves for other living creatures, rid us of tons of dead animal and plant waste, and help nourish the soil. Here are some amazing facts about insects which you might find interesting.

Hopefully this information will inspire you to want to help save the insects of the world, many of which are suffering losses of numbers which could be catastrophic. We are Master Gardeners and it's our job to teach the public how to deal with these little critters without wiping them out.

2023 Calendar and Gardening Guide: *Garden Trends: Tips for Enhancing Your Space*

Placer County Master Gardeners are happy to announce that the 2023 Calendar and Gardening Guide will be available for purchase very soon! It is titled: "*Garden Trends: Tips For Enhancing Your Space*," and covers a range of topics including dwarf fruit trees, bird-friendly gardens, social front yards, lawn replacement, hot weather tolerant vegetables and even hugelkultur! As usual, this will be a great resource for Master Gardeners as well as beginner and seasoned home gardeners. They make great gifts too!

The price to the public at PCMG events and markets will be $12 (sales tax included). Check our website starting in early September for how to get yours.

1) _____ percent of all species on earth are insects (but only butterflies and lady beetles really get affection!).

2) There are approximately _____ identified species of assassin flies on earth, who spend their whole lives as predators, hunting and feeding on other insects (good guys). That means there are more species of assassin flies on earth than the entire number of species of mammals on earth (hint: there are approx. 5,400 species of mammals).

3) There are somewhere between _____ and _____ species of parasitoid wasps on earth. They are linked by the key behavior of eating other arthropods alive!!

4) _____ are extremely important pollinators of chocolate! Tiny pinhead sized individuals crawl into the small flowers of the cacao plant and help keep the $100 billion chocolate industry from collapse. YES!

5) Bumblebees have been found flying, feeding and even nesting at _____ above sea level, which would be just shy of the height of Mount Whitney's summit.

6) A breeding pair of Barn swallows and their offspring, eat approximately _____ insects over the course of a breeding season.

7) Even though _____ people have died of mosquito-borne illnesses per year since the year 2000, only approximately _____ % of mosquito species are responsible for this vector transmission.

8) In the United States, approximately _____ consumers state that they have used insecticides in the year 2020. This number has increased or remained stable every year since 2011. That doesn't include herbicides and fungicides, etc.

9) How many acres of the United States are covered with lawns?

10) _____ is a problem for insects and has been since the invention of the light bulb in the 19th century.

Answers on next page

Reference

Oliver Milman, *The Insect Crisis—The Fall of the Tiny Empires that Rule the World.* W.W. Norton and Company. 3/1/2022.

Insect Trivia Answers

Questions on previous page

1) 75% percent of all species on earth are insects

2) There are close to 7,500 worldwide species of assassin flies. Compared to the 5,400 worldwide species of mammals. All mammals. Rhinos, rats, tigers, bats, housecats, wolves—all of them.

3) There are somewhere between 500,000 and 1 million species of parasitoid wasps.

4) Flies pollinate chocolate! To be specific, species of tiny midges are the pollinators of the cacao plant. Bless their little hearts.

5) Bumblebees have been found over 4,000 meters, or over 13,000 feet, above sea level.

6) 1 million insects per breeding season. These numbers indicate the effect that declining insect populations could have on populations of Barn swallows, as well as other insect-eating bird species around the world, like the beautiful Western bluebirds found here in our area. If you want birds, you need insects.

7) Approximately 2 million people per year have died per year from mosquito-borne illnesses since the year 2000. Examples of mosquito-borne diseases are malaria, dengue fever, and yellow fever. In contrast, snakes kill perhaps 80,000-100,000 people per year. But since only about 10% of mosquito species are responsible for passing disease to humans, ridding the world of mosquitoes is not necessary. And it would remove a huge food source for fish, birds, amphibians and bats.

8) Approximately 190 million consumers report using insecticides in the year 2020, with similar numbers being listed for at least a decade. We Master Gardeners have our work cut out for us in the area of home gardener outreach to reduce the use of insecticides (and other pesticides as well).

9) According to recent studies by Columbia University, the United States has approximately 50 million acres of lawns. These acres are veritable deserts when considering the ability to support insect life. Most lawn owners attack insect life in their lawns, with vigor.

10) Artificial light is a problem. Humans have increased their penchant to light up the night with streetlights, stadium lights, security lights, etc. Night lighting can interfere with insects' ability to feed, reproduce, pollinate and develop. Perhaps we could substitute motion lights for continuous nighttime lights for security.

Smelly Guests: Skunks

by Jan Birdsall, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Clearly, the most pungent skunk characteristic, and sometimes the first indication of their presence in your yard, is the smell they emit at potential threats. Mostly nocturnal, skunks will defend themselves against humans and animals only when cornered, harmed or attacked. Usually, at the first sign of their distinctive black and white coloring other animals learn to avoid confrontation with skunks.

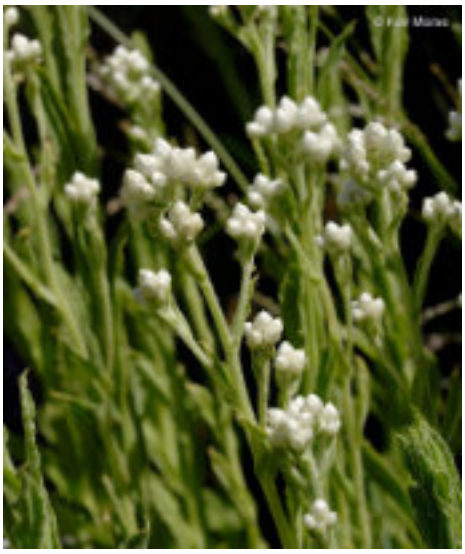
There are two types of skunks in California, the striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) prevalent in residential areas, pictured at left, and spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*) pictured below. Both types are omnivores, consuming insects, grubs, earthworms, small rodents, pet food, snakes, lizards, frogs, fruit and berries to mention a few. In searching for insects and grubs, they make distinctive round conical holes in your yard. Striped skunk breeding usually occurs during February and March with gestation about nine weeks and four to six kits per litter. Usually, their lifespan is two to three and a half years.

Occasional visits are fine but conflicts with humans occur when skunks den under porches, decks, garden tool sheds or homes. In California, skunks are one of the most common carriers of rabies, which can be transmitted by an infected bite to pets and humans. California Fish and Wildlife considers skunks non-game mammals and they can be disposed of with lawful, lethal methods by homeowners or tenants when injuring or threatening. Some counties provide trappers to remove them or private pest control companies will do it for a fee. Relocation requires Fish and Wildlife approval, which is unlikely due to the prevalence of rabies in skunks. Ways to modify habitat, trapping, exclusion, and other control methods are outlined at http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74118.html.

agri-cola, ae *m* tiller of the field, farmer, husbandm
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, educat
civilization,
florens, tis blooming, flow
floreo, ui 2 to bloom, bl
flos, oris *m* flower, b
fodio, fossom 3 to
folium, i *n* leaf
herba, ae *f* g
hortus, i *m*
radix *f*
virid
vit

BotLat Corner

Find Out What Those Weird Plant Names Mean



Cudweed,
© 2008 Keir Morse. CC BY-NC 4.0

Wiry snapdragon.
© 2020 Stacie Wolny CC BY-NC 4.0

Botanical Tongue Twisters

By Peggy Beltramo, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

This issue, let's deal with some LOOOONG! BotLat names. I have a list of eight or more multisyllabic botanical plant names. Do you have a favorite? Here are two that I find interesting, etymologically (word derivation), and that are fun to pronounce.

First up is *Pseudognaphalium californicum,* eleven syllables in all! This plant genus translates to false (pseudo) *Gnaphalium*—a different genus of plants, which it resembles. The Greek word gnaphalon means a 'lock of wool', referring to the plant's hairy leaves. If you read the BotLat column (or even if you don't), you can guess that the specific epithet (second name) of this plant means it is a California native. In addition, it is a host plant (baby food) for the painted lady butterfly.

My second winner is a twelve syllable name! *Antirrhinum vexillocalyculatum*, is an annual California native, commonly known as wiry snapdragon. Do you see the 'anti-' part of the genus? In this case, it signifies 'false', and the second part refers to the Greek word for nose, since the flower resembles an animal's snout (think rhinoceros—horn-nosed). This plant's specific epithet is a bit confusing in its etymology. I did not find a direct translation, but parts of the word are available. 'Vexillo' is from Latin for 'flag' and 'caly' refers to the plant's calyx, so maybe somehow this plant has flag-like calyces? (Another common name is sail snapdragon.)

At any rate, these are long plant names that you can hum to yourself while on a long road trip or when you can't fall asleep at night. Enjoy!

Male dogface butterfly. Photo credit: Colorado State University, Zerene eurydice, Creative Commons license CC BY-3.0

The Dogface Butterfly: Our State Insect

July 28, 2022 marked the 50th anniversary of the Dogface butterfly (*Zerene eurydice*) being designated California's state insect.

Evan Cole of the Pollinator Partnership says, "the Dogface is endemic to California, found only between north-central California and Baja California, between the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges. It is considered very rare or local throughout its range."

He continues, "as a caterpillar, the California Dogface butterfly mainly feeds upon the leaves of the false indigo plant (*Amorpha californica*). The primary food source of the adults is the flower nectar from plants of the mustard family (*Brassicaceae*). It is an incredibly important pollinator for these, as well as a number of other California native plants, including California buckeye, thistles, and tall blue verbena."

Placer Land Trust's Shutamul Bear River Preserve in Auburn is a major breeding ground for the butterfly because of the abundance of false indigo growing in that area.

To learn more about our state insect, checkout the following sites:

https://placerlandtrust.org/state-insect-shows-its-face-at-plt-preserve/

https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/pollinators/pollinator-of-the-month/california-dogface-butterfly.shtml

https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=53667

Workshop and Events Calendar

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

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

Follow Us on Facebook:
Placer County https://www.facebook.com/PlacerCountyMasterGardeners
Nevada County https://www.facebook.com/UCCEmastergardeners.nevadacounty/

September

September 10
10:00 am to noon
Compost and Mulch
Roseville Utility Exploration Center, 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville
Pre-register by clicking here.

September 10
10:00 am to noon
Compost—Good for You, Your Plants and the Earth
1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley
ncmg.ucanr.org

September 14
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Lawn Replacement (Zoom)
See website for pre-registration link:
pcmg.ucanr.org

September 17
10:00 am to noon
Family Fun #6—Putting the Garden to Bed
1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley
ncmg.ucanr.org

September 17
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Lawn Replacement
Loomis Library
6050 Library Way, Loomis
pcmg.ucanr.org

September 22
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Irrigation Basics, Tips, and Tricks (Zoom)
See website for pre-registration link:
pcmg.ucanr.org

September 23, 24, 25
Auburn Fall Home Show
Visit our booth at the at the Gold Country Fairgrounds
pcmg.ucanr.org

September 24
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Irrigation Basics, Tips, and Tricks
Loomis Library
6050 Library Way, Loomis
pcmg.ucanr.org

October

October 8
10:00 am to noon
Family Fun #7—Fall Celebration
1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley
ncmg.ucanr.org

October 15
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Composting
Loomis Library
6050 Library Way, Loomis
pcmg.ucanr.org

October 15
Auburn Harvest Festival
Visit our booth at Recreation Park in Auburn
pcmg.ucanr.org

October 15
10:00 am to noon
The Art and Science of Pruning Fruit Trees
1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley
ncmg.ucanr.org

October 20
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Bulbs for Spring Color (Zoom)
See website for pre-registration link:
pcmg.ucanr.org

October 22
10:00 am to noon
The Art and Science of Pruning Fruit Trees (Part 2 if needed)
1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley
ncmg.ucanr.org

October 22
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Bulbs for Spring Color
Loomis Library
6050 Library Way, Loomis
pcmg.ucanr.org

November

November 10
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Soil Amendments: Friend or Foe? (Zoom)
See website for pre-registration link:
pcmg.ucanr.org

November 12
10:30 am to 11:30 am
Soil Amendments: Friend or Foe?
Loomis Library
6050 Library Way, Loomis
pcmg.ucanr.org

November 18, 19, 20
Mandarin Festival
Visit our booth at the Gold Country Fairgrounds in Auburn
pcmg.ucanr.org

About 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 the 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 Nevada County and Placer County Master Gardener Programs began soon thereafter in 1983.

Serving Placer and Nevada Counties for Almost 40 Years

Production Information

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Have a Gardening Question?

Contact Us!

Placer County Residents
Call our Hotline
530.889.7388

Nevada County Residents
Contact us through our website or Facebook

Master Composter Rotline
530.889.7399

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