



The Curious Gardener

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Spring Garlic

Photos and article by Talei Mistrion, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

Garlic, with its long growing season, harvest and storage, is not a short-term gardening relationship. Gardeners dutifully put their cloves in the ground in late fall, wait for the slender green slivers to emerge, rejoice in their early success, cover the ground around it to protect the cloves from a potentially harsh winter and then don't much think about them until spring comes around.

Although garlic requires consistent moisture throughout its growing season, heavy rains can lead to unwanted results such as rot. If heavy spring rains are in the forecast, it's a good time to get your soil moisture meter and get a feel for what is happening down at root level. It's always okay to cover your garlic with plastic or row cover to keep all that delicious rainwater from soaking your roots and bulbs. If you have heavy, clay soil, consider planting your garlic in mounds to reduce saturated conditions.

Once we see longer hours of sunshine in our gardens, it's time to think about the more intensive gardening aspects of garlic growing which are fertilization, weeding and planning. Garlic is a heavier feeder in the spring as it builds its bulbs. When garlic is first planted, it's best to stay away from high nitrogen fertilization and focus on potassium and phosphorus. Too much nitrogen will give you very beautiful tall green shoots through the winter at the expense of bulb production. After the roots have found their way down and bulbs are beginning to form in the spring, it's time to bump up nitrogen in your fertilization schedule. Side dressing with blood meal, fish emulsion or a balanced organic fertilizer once a month during this season promotes bulb growth and unfortunately weeds.

Garlic does not like to compete with anything, and weeds with their long unpredictable root systems can easily become competitors for garlic. Be fastidious in weeding your garlic beds during the entire season. Your garlic will reward you with larger bulbs if not left to compete with weeds.



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With two types of garlic to choose from, soft neck and hard neck, either choice will bring you a great bounty. The difference between the two in the spring is that only the hard neck garlic will grow out what is called a “scape” (photo below). These will shoot up out of nowhere and then develop a curly pointed head. Once you see these scapes, it is best to remove them to divert more energy into building the garlic head and not to the flower producing scape. Trim these as low as you can and enjoy the many lovely recipes that use garlic scapes. You won’t be disappointed. Left on the plant they will flower and the bulb may not be as large as the ones you removed the scapes from.

As you approach early summer, you will notice some of the leaves of your garlic will start to turn yellow and dry out a bit. At this point you should stop watering and let the bulbs cure in the ground. Once half of the leaves are yellowed and wilted, it is time to gently pull or garden-fork up your harvest. Harvesting garlic is as simple as growing it. Gently remove as much soil as you can from the bulb and roots. Bundle several plants and hang in a well-ventilated space. If you decide to cure them on racks, be sure to turn them every couple days. In four to six weeks you should be ready to trim off the roots and tops and eat or store to enjoy with your summer tomato bounty!



Chayote growing on a support frame. Photo by Julie Lowrie.

Unusual Edible: Chayote—A Nutritious Climber

By Julie Lowrie, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Chayote (*Sechium edule*), a distinctive climbing vegetable from southern Mexico, is a plentiful food source with a valuable nutritional profile. The entire plant, except the vine, is edible and can be prepared in various ways. With a flavor that complements other foods well, the fruit can be boiled, baked, stuffed, mashed, fried, scalloped, or pickled, and it can serve as a vegetable or broth in soups. Since the eighth century, indigenous peoples have used different parts of chayote to treat illnesses such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, and kidney problems.

Chayote is an excellent source of vitamin C, a powerful antioxidant that protects cells from damage caused by free radicals. Additionally, chayote provides essential minerals such as potassium, magnesium, and phosphorus, which are crucial for various bodily functions, including maintaining healthy blood pressure and supporting bone health.

Chayote supports digestive health and is rich in dietary fiber, which aids in regulating bowel movements, preventing constipation, and fostering a healthy gut microbiome, crucial to digestion, nutrient absorption, and overall well-being.

Being viviparous (produces seeds that germinate while still attached to the parent plant), chayote grows from the fruit when planted in well-draining soil and warm weather. It thrives during the summer season.



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Myth-Busters Series: Debunking Common Myths About Citrus Trees

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

Myths have always sparked my curiosity and shaped my understanding of the world around me. While some myths continue to intrigue and cause deeper inquiries to emerge, others reflect the evolving norms and preconceptions of our society. Many of the myths gardeners trust are passed down through generations and are rooted in cultural heritage and intergenerational beliefs. These inherited beliefs, however well-intended, can sometimes lead to misconceptions. It is important to honor our inherited beliefs and the historical value they carry, but it is equally important to move toward a growth mindset by continually learning and evolving our understanding of the world around us. In this column, I'll explore myths that gardeners often trust. I'll also share research-backed recommendations to help you continue to nurture a remarkable garden. In this issue, I'm debunking some of the most popular myths about citrus trees.

The first myth about gardening citrus is that you need to bury fish underneath a citrus tree to make it grow well. This stems from the practice of using fish as fertilizer due to being high in nitrogen and phosphorus.

While fish can be a natural fertilizer, it's not necessary for growing healthy citrus. [UC IPM](#) recommends using fertilizer and compost appropriate for citrus, such as nitrogen, and to only apply it in January, February, May, and possibly June. It provides all the nutrients your tree needs without the mess, smell, or risk of attracting pests.

The second myth about citrus gardening is that you need to pick all the fruit of a citrus tree for it to keep producing.

UC master gardeners of Sacramento state that [citrus trees manage their fruit load](#) and don't require you to harvest everything for future production. Leaving fruit on the tree for too long can affect its quality depending on the citrus variety. Citrus trees are resilient and will continue to fruit even if some fruit is left hanging.

The final myth about citrus gardening is that burying rusty nails near the tree will make it healthier and improve fruit production.



Lemons (*Citrus limon* 'Eureka'), fresh from the tree.

This myth came from the idea that rust could supply iron, an essential nutrient for plants. However, the iron from rusty nails isn't in a form that citrus trees can easily absorb. According to UC IPM, if your tree shows signs of [iron deficiency](#), yellowing leaves with green veins, using an iron supplement like chelated iron or adjusting soil pH is more effective.

In conclusion, myths about citrus gardening often stem from misunderstandings. The truth is that growing healthy citrus trees requires an understanding of their needs, such as proper watering, pruning, fertilizing, and pest management. By debunking these myths and focusing on practical care, gardeners can expect a wonderful yield from their citrus trees.



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Best Practices of Great Gardeners

Article and photo by Kevin Marini, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

There is an interesting paradox that pops up in the garden; in a sense, we fail with growing plants many times before we reach an understanding that leads to success with plant cultivation. I've read and read and read about growing great plants but the experiences of losing them in the garden is how I've really learned. Of course, this applies to many things in life—we tend to learn from mistakes and stay motivated to avoid repeating those mistakes—"experience is the best teacher" is a famous quote commonly attributed to Julius Caesar.

Fortunately, we don't have to completely rely on our own experiences in the garden to learn best practices. Since there are so many home gardeners in our area who have been active in the garden for decades upon decades, we can glean garden lessons from our neighborhood "Great Gardeners". There are as many different gardeners as gardens of course and I learn something new every time I interact with seasoned gardeners in their well-tended landscapes. As these lessons accumulate and combine with your own experiences, certain gardening practices begin to align and make sense, leading to great looking plants, shrubs and trees within a healthy ecology.

There is a universe beneath us in the soil that we are only beginning to explore and understand at a microscopic level. As we learn more about plant and microbe interactions, we can instigate practices in the garden that mimic nature and protect soil biology. Focusing on the right soil conditions for plants is so important for long-term success in the garden and is a definitely a "Best Practice."

We are fortunate to live in a time where we have the widest range of plant choices ever! This can lead to some serious impulse buying walking through a nursery! A "Best Practice" shared with me over the last two decades by many gardeners was to be sure I put the right plant in the right place. Sounds simple enough but with all the choices in front of you, how do we decide ultimately?



Proper pruning will preserve and enhance the natural form of a plant, like this fountain-shaped weigela.

One of the most underrated tasks of gardening is proper pruning; that is, tending to plants in a way that nurtures their natural form and keeps them healthy. Knowing that you're wounding the plant when you prune leads to more intention when tending to them rather than "hacking." Knowing how the plant will respond to the pruning cut you did helps keep them in their natural shapes and healthy. Pruning right is a "Best Practice"!

These are just some of the items we'll discuss at our upcoming public workshop, "Best Practices of Great Gardeners" from 10:00 am to noon on March 8, 2025, at the Madelyn Helling Library in Nevada City. It's free and no registration is required. Come and join us!

Tour the One-Year-Old Demonstration Garden at the Loomis Library

By Brooke Moeller,
UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Come and see how a well-designed and tended garden can flourish in just one year. Learn how the garden's design maximizes water efficiency and supports biodiversity.

The demonstration garden showcases California native plants, pollinator plants, and edible plants that thrive in our region. The property includes a lush meadow that is a lawn alternative, and an orchard. All the plants and fruit trees are labeled for easy identification and information.

Individuals, small groups and the general public can visit the demo garden any time the [library is open](#). Private tours can be arranged for adult and youth groups. To request a private tour, please click on [this link](#) and fill out the form. The Tour Coordinator will contact you.

The second Saturday of each month is Open Garden Day, when we host speakers at the library and the garden is open during library hours. Master Gardener docents are also available to answer your gardening questions, usually from 10:00 am to noon. For details check our [calendar of events](#).

See you in the garden!



**Learn More
Best Practices
of Great Gardeners
at a Free Workshop**

**March 8
10:00am to Noon**

**Madelyn Helling Library
Nevada City**

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](#)



When should I plant perennials and what kind?

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

Fall is the optimal time to start planting perennials. It is cooler and the roots have a chance to establish before winter arrives. It also offers your perennials a head-start to put on vegetative growth during their first year. Spring affords another opportunity to add additional color to your perennial garden because there are so many more plants available. There are two categories of perennials. Woody perennials (shrubs and trees) and herbaceous have softer stems that die down to the ground and return in the spring.

Some perennials you can plant in your landscape are salvia, cone-flowers, daylilies, penstemon, and iris. The “Western Sierra Foothills Garden Guide,” on pages 82-84, provides a list of recommended perennials for the Sierra Foothills. Here is a Master Gardener [article that discusses the best](#)

[perennials](#) for Nevada County. It is also important that you know what Sunset or [USDA zone](#) in which you are planting your perennials. That information is found on page 39 of the “Western Sierra Foothill Garden Guide.” Guides may be purchased through the UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County [website](#).

While this information is specific to Nevada County and upper elevations, many of the perennials listed would also work well in the lower elevation area of Placer County. Here is an [additional source for recommended plants](#) for Placer County.

Planting perennials in the fall and spring ensures that your garden will not only be colorful year after year but continues to attract pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds!

Garden Design: Ground Covers

By Jan Birdsall, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

For most gardeners, finding a weed control solution besides manual weeding and spraying herbicides is important. A labor-saving and healthy answer may be the use of ground covers. At maturity, they offer advantages by discouraging the germination of weeds, protecting soil from water loss and erosion, keeping soil cooler in summer and warmer in winter, and providing environments for beneficial insects. Disadvantages are few: habitat for slugs and snails, competition with other plants for food and water and, if too vigorous, they can overrun nearby plants.

Spring or early fall is an ideal time to plant ground covers. Maturity can take one to three growing seasons. Research your plant selections and their requirements before purchasing. There is a wide variety to pick from depending on climate zone, shade or sun demands, water needs including drought tolerance, and whether you want pollinator-appealing and/or native plants. Ground covers vary from low-growing, ground-hugging to wide-spreading



Snow-in-summer ([Cerastium tomentosum](#)). Photo courtesy of UC Davis Arboretum.

three- to four-foot plants, so space them according to their expected growth at maturity. There is a large variety of foliage textures and flower colors from which to select.

Ground covers can be used in a variety of situations. Looking to use it under an oak tree? Check this [document](#), starting on page 19. Interested in drought tolerant native groundcovers? See [here](#). As a [lawn replacement](#) alternative? Finally, a list of low-growing ground covers is located [here](#). The [UC Davis Arboretum database](#) is another way to obtain ground cover choices—click in the box named “Type” on the right side of screen and choose “Groundcover.”

At maturity, ground covers require little maintenance other than occasional trimming. They stabilize your slopes and soften your straight edge borders. Best of all, given the right conditions, they can provide many years of weed-free enjoyment!



Regular readers know we feature UC Davis Arboretum All-Star Plants in each issue. In the future, we will include Future Favorites as well.

Future Favorites—Climate Ready Plants

By Elaine Kelly Applebaum, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Did you know the UC Davis Arboretum has a new category of plants to supplement the Arboretum All-Stars?

Called Future Favorites—[Climate-Ready Plants](#), this is a new and evolving list of plants that Arboretum horticulturists have identified as thriving in today's shifting climate." Many of them are existing Arboretum All-Stars; others are additions that have been observed to respond positively to environmental challenges such as increased heat and changing rainfall patterns. As you might guess, many of them are native plants from southern and desert areas of California; others are from Texas, Mexico, and other places around the world. While they have not yet undergone the exhaustive testing that led to the All-Stars, the Future Favorites hold great promise as beautiful components of climate resilient landscapes and valuable contributors to local biodiversity.

Going forward we will be featuring Future Favorites along with the Arboretum All-Stars in this column. If you can't wait (and what plant lover could?), click [here](#) to view or download a list of the plants.

Insect Bytes: Update on the United States Battle with the "Murder Hornet"

By Bonnie Bradt, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

About 5 years ago, the first U.S. sightings of the Asian giant hornet (sensationally nicknamed by the press as the "Murder Hornet") were reported in the northwest corner of the state of Washington. That was December of 2019, approximately four months after the insects were first found in British Columbia, Canada.

Washington State Department of Agriculture [reports](#) as of December 2024 that no sightings, no trapped individuals, and no nests have been found in the U.S. in the last three years. Therefore, the species is considered currently eradicated in this country. That is good news to U.S. beekeepers and residents, alike. This giant hornet targets honeybees as a favorite prey. They can destroy a hive in a matter of hours. Thus, American beekeepers are vitally interested in the results of the control efforts of this frightening invader.

This insect, renamed the northern giant hornet, is large and aggressive with adults approximately two inches long. Its Latin name is *Vespa mandarinia*, indicative of its Asian origin. In Japan where these critters are native, they are credited with 30-40 human deaths per year.

The first U.S. nest was detected in 2020 in Washington state. It was located by placing a homing device, using dental floss, on a captured live hornet. It was tracked to its home nest and the entire colony was destroyed. By 2022,



Northern giant hornet. Photo by Gary Alpert. [CC-BY SA 3.0](#).

scientists had set over 1,000 hornet traps around the state. They found a nest, quickly destroyed, containing nearly 1,500 hornets "in various stages of development." In total, [four nests have been discovered and destroyed](#), all directly or indirectly using reports from the general public, and only in Washington state. Despite current eradication status, the agriculture and wildlife officials maintain monitoring systems to detect future incursions. They'll still be watching—and trapping.

Tomatogeddon Last Summer? Strategies for 2025!

By Tree Justesen, Master Gardener of Placer County

How did those tomatoes work out last summer? Did your tomatoes produce enough to share with the neighborhood—or did your tomato powerhouses fade away in last year's summer heatwave?

Temperatures peaked around 110 degrees in Northern California last summer. This was not good news for tomatoes, since they prefer daytime temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees. When summer heat reaches 95 degrees, tomato plants will stop growing, flowers dry up and drop off, and production of new fruit stops. If this happened to you, are you ready if there's a heatwave again this year?

Early Indeterminate Producers

Let's start by getting those early-producing indeterminate tomatoes in the ground. They can be planted as soon as the soil temperature reaches 60 degrees.

- Early Girl—hybrid, 49 days, red (4-6 oz)
- Fourth of July—hybrid, 49 days, red/pink, small (4 oz)
- Early Pick—hybrid, 62 days, medium/large
- Champion—hybrid, 62 days, large

Determinate Tomatoes

Traditionally, farmers prefer determinate tomatoes so they can efficiently harvest the tomatoes all at once, rip out the plant, and start again. Home gardeners usually prefer indeterminates, which produce a few tomatoes at a time all season long. However, with a potential heatwave this summer, consider planting determinates, harvesting everything at once before temperatures reach 90 degrees, and calling it a season for those plants. Determinate varieties that work for our area include:

- Legend—hybrid, 68 days, red, large (can be up to one pound each)
- Ace Hybrid—hybrid, 80 days, red, medium/large (6-8 oz)
- Celebrity—hybrid, semi-determinate, 70 days, 8-10 oz
- Early Bush 76—hybrid, 65 days, red, large

Heat Tolerance

Consider plants known to produce tomatoes in hot environments such as:

- Floramerica—hybrid, determinate, 70 days, medium.
- Cherokee Purple—heirloom, indeterminate, 85 days, purple, large (13 oz)
- Super Sweet 100—hybrid, indeterminate, 70 days, red, very small cherry
- Others listed for Zone B in the chart in [UCANR publication 8159](#).

Shade

At high temperatures, fruit can actually suffer sunburn, and a stressed tomato plant is more vulnerable to pests and diseases as well. To prevent this, make sure to maintain adequate leaf cover and provide partial shade during the hours with the most intense sunlight. While shading the entire plant might reduce yield, try to shade the tomatoes themselves, and don't use shade cloth that filters out more than 50% of the sunlight.



Produce beautiful tomatoes by planting heat tolerant varieties, providing partial afternoon shade, and watering correctly.

Mulch

A layer of coarse mulch, such as wood chips three to four inches deep, will help maintain soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures, and smother weeds. Studies have shown that mulching can reduce soil moisture loss by up to 70%.

Water

We can't forget water! When temperatures rise above 90 degrees, watering needs to increase 10-20%, and if your tomato is in a container, the plants may actually require daily watering on the hottest days.

Summary

Get those tomatoes started before it gets too hot. Use heat tolerant varieties and consider determinates. Mulch, water, and shade your tomatoes. Try some heat-resistant varieties. Plan for the heat this year and impress your family and friends with your abundant harvest!

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Master Gardeners of Nevada County Demonstration Garden News

by Ann Wright, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

As the welcome rain falls in the foothills, spring will be here before we turn around. During our dry January, the Nevada County Master Gardeners' have finally seen the completion of the fence project around the raised bed area of the garden. On a lovely dry day in January several Master Gardeners joined forces to remove all the old fencing in preparation for new fence to be installed by a contracted company. Much of the old fence wire and posts have been repurposed.

Not only does the new fence continue to provide protection of the raised bed plants from deer, it really sets off the garden, is very sturdy and looks beautiful. We are so pleased with the outcome of this long-lived project!

Speaking of deer, damage to our new memorial Blood-good Japanese maple tree came late fall, as some pesky critters rubbed antlers along the bark and branches of the tree, causing what might be devastating injury to the young tree. We are hopeful the tree will recover as spring brings new growth. In the meantime, a tall wire barrier has been placed to protect the tree.

Fortunately, the new small plantings of the plants donated by the Xerces Society for the oak habitat appear intact with their little metal basket "caps" covering each new planting. We are looking forward to spring to watch as the new plants begin to take shape.



A new fence protects the Nevada County Demo Garden from deer. Photo by Ann Wright.



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Saturday, April 5, 2025
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Maidu Community Center
1550 Maidu Drive, Roseville

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Kids Korner Easy, Quick, Fun, and Rewarding Seeds for Kids

by Linda Menge, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

Spring is here and your kids need something to do! Help them to enjoy the spring by planting seeds in your garden! These plants grown from seeds are easy to plant directly in the garden. They are quick to grow, fun to harvest, and rewarding to eat!

Radishes can be harvested in as little as 24 days or three to eight weeks. The small seeds are easy to handle for little fingers, and they germinate in as little as three days. Radishes can be grown in successive weeks, meaning you can enjoy them not only in the spring and summer, but all the way through fall in most of Nevada and Placer Counties. They can be enjoyed by themselves, in salads, or with a dip like ranch dressing!

Bean seeds are also easy to handle, they can survive in poor soil, and



The lovely flesh of the watermelon radish. Photo by Erin Mahaney, UC Master Gardener of Solano County.

the bush varieties don't need trellising. Most beans can be harvested in five to eight weeks and can be steamed or eaten raw.

Sunflower seeds are fast growing, fun and kid friendly! Sunflower plants grow in various sizes; the Mammoth variety grows as tall as 14 feet! At harvest, all ages can enjoy sunflower seeds for a fun and nutritious snack!

Pumpkins are just one squash that is easy to grow. Kids will enjoy the larger Jack O' Lantern variety, which will be ready to carve for Halloween. Various other squashes grow quickly and can be kept for months after harvest. Spaghetti squash is a favorite to top with marinara and parmesan!

Keep the kids busy this spring, enjoying, planting and eating their own home grown vegetables!!



Sunflowers at California State Fair. Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey.

BotLat Corner

Named for Their Blooms

By Peggy Beltramo, UC Master Gardener of Placer County



Coyote mint.

Photo by brewbooks. [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).



Sticky monkeyflower.

Photo by Björn S. [CC BY-SA 2.0](#).

Okay, let's look at two plants that are associated with animals...

The first one is growing right outside my kitchen door, so I see it almost daily. [Monardella villosa](#) is known as coyote mint, so named because it is found in the habitat where coyotes also live. Its BotLat name, *Monardella*, refers to the *Monarda* genus, named for Nicolás Bautista Monardes, but since this is a smaller version, it gets the addition of the diminutive *-della*, indicating its smaller size. The species name, *villosa* comes from the Latin word *villus*, meaning shaggy or hairy. Look at the blossoms and you will understand! This plant smells minty, blooms profusely, and has those cute shaggy flowers. It is also

very popular with pollinators. A winner on all counts.

Animal plant number two is *Diplacus aurantiacus*. Its common name is bush monkeyflower, so called because its cheery blossoms resemble cute monkey faces. Its BotLat name also describes its physical appearance. *Diplacus* comes from *di-*, meaning two and *-plakos*, referring to flat plates, describing the shape of the seed casing. *Aurantiacus*, the species name, is a Latin word referring to an orangish color. Calscape.org lists 149 different plants with the [common name monkeyflower](#), including three genera other than *Diplacus*. Lots to choose from. Now, off to the nursery.

School Garden Emphasizes the Joy of Outdoor Learning

By Carol Holliman, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Walking into Skyridge Elementary's school garden in Auburn felt like finding a place where magic happens! In addition to the raised beds for planting vegetables and flowers, the garden is adorned with flags and bird feeders. A nearby music "wall" had been built by the students. The greenhouse is alive with new baby plants. "My vision is for this to be an outdoor classroom space that teachers can use for any lesson" said Andi Holland, parent garden lead. Her enthusiasm is contagious as she commented on how much the children enjoy learning in the fresh air.

As stated in the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources [Food Blog](#), "Gardens are likely to transform food attitudes and habits and in school garden this can be especially impactful when combined with nutrition education... School gardens can provide numerous benefits to students, including:

- Physical, social and emotional health
- Academic achievement
- Enhance nutritional preferences
- Increased self-esteem"

The UC Master Gardeners of Placer County provide encouragement and consultation support for Placer school gardens. In 2022, they helped Skyridge restore the garden; they now help with advice and kid class engagement. Andi expressed her appreciation for the partnership; although she is an experienced preschool teacher, wedding planner and parent, her garden experience is limited to "succulents on a balcony." Master gardener volunteers share insights into topics such as what veggies to grow during the school year, how to program the irrigation and how to care for the plants. Noel Crider, Placer County master gardener Skyridge Buddy, expressed her joy in supporting a program that helps children experience nature on a regular basis as part of their education.



Skyridge students learning outdoors. Photo by Noel Crider

UCCE Master Gardeners
of Placer County

38th Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour

Sunday, May 11, 10 am to 4 pm

Our 2025 tour features
interesting and unique private gardens
in Auburn.

**Tickets are \$20 each;
free for children under 12.**

Tickets will be available in late April
through the day of the tour.
Watch our [website](#) for details.

Cash or checks only.

Visit UC Master Gardeners at Local Farmers Markets

Starting March 16:

Fowler Ranch Farmers Market.
1st and 3rd Sundays, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Starting in May:

Roseville Fountains Farmers Market.
Tuesdays, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Auburn Farmers Market.
1st and 3rd Saturdays, 8:00 am to noon

Grass Valley Farmers Market.
Saturdays, 8:00 am to 12:30 pm

Starting in June:

Sun City Lincoln Hills.
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 8:00 am to noon



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

Nevada County Demo Garden NID Grounds, 1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley

Madelyn Helling Library 980 Helling Way, Nevada City

Loomis Library and Placer County Demo Garden 6050 Library Dr., Loomis

Lincoln Library 485 Twelve Bridges Dr., Lincoln

March

March 1

10:00 am to Noon
Totally Tomatoes
Madelyn Helling Library

March 8

10:00 am to Noon
Best Practices for Great Gardeners
Madelyn Helling Library

March 8

10:30 am to 11:30 am
Starting Your Summer Vegetable Garden
Loomis Library

March 8

10:00 am to Noon
Open Garden Day
Placer County Demonstration Garden

March 15

2:00 - 3:00 pm
All About Citrus
Lincoln Library

March 15

10:00 am to Noon
Weeds
Madelyn Helling Library

March 29

10:00 am to Noon
Drip Irrigation Basics
Madelyn Helling Library

April

April 5

9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Garden Faire
Maidu Community Center,
1550 Maidu Dr., Roseville.

April 5

10:00 am to Noon
Managing Invasive Plants
Madelyn Helling Library

April 5-6

Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm;
Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Visit our booth at the Home and Garden Show at the Nevada County Fairgrounds

April 12

10:00 am to Noon
Plant Protectors & Pollinator Gardens – New Topic!
Madelyn Helling Library

April 12

10:30 am to 11:30 am
Tomato Mastery
Loomis Library

April 12

10:00 am to Noon
Open Garden Day
Placer County Demonstration Garden

April 19

10:00 am to 11:30 am
Basic Beginner Gardening 101
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Pre-register in advance—click [here](#).

April 26

10:00 am to Noon
Gardening in a Changing Climate
Madelyn Helling Library

May

May 1

9:00 am to 11:00 am
Ask the Experts
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville

May 3

10:00 am to Noon
Gophers, Moles, and More
Nevada County Demonstration Garden

May 10

10:30 am to 11:30 am
Growing Culinary Herbs
Loomis Library

May 10

10:00 am to Noon
Open Garden Day
Placer County Demonstration Garden

May 10

9:00 am to Noon
Spring Plant Sale!
Vegetables, annuals, perennials.
Grown here, for here!
NCMG Demonstration Garden

May 17

10:00 am to Noon
Container Gardening – New Topic!
Nevada County Demonstration Garden

May 17

10:00 am to 11:30 am
Tomato Mastery
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
Pre-register in advance—Click [here](#).

May 24

9:00 am to 11:00 am
Ask the Experts
Roseville Utility Exploration Center
1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville

May 31

10:00 am to Noon
Fire Wise Landscape and Maintenance
Nevada County Demonstration Garden

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

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.

Bruno Pitton, Editor

Environmental Horticulture Advisor

Cassandra Burzinski, Master Gardener Coordinator

UC Community Education Specialist

Donna Olson, Content Coordination

Elaine Kelly Applebaum, Production

UC Master Gardeners of Placer County

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](#)

UC Cooperative Extension Placer County

11477 E Avenue
Auburn, CA 95603
530.889.7385 office
530.889.7397 fax
email: ceplacer@ucdavis.edu

UC Cooperative Extension Nevada County

255 So. Auburn Street
Grass Valley, CA 95945
530.273.4563 office
530.273.4769 fax
email: cenevada@ucdavis.edu



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program

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