

WHAT DO MASTER GARDENERS DO?

By Bernice Honeychurch, Cathy Koos-Brazeal, Judie Marks
Amador County Master Gardeners

The Amador County Master Gardeners, started in 1983, provide a wide range of services for our community. The Master Gardener program is a cooperative effort of the University of California, the local county and motivated volunteers. The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) trains volunteers to bring cutting edge information to their community. You can subscribe to the monthly newsletter on the Amador County Master Gardener website at ucanr.org/mgenews.

Master Gardeners also work in their demonstration gardens both in front of the office at 122300 B Airport Road in Jackson and at the Interfaith Food Bank at 12181 Airport Road. A new garden featuring raised beds and a special area accessible for handicapped persons will be started this year between the airport and the County Building on Airport Road.

Almost every month, FREE Classes on everything to do with gardening are offered. Among this year's featured classes have been Beekeeping, Herbs and Shakespeare Gardens, and Summer Fruit Tree Pruning. You're sure to come home with useful information from every class! For more information about our classes and events, visit our website at ucanr.org/mgamador.

Master Gardeners also work with children, teaching and interacting in schools. Mike Spinetta designed and planted the garden at Plymouth Elementary school.

Amador County Master Gardeners also educate the public about Fire Control and Water Management. For two years, in 2009 and 2010, under a program started with a grant from the Sierra Nevada Alliance, the Master Gardeners of Amador County conducted a program known as the Sierra Foothill Property Evaluation Program. Residents of Amador County could request a team of Master Gardeners visit their garden to advise them on how to save water, create a fire-safe environment, enhance their soil and prevent erosion, grow native and drought tolerant plants and live peacefully with wildlife.

Additionally, Master Gardeners are trained to answer your gardening questions at the Phone Clinic, Tuesday through Thursday, 10 am to noon at 209-223-6838. Walk-ins are welcome.

Master Gardeners do a minimum of 25 hours of volunteer time and 12 hours of continuing education each year. Monthly meetings have guest speakers to hone the MG's skills and keep them up to date on various subjects.

Do you want to be a Master Gardener volunteer? Visit our website and click on

“Become a Master Gardener” and complete the training interest survey. We will contact you when our next class is ready to accept applications.

Saturday, August 25th, Master Gardeners present a “Summer Fruit Pruning” clinic. This hands-on class is offered at no charge. It starts at 9:00 a.m. and is held at a private residence. Call the MG office for directions at 209-223-6838.

Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Thursday 10 am to noon by calling 209 203-6838. Walk ins are welcome. The office is located at 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson. For more information about our Public Education classes and activities go to our Master Gardener website at <http://ucanr.org/mgamador>. Sign up to receive our online notices and eNewsletter at <http://ucanr.org/mgenews/>.