

How Does Your Garden Grow?



News from UCCE Calaveras Master Gardeners

January 2015

From The Editor

What's new this year? 2015 brings us our new President, Bev Eckland who is already doing an outstanding job. This month we also welcome Master Gardener trainees as their program starts January 22.

A Happy New Year to faces old and new!

Odile Morrison

Newsletter Editor
Calaveras Master Gardeners

In This Issue

- [Persimmon Trees](#)
- [January To Do List](#)
- [Michelson School Native Tree Project](#)
- [Master Gardener Training](#)
- [Next Open Garden](#)
- [Volunteer Awards](#)
- [Compost in a Hurry](#)

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Persimmon Trees

By Sharon Mejia, University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener of Calaveras County.

This article appeared in the Calaveras Enterprise on January 6, 2015.

PERSIMMON (*Diospyros kaki*)

The Persimmon is a very good fruit tree for the home orchard. The trees bloom late, therefore avoiding the spring frost and they don't require much winter chilling. They perform well throughout the state and will prosper in the foothills. Their vivid fall foliage is an added feature.

Persimmon trees thrive in a variety of soils as long as they have good drainage. They tolerate wet feet in winter and dry conditions in summer. The tree and fruit is

almost pest free. This makes the Persimmon tree an ideal choice for our area.

THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF TREES:

1. The **Hachiya** has large, deep orange-red, acorn-shaped fruit. The fruit is very astringent until very ripe and soft; wait until the flesh is quite soft before eating.

The tree does not need cross-pollination. Trees get large and require an area to allow for a 20 foot width. [Read more](#)



Next Open Garden

28 February, 2015. 10am to 2pm
Topic: 'Planting Perennial Vegetables' [More information](#)

Need Help?

Master Gardener Helpline
209-754-2880

Plant Growing Guides

Available on our website at
[Plant Growing Guides](#)

Garden To Do List for January

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

Many home orchards contain a variety of fruit trees that are being maintained as fruit bushes or short trees. If you are planning on planting new fruit trees this winter, talk to the nursery staff about pruning the dormant fruit tree as a short tree or fruit bush. This type of tree will be easier to maintain and produce adequate fruit for a family orchard. As the trees mature, they will be safer and easier to prune, spray and harvest. A good web site for information about "Backyard Orchard Culture" is www.davewilson.com/home-garden; click on the Backyard Home Orchard article.

Make sure to paint the trunks of all newly planted fruit trees with a solution of 50/50 white latex and water. Most fruit trees are susceptible to sunburn and borers.

Summer pruning is recommended if you want to maintain the size of your tree. However winter is a good time to prune fruit trees if you want to encourage vigorous new growth. Prune when all the leaves have fallen. First remove diseased, broken and crossing branches. Remove all suckers water sprouts. Remove 20% of last years new growth from apple, pear, cherry, and plum trees. Peaches and nectarines need about 50% of last year's growth pruned off to thin the next crop and ensure good sturdy shoot growth for future crops. A great and informative web site on pruning is <http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu>; this site has complete information about growing fruit trees in the home orchard.

Now is a good time to thin or prune large vines such as honeysuckle, trumpet creeper or passion vine.

Wait until wisterias have bloomed in the spring before pruning them.



Prune repeat blooming roses by first cutting out dead or diseased canes, then cut out spindly and crossing canes. Cut back the remaining canes by one third. Clean leaves and debris from around the plants to

discourage disease and over wintering insects. Spray the plant with dormant horticultural oil; if you cover the whole plant and the soil around it, this will kill insect eggs and disease spores.

For spring flowering perennials, wait until they have finished blooming before pruning them.

Because of the rains, weeds will be sprouting everywhere: they are easy to eliminate by hoeing or just by pulling them out. If this chore is done on a regular basis it is easier to keep ahead of all the weeds.

Michelson School Native Tree Project

by Barbara Lashbrook, Master Gardener.

Awesome hard work, team cooperation and MANY THANKS, especially to Dick Seaman and Bob Mergl for the irrigation repairs at the water site for the Foothill Woodlands Native Tree Garden. Friday, December 5 marks the completion of the Repair and Upgrade of the water source at the Slope along Highway 4. We believe that Dick and Bob's plumbing skills and common sense were key to this repair and upgrade. The school (Devin) and Master Gardener team members met last Monday Dec. 2 to finalize the work scope and the schedule was set. The job took three hours to complete in very muddy conditions - thankfully, no rain!! The school's water supply was turned off after school (Kurt) and on again after the job was done. Earlier in the week, Devin purchased the irrigation materials for the work.

With the repair effort complete and cooperation of the rain, the plan is to proceed with the backhoe operation and installation of the underground irrigation system next weekend; also in the plan is for Ron Cooper's business to provide a trailer to transport the backhoe to and from the job site. In addition to the back hoe and his operator skills, Pete has notified USA to contact various utilities before we begin scheduled for this coming weekend - December 13, weather permitting. Tree planting and installation of the above ground irrigation materials will follow. Our plan was to ask some of our third graders to help with the planting - weather permitting.

Also, thanks to Native Daughters, the Michelson Parents Club, and Calaveras Lumber, funds are in place and an account set up for "shopping" for the materials next week. Also, Debbie Powell, thank you for joining us on 12-2 to advise if there were any Master Gardener concerns - luckily we have full cooperation of all!

As you know, John has hand watered the tree seedling from SPI all summer (many months). Keep our vision for the completion of a Foothill Woodlands Native Tree Garden and Irrigation!!

[Back to Front Page](#)

Master Gardener Training 2015

Training for the new intake of Master Gardeners starts January 22, 2015 at the San Andreas Library. Classes run every Thursday from 3-7.30pm until April 30.

The first class will be 'Master Gardener History & Local Program Overview' presented by Debbie Powell & Sue Mosbacher, Master Gardener Program Coordinators.

For more information about Master Gardener Training in see http://ucanr.edu/sites/CalaverasCountyMasterGardeners/Training_Information/

Next Open Garden 28 February 2015

The Calaveras County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden will be open on Saturday, February 28 from 10AM – 2PM. There is no sale this month plant. The Demonstration Garden is located at the County Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas.



Our topic this month is bare root perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and artichokes. Although most of our garden vegetables are planted each season from seeds (annuals), perennial vegetables also provide a great source of food.

Since they are perennial they are also useful landscape additions. These plants are generally planted as bare root plants.

There will be a presentation at 10.30am.

Our first Plant Sale will be at the Open Garden on March 28.

[Back to Front Page](#)

Persimmon Trees....

Volunteer Awards 2013/14

Master Gardeners volunteered 4,404 hours of service in 2013/14. Using the state of California rate for volunteer service that is a total value of \$100,411.20 (4,404 hours X \$22.80 per hour = \$100,411.20). Since it's inception Calaveras Master Gardeners have volunteered 44,233 hours of service valued at over \$1,000,000.

At the November 18 Annual Potluck, Debbie Powell awarded the following Stars for milestone hours served:

100 Hours

Maggi Blood
Deanna Correa
Kate Frederick
Denese Garamendi
Mike Lamitie
Noreen Seeders
Candace Raupach

250 Hours

Terri Bishop
Willi Krauss
Louise Leonard
Ed Ransom
June Wilcox

500 Hours

Marilyn DeRousse

750 Hours

Tony Abel
Pete McGraw

Gold Badge for 1,000 Hours - Bev Eckland

Silver Badge for 2,500 Hours - Barbara Lashbrook

Compost in a Hurry

Why wait months to have compost for your garden? Get this free ANR publication and make compost in as little as two to three weeks.



Available online at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8037.pdf>

Garden Ideas

2. The Fuyu has medium to large, flat, orange-red colored fruit. The flesh is firm like that of an Apple and non-astringent when ripe. Cross-pollination is not required, but when present, the fruit will have seeds. The trees are smaller than Hachiya, requiring a width of 14 to 16 feet. The fruit loses astringency at maturity while still firm and crunchy.

PRUNING

Persimmons bear mainly on new shoots that originate from near the tips of one-year-old branches, so avoid heading cuts.

FRUIT THINNING

Persimmons are usually not thinned, though thinning increases fruit size. A large fruit load may break branches, so you may want to thin them to 6 inches apart.

HARVEST

Both types of Persimmons begin to ripen in late September through November. To harvest, use hand-pruning shears to cut the stem and allow the calyx (green collar) to remain attached.

- Hachiya (astringent) can be allowed to become soft ripe on the tree but are usually harvested firm ripe and allowed to soften at room temperature.
- Fuyu (non-astringent) are



harvested when they develop their full color.



STORAGE

Fruit will store for a month or more under refrigeration. Persimmons can be frozen for up to a

year before being used in puddings and cakes. Dried Persimmons have outstanding flavor and sweetness.

FRUIT USES

Fuyu Persimmons are eaten when firm (crisp) like an apple. They are delicious served raw alone or in salads.

The Hachiya variety is used primarily in edibles like cookies, bread, puddings, and jams.

The Persimmon tree is a great choice because it's an easy tree to grow, doesn't require much upkeep and the reward of delicious fruit is there for the picking.

[Back to Front Page](#)

Try making a flowerpot person like this one in the Childrens Garden.



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[Back to Front Page](#)