



How Does Your Garden Grow?



News from UCCE Calaveras Master Gardeners

December 2014

From The Editor

Time to hand over the gavel! It has been a pleasure working with Master Gardeners over the past two years. We have achieved a lot, both at the demo garden and at outreach community sites. I'm always amazed how much a volunteer force can get done. They are the best! Thanks,
Odile Morrison
Outgoing President
Calaveras Master Gardeners

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Tree-of-Heaven not so Heavenly

By University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Myron Kelso of Calaveras County

When the gold rush occurred along the Golden Highway, immigrant prospectors came from all over the world to strike it rich in the Sierra Foothills. Many brought with them reminders of their homeland. One of the items Chinese laborers brought were seeds of the *Ailanthus altissima*, commonly called the Tree-of-Heaven. Touted for its medicinal value, the fast growing trees adapted well to the harsh soils and drought conditions the Mother Lode.

Today, generations of this pinnately leaved tree can be found along many roads, including the Golden Highway (Hwy 49), in towns and empty lots, and as plantings by unsuspecting homeowners who favor the tree for its fall blaze of yellow, orange and red color.



in

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28 February, 2015

Topic: Planting Bareroot Vegetables

Got a Gardening Question?

Find answers [here](#)

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Garden To Do List for December

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

Gather up all your gardening tools and give them a good cleaning, sharpening and oiling; store them indoors away from the wet weather.

Take care of frost sensitive plants: Drape bushes and small trees with burlap or frost cloth over stakes (to keep the cloth from touching the leaves). Water them deeply if cold weather is expected.

Potted plants are much more frost sensitive than plants in the ground. Roll any potted outdoor plants under some protection.

Spray a dormant horticultural oil on deciduous ornamental trees, fruit trees and roses after the leaves have fallen. This will help smother over-wintering insects such as aphids, mites and scale. Spray the plant thoroughly, covering all the branches and trunk as well as the ground below the plant. Pick up all the fallen leaves from around the plants before you spray.

Adjust automatic watering systems if they are still in use. Plants need a lot less water in the winter; water evaporates from the soil at a slower pace than during the warmer weather.

Give azaleas, camellias and gardenias a dose of chelated iron if the leaves show signs of yellowing.



Keep live Christmas trees outside until a few days before Christmas. Water them well before you bring them in. Keep trees indoors for a maximum of two weeks.

Delay pruning frost damaged branches from trees or shrubs until the weather gets warmer. The damaged branches may protect some of the plant from the cold weather.

Keep the fallen leaves around oak trees. They feed and protect the roots of the tree.

Members Elect New President

Congratulations to Bev Eckland, who has been elected President for a two-year term beginning December 2014.

June Wilcox has also been elected Secretary for a second two-year term.

Farewell to Our Man in the Garden

Our Man in the Garden, Tony Abel, passed away suddenly in November after a brief illness. We will sorely miss his gardening expertise and willingness to always pitch in and help, but above all we will miss his smile.



Tony's family visited the garden recently to see the place he loved so much. Many Master Gardeners came along and we all found some comfort in telling stories and showing his children and grandchildren Tony's touch on every area of the garden.

Several donations have been made to the garden in memory of Tony. In the New Year we will be installing an arch over two of the raised beds at the entrance to the vegetable garden and some seating in 'Tony's Tea Garden' behind the propagation area.



Next Open Garden 28 February 2015

The garden will be open from 10am to 2pm. Odile Morrison will discuss how to plant bareroot perennial vegetables, such as asparagus and demonstrate how to divide artichokes.

Find answers to your home gardening questions, including plant and pest problems. When the garden is not open, home gardening assistance is offered by Master Gardeners through the help line at: 209-754-2880.

The public may leave a message regarding a problem and a Master Gardener will return the call.



The Demonstration Garden is a project of the Calaveras County Master Gardeners whose primary goal is to educate the public about home gardening. For additional details visit the Calaveras Master Gardeners website at <http://ucanr.org/sites/CalaverasCountyMasterGardeners/>

Got a Gardening Question?

Calaveras County Master Gardeners are here to answer your gardening questions!

- Office hours: 10-Noon, Wednesdays
891 Mountain Ranch Road in San Andreas
- 24 hour Helpline: 209-754-2880
- On-line: [Ask a Master Gardener](#)

Bring a sample for identification, or drop by to ask questions. If you bring a sample, please put plant material in a plastic bag. For insect identification, don't bring them alive! Please preserve insects in a container with rubbing alcohol, or by freezing.

Master Gardener Coordinator

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Tree of Heaven...

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The Tree-of-Heaven reproduces by seeds and suckers. The tree can form dense thickets and supplant native plants, including Oak trees. One tree can produce over 300,000 seeds that fly with ease on their 'wings', often traveling hundreds of yards where they easily root on just about any soil they contact. Trees located close to hardscape (pavement, driveways, water pipes, sewers and foundations) will disrupt these structures. No wonder the USDA, National Park Service, the California Invasive Plant Council and the University of California have listed the Tree-of-Heaven as an invasive species (PN74139 and 74142).

Management options include biological, mechanical, manual, and chemical. To date, no effective biological control has been identified. Mechanical control includes due diligence over a long period of time. Cutting back the tree only encourages more sucker growth, but if attempted should be started in late summer (July-August) when the tree is 'resting'. Repeated cutting of trees and subsequent sprouts may reduce and eventually eliminate the spread of the tree. Manual control consists of pulling or digging up young seedlings. If you try to eliminate root suckers, any left behind root fragments will create new plants. The most effective control is chemical. Foliar spraying is effective, but may affect nearby desirable plants. Basal bark and cut stump application of chemicals can be effective, but application time is important. A final process, called hack-and-squirt (or injection) can be very effective at reducing sprouting.

What is a Master Gardener?

- A Master Gardener is a local resident who is a trained gardener. Master Gardeners are certified by the University of California after completing an extensive horticulture training course and passing a final examination.
- Master Gardeners help the community. They share their UC based knowledge with the public to promote environmentally responsible horticultural practices. They answer questions, staff help lines, make calls to home gardeners, solve horticultural problems, give advice, hold plant clinics, and, in general, educate the public on home gardening issues.
- Master Gardeners keep learning. They meet regularly to share information, hear lectures, attend demonstrations, etc.

Master Gardener Board of Directors

Bev Eckland, President
Terri Bishop, Vice President
June Wilcox, Secretary
Bev Vierra Pennington,
Demo Garden Coordinator
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