



# How Does Your Garden Grow?



## News from UCCE Calaveras Master Gardeners

**August 2014**

### From The Editor

Harvest time is upon us, and I hope you all enjoy the fruits of your labors! Despite challenges from weather, pests and water restrictions, the demonstration gardens, school gardens and personal gardens are flourishing. Let's all give ourselves a pat on the back! Now it's time to plan those Fall and Winter gardens.

Happy Gardening,

Odile Morrison  
President  
Calaveras Master Gardeners

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## In Times of Drought

### Using Water Twice and Critical Stage Watering

By Lynda Alvarez, *University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener for Calaveras County.*

*A version of this article appeared in the Calaveras Enterprise on 12 August, 2014.*

Many gardeners have not planted a vegetable garden this season because of mandatory water restrictions. Here are strategies that may work for your home to allow a modified or mini garden plan by using water twice.

- Carry water saved from your daily shower to your porch and nearby plants or pour into a large watering can. Place a plastic handled bucket in every shower in your house. Collect the "warm-up" water and "wet down" water. Move the bucket aside, shampoo, lather, rinse, and quickly finish your regimen. The extra work of carrying your bucket to plants will be beneficial exercise. As you conduct your walk to the garden, contemplate the many people in the world who carry ALL of their daily water.
- Keep a large wide mouthed plastic pitcher near your kitchen sink.
- Place your vegetable-washing colander over the pitcher as you wash your vegetables.

[Read more](#)



### Upcoming Events

[Online Calendar](#)

[Download PDF](#)

### Need Advice?

Master Gardener Helpline  
209 754 2880

[Ask a Question](#)

### Harvest Day in the Garden 13 September

[Read more](#)

## Garden To Do List for August

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

- If you have young ornamental or fruit trees less than 18 months old, they should be deep watered every two weeks around the drip line. Established large ornamental shrubs also need an occasional deep watering even if they are regularly watered.
- Maintain mulch at least 3" deep around all ornamental trees and shrubs; start spreading it 3" to 4 " away from the trunk and extend coverage out to the drip line. This will help keep the soil cooler and retain more moisture during the heat of the summer.
- Harvest summer fruits and vegetables in the early morning to get the most flavor. Look for vegetables that are ready to harvest and pick as many as possible to encourage more production. Pinch off flower buds from basil before they bloom, to encourage new growth and keep the plant from getting woody.
- If you are planning a winter garden this year, it is time to prepare the soil.
- Cultivate the soil at least 12" deep and dig in a 2 to 3 inch layer of compost. Now is the time to look through the seed catalogues for those special cool season crops such as kale, radishes and carrots.



## ... Drought

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- Save water from boiling pasta or eggs, and water for steaming vegetables in this same plastic pitcher.
- Using "Gray Water" for landscape plants is now an option. Gray water is untreated waste water from clothes washers, showers, bathtubs, sinks and laundry tubs that may be used for outdoor watering for non edibles; golf courses do this. You must check on regulations within your county.

## Get More while Using Less Water

- Delay the starting time of a fall garden to take advantage of the later fall rains so that you use less supplemental water.
- Plant only the amount that you will actually need. Plant herbs and small "patio" variety vegetables in pots.
- Plant shorter season crops and shop for drought resistant varieties.
- UCCE Master Gardeners suggest planting water efficient edibles such as asparagus, chard, eggplant, mustard greens, peppers, roma tomatoes, and California native strawberries for the mid season garden while adding an additional layer of mulch to insulate and prevent evaporation.
- Weed often to keep greedy weed roots from robbing moisture from your desired plants.
- Water before the sun comes up and after the sun goes down using a drip system to avoid moisture loss through evaporation.

## Critical Stage Watering

- Learn the crucial water needs for the growth stages of your plants. There are specific times in a vegetable plant growth cycle where water is more important than other times. For many vegetables, the two-week periods after seed germination, after transplanting, and during flowering and fruiting are the most critical. Each vegetable does have its own peculiarities.

See [Critical Stage Watering Guide](#) on Page 3 for details.

## Critical Stage Watering Guide

Vegetable	Crucial Period - Water Amply
Broccoli, Kohlrabi, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower	head development
Beans and Peas	flower bud formation to pod enlargement
Root vegetables	root enlargement
Cucumbers and vines	fruit enlargement
Eggplant, Pepper, Tomato	flowering, fruit set, enlargement
Lettuce and Spinach	head enlargement or leaf growth
Onion	due to small root structure, needs constant even water throughout
Potato	tuber set and enlargement
Corn	tassel, silk and ear development

## Family Harvest Day in the Garden

Master Gardeners are hosting a Harvest Day at the demonstration garden from 10am to noon on Saturday, September 13th. This is a new event sponsored by the UCCE Master Gardener Programs, UCCE Nutrition Program, First 5 Calaveras, and Prevent Child Abuse Council Calaveras.

Families are invited to see the garden in all its' glory and partake of its' bounty. Last May children planted a Pizza Garden and will now be able to harvest veggies from this garden to make a "Pizza on a Cracker". They will also prepare "Garden Bounty Salsa" after enjoying a "veggie scavenger hunt". Other fun FREE activities will include "make and take" bird feeders, seed tapes for fall planting, and herb "Tussy Mussies".

In his book, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, Sean Covey states, "We become what we repeatedly do." This new event will provide another opportunity for families to try fruits and vegetables in different ways and participate in activities that help them understand the components of a healthy lifestyle, as well as enjoying doing fun things together.



## Harvesting Orchard Bounty

Over the past 2 months, Master Gardeners have been busy harvesting the orchard at the demo garden. It is quite a turnaround from a couple of years ago. Spearheaded by June Wilcox, the orchard has been renovated and replanted, The bacterial canker and fireblight that afflicted it are well under control. This bountiful harvest is a testament to all the hard work Master Gardeners have put into the orchard over the past couple of years.



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## Open Garden August 23

The Calaveras County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden will be open on Saturday, August 23rd from 10AM – 2PM. There will NOT be a plant sale this month. The Demonstration Garden is located at the County Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas.

Now that your garden is in full swing, what are you going to do with all that produce? This Saturday we will discuss some methods of preserving fruits and vegetables. We will discuss nutritional values; provide some interesting recipes and review important food safety considerations.

## Need Help?

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.

## About the Demonstration Garden

The Demonstration Garden is a project of the Calaveras County Master Gardeners whose primary goal is to educate the public about home gardening. Proceeds from plant sales support the Master Gardener's education programs and maintenance of the Demonstration Garden.



## Visit Our Website

For information, guidance and garden updates.

<http://ucanr.org/sites/CalaverasCountyMasterGardeners/>

## Calendar of Events

### August 23

Open Garden 10am - 2pm  
Topic: Preserving Fruits & Vegetables, Novella Springer.

### September 13

Harvest Day in the Garden 10am - noon, Demo Garden

### September 27

Open Garden 10am - 2pm  
Topic: Cycles of the Garden, Bev Vierra Pennington

### October 25

Open Garden 10am - 2pm  
Topic: Gifts from the Garden, Bev Eckland and Odile Morrison

## Master Gardener Board of Directors

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## Cooperative Extension Office:

891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas.  
Open 8am to 4.30pm Monday through Wednesday.  
Phone: (209) 754-6477

## Master Gardener Coordinator

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