



# How Does Your Garden Grow?



## News from UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County

March 2017

### From The Editor

This edition of the newsletter features our first plant sale of the year, our first Farmers Market of the year, a new butterfly garden, and much more! What a wonderful start to the year!

Happy Gardening,  
Odile Morrison  
Newsletter Editor

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### Next Open Garden March 25

The Calaveras County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden will be open on Saturday, March 25 from 10AM – 1PM.

**There will be a plant sale from 10 to noon.**

#### **'All Stars' featured in plant sale**

We will have an assortment of plants from the top 100 UC Davis Arboretum All Stars; these plants have been selected for their easy care and drought tolerance. Download the All Stars brochure [here](#).



To learn more about All Stars, visit their [website](#) where you will find information about the right plants for your garden, learn about irrigation and more.

The Demonstration Garden is located at the County Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas.

This month our garden discussion will be on selecting fruit trees for our area. By learning the "right fit" variety of fruit tree you can avoid the heartbreak of premature tree death. Additionally, we will discuss the impact to garden and landscape plants resulting from this very wet winter.

### Need Help?

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

**209-754-2880**

### CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market

May theme: Strawberry Shortcake

Thursday May 11  
4 - 7pm  
[More](#)

### New Butterfly Garden at San Andreas Elementary

Students are planning their new butterfly garden.

[More](#)

## March To Do List

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

Check drip systems: turn on the water to observe leaks that need to be repaired or blocked emitters that need to be replaced. Flush the filters and clean out any accumulated sediment. If any plants have grown significantly, more emitters may need to be added.

- When the last frost has passed, plant herbs such as chives, cilantro, parsley and basil in a sunny location in the ground or in containers.
- Check plants for early signs of insect infestation, such as aphids; get rid of them with an application of insecticidal soap.

## Planting a Vegetable Garden

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

The best way to water your vegetable garden is with drip irrigation: this system applies water slowly and directly to the roots of the intended plant with very little waste and no runoff. Proper timing of irrigation is important.

**Examine the soil** at a depth of 4 to 12 " then squeeze it in your hands; if the soil holds together without crumbling there is probably still enough moisture. If water is needed, it is best to water in the late evening or early morning. Water slowly and deeply: this makes the roots of your vegetables grow down into the soil where they can make use of moisture that is not available on the surface.



**Mulching vegetable beds** with at least 3 " of mulch will cut down on evaporation, keep the weeds out and help keep the ground around the plants cooler during the summer heat.

**Amend the soil** in your vegetable garden: adding lots of composted organic matter will help trap moisture and encourage deep root growth.

**Determine the amount of fruits and vegetables you will use** to avoid wasted crops at the end of the season. Plant your vegetables in a block or hexagonal pattern, rather than in straight lines; the vegetables will provide shade for each other and reduce evaporation. Lay out the garden with vegetables that have similar water needs. For example, cucumber, zucchini and squash all use about the same amount of water. Focus on vegetables that produce big crops, such as tomatoes, squash and peppers. Grow fewer varieties. If water use is an issue, avoid vegetables that use a lot of water but do not give a big crop, for instance, broccoli and cauliflower use a lot of water.

**Plant your fruits and vegetables at the appropriate times.** Start cool weather plants in late fall so they have time to set deep roots, and warm weather plants as soon as the soil is the correct temperature for them.

**Learn the water needs of the fruits and vegetables you plant.** Knowing when your plants need the most and the least amount of water will help you decide when to irrigate. Many plants are over watered; not only is that wasteful but it can be detrimental to the taste of the fruit or vegetable. Plant only what can be properly irrigated with your available water.

## Michael Kriletich Memorial Bench

CalaverasGROWN recently installed a bench to celebrate the life of Michael Kriletich. It is located at the site of his family's stand at the Farmers Market.

Mike Hammer of CalaverasGROWN and Kevin Wright, Calaveras Ag Commissioner laid the concrete pad and set the bench in place.



## Next General Meeting

Topic: Mushrooms

Tuesday April 18, San Andreas Library, 10am to noon.

Everyone welcome! The presentation starts at 11am.

Michael Simpson is president of the Sacramento Area Mushroomers. Given this year's winter rains, Michael feels there will be lots of opportunity to forage for mushrooms this spring. He looks forward to sharing his knowledge of identifying mushrooms and other wonders of the mycological world.

## Planting Potatoes.... Everywhere!

Local gardeners were busy planting potatoes this month. Shown here are students at Calaveras High School farm and the newly planted potato bed at the Demonstration Garden.



# CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market

## May theme: Strawberry Shortcake



Sponsored by Mark Twain Medical Center

UCCE Master Gardeners of

Calaveras County will be hosting a third season of the CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Markets at the demonstration garden in San Andreas. This is a free event. The market would be held the 2nd Thursday of each month, May through September from 4-7pm starting 11 May 2017.



***The May theme is 'strawberry shortcake'. We will celebrate the arrival of delicious berries to our plates in a themed craft activity in the Children's Garden.***

The market features a wide variety of products from local farms right here in Calaveras County. Food that has traveled fewer miles is fresher, more nutritious and has greater flavor. Come to our market for the best produce in town and show your support for local farmers.

This is a family event with members of the Calaveras band playing jazz, swing and Dixieland and free activities for kids in the Children's Garden.

Products include:

- Fresh vegetables
- Herbs
- Olive Oil
- Honey & Jams
- Mustards
- Eggs
- Baked goods
- Fresh flowers
- Ornamental, vegetable and herb plants
- Soaps, lotions, body butters



If you would like to volunteer for this event or for more information, please contact the Market Manager, Odile Morrison (209) 256-6506 [odmo@comcast.net](mailto:odmo@comcast.net).

### Master Gardener Coordinator

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## New Butterfly Garden at San Andreas Elementary

San Andreas Elementary School students are creating a Monarch Waystation. The after-school garden club had fun this month choosing the plants they will put in their new garden.



## What to Do About Dead and Dying Trees?

Recent headlines proclaimed that 29 million trees died in California in 2015 as a result of drought and bark beetles. In the Central Sierra area, CalFire and the US Forest Service maps show 2015 brought widespread mortality particularly in Tuolumne County. Ponderosa pines are the primary victims, most of which have been killed by western pine beetles, though mortality is also occurring in firs and cedars due to a suite of beetles attacking in concert. Conifers such as pine and fir that are turning red are already dead, since they cannot resprout once their needles are lost. Dead and dying trees near a home or important infrastructure should be removed quickly. Read [Bark Beetle Information](#) from UCCE Master Gardeners.

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