

How Does Your Garden Grow?



News from UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County

May 2017

From The Editor

May is a busy month for gardeners. This edition of the newsletter features many of our recent and future events at the demo garden and other locations. We also have a list of things to do in your own garden this month, just in case you are not busy enough.

Happy Gardening,
Odile Morrison
Newsletter Editor

In This Issue

May To Do List
[Certified Farmers Market](#)
[Kids Day A Great Success!](#)
[Class of 2016 Graduates](#)
[Open Garden May 27](#)
[Demo Garden News](#)
[General Meeting June 20](#)
[Farm to Fork Event May 25](#)
[Michelson School](#)

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calmastergardener@gmail.com

May To Do List

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

Mulch around plants to control weeds and conserve moisture. Keep the mulch a few inches away from the base of the plant.

Thin fruit on apple, pear, nectarine and peach trees, leaving about 6" between each fruit. The trees will produce bigger and better fruit to harvest.

Finish planting summer vegetables and fruit such as tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, eggplants and melons.

Home grown cantaloupe and honeydew melon cannot compare to those bought at a grocery store. They are not difficult to grow in your garden, and are so much sweeter, fragrant and such a pleasure to eat. Melons need plenty of warm weather, sunshine and good air circulation. Since they are heavy feeders, fertilize the soil with compost or manure prior to planting. Seeds can be started indoors in pots; however, it is easier to direct plant the seeds in the soil once the weather has warmed up and there is no more chance of frost.



[More....](#)

CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market

Thursday June 8
4 - 7pm

[More](#)

Next Open Garden

May 27, 2017
10am to 1pm
Topic: After the drought

Plant Sale 10am to noon.

Next General Meeting

June 20, 2017
10am - noon
Guest: Artist, David Gano
Potluck - bring a dish to share!

[More](#)

CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market Season Begins

UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County is hosting a third season of the CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Markets at the demonstration garden in San Andreas. The first market on May 11 was very well attended. Many of the vendors offered summer plant starts, which proved very popular.



This free, fun evening event featured members of the Calaveras band 'Vintage Vibrations' played jazz, swing and Dixieland. Master Gardener June Wilcox hosted a bee and butterfly 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.

The market operates from 4 to 7pm on the second Thursday of each month: June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14.

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.

Calaveras County Fair

Thanks to all who volunteered at the UCCE Master



Gardeners booth at the fair this year.

Kids Day a Great Success!

On Saturday May 13, the garden was open for kids of all ages. Our annual Kid's Day, in partnership with First Five and Prevent Child Abuse Council, offered adults and children an opportunity to engage in the learning process while having a good time. We know that children learn through their senses and gardening and outdoors provide the perfect outlet to use each sense to its fullest. Activities this year included decorating a book bag, a free book, nature art, flower pots, kids cooking, monarch butterflies, worms, bees, music, face painting, and much more!



Thanks to all the volunteers who made this a wonderful day and especially to Terri Bishop, who was the mastermind behind the event.

This event was sponsored by Dignity Health.



Class of 2017 Graduates

Congratulations to our most recent graduates from the Master Gardener training program. Many of them are already actively involved in MG activities at the garden, in schools and community events. During the graduation program on 27 April, 2017, Dolores Ransom led trainees in using various propagation methods to obtain new plants to take home and for the plant sale. Trainees also planted starts in the vegetable garden with Odile Morrison, which they will be able to harvest later in the year.



Class of 2017

Juanita Perry
Susan Jones
Susie Ryslinge
Frank & Linda Ross
Jorge & Ellen Sanchez
Taylor Mcteer
Kristen Coon
Lili Jacobs
Sharon Beaudoin

Kim Oldham
Marijke Joubert
Katy Lackler
Phyllis Manford
Jeanne Martin
Betty Hillman
Kay Linthicum
Debby Brooks

Demonstration Garden News



The whole garden is particularly beautiful after a wet winter. Here are some highlights:

In the vegetable garden, the fava beans and garlic are coming into season and some are ready to harvest. Potatoes will be ready in June. Once those beds are free, we will be planting melons and pumpkins.



This year we have added a pollinator garden in the berry patch along the fenceline and a strawberry patch in the raised bed near the veggie shed. A container vegetable garden is also underway near the shed.

We are lucky to have the help of two dedicated Floriculture students from Calaveras High School this year. The CHS Independent Living Skills class have also included activities at the demo garden into their project-based learning schedule once every 4 weeks.

Veda Scherer and Juanita Perry have been hard at work in the Native and Wild Gardens respectively and they look stunning.



June Wilcox has the orchard in full production again this year and the trees have certainly thrived after all that rain.

Michele Rugo has introduced some new friends into the Children's Garden.

Open Garden May 27

The Demonstration Garden will be open on Saturday May 27 from 10AM – 1PM.

Plant sale this month from 10am -12pm. Offering a diverse selection of hardy and heirloom vegetables.

Our discussion topic concerns drought in this current weather pattern of frequent showers that are continuing through the spring. What does it mean to lift the drought proclamation? Do we still have a responsibility to conserve water?

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. Proceeds from plant sales support the Master Gardener's education programs and maintenance of the Demonstration Garden. For additional details contact the UC Cooperative Extension office at (209) 754-6477 or visit the UC Cooperative Extension website: <http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/>

Next Open Garden: June 24th, 10am to 1pm. Our garden discussion will be "Landscape and Garden Problem-Solving Clinic."

Next General Meeting June 20
Tuesday June 20, 10am to noon.

Guest speaker: David Gano
A former area teacher, Dave now spends much of his time traveling across the west and working in watercolors that capture flora, fauna and often a bit of history on canvas. Dave will share how he finds inspiration in nature and if we're lucky, a demonstration on technique.



Location TBA, maybe at the demonstration garden. Check on the website calendar closer to the date.

Farm to Fork Event May 25

UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County are co-hosts of a Farm to Fork lunch at Calaveras High School on May 25. This event is organized by Gardens To Grow In and CHS FFA. It is the main fundraiser for the year for Gardens To Grow In, a local non-profit that raises money for garden and nutrition programs in Calaveras Unified School District. Maggie Blood and June Wilcox will host the MG booth at this event.

9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Open House: Farm Tours
Farmers Market, Community & School Garden
Information Booths, Raffle

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Farm to Fork Lunch - \$15
All ingredients sourced from CHS farm and local farmers.

Purchase tickets [online](#) or contact odmo@comcast.net or khesser@gmail.com

May To Do List.... Continued

There are several methods of planting melons. The best one is to trellis the plants so they do not sprawl all over the ground. Plant the seeds 2" apart and 1/2" deep; when they grow to about 6" tall, thin out the plants so they are at least 1 foot apart. As the plants grow taller, tie them gently to the trellis. The first flowers to emerge will be the male flowers, then a week later the female flowers will bloom. Fertilize the plants with fish emulsion or compost tea as the fruit sets, then fertilize again 2 weeks later. Make sure to water the plants regularly and deeply. It takes about 3 months for the fruit to mature. Each plant will have 3 to 4 melons that will reach maturity; the additional baby melons will probably not mature, so it is a good idea to remove them after you see the first melons starting to size up. As the melons grow, tie them, in a sling made from nets or old stockings, to the trellis to keep them off the ground; if that is not possible, put a board under each melon to keep it from sitting in the soil.



As the melons get close to ripening, it is important to check them frequently for signs of being ready to pick. The color under the netting of a cantaloupe changes to a yellowish color, starts smelling sweet and begins to form a crack around the stem; the melon will detach from the vine with a gentle tug when ripe.

Honeydews do not detach from the vine, they must be cut off when they are ready to harvest. Initially the skin of a honeydew will feel hairy when not ripe. As it matures the skin becomes smooth and slippery; when it is fully ripe the skin changes to a waxy feel and the blossom end will smell ripe and fruity.

Then it is time to harvest and to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Michelson School

*By Barbara Lashbrook, University of California
Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Of Calaveras
County*

The Master Gardener Team at Michelson School will have new leadership beginning this summer. Claudia Beymer has been leading the program during my absence this past year. She will lead the program's planning and teaching. As retired teacher she is excellent for the job. Of importance, Nancy Shaw and Tom Furnanz will be in charge of the many requirements of the outside teaching and facilities, as well as the interfaces with the Michelson School Staff.

I am not retiring from Master Gardeners. It is time for younger and qualified Gardeners to continue with this program – it was started in 1997!!

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Master Gardener Coordinator

Debbie Powell
dlpowell@ucdavis.edu
(209) 754-6473