



How Does Your Garden Grow?



News from UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County

April 2018

From The Editor

Read on for reports on activities in March, news about upcoming events and lots of gardening advice.

Happy Gardening!
Odile Morrison, Newsletter Editor

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To Do List for May

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

- Prune spring flowering shrubs such as lilac, azaleas and spirea.
- Dig in a 5" to 6" layer of compost a couple of weeks prior to planting summer vegetables.
- If the evenings are warm, above 50 degrees, it is a good time to plant summer vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplants. It is also time to direct seed melons and squash.
- Consider planting basil among tomatoes, they enjoy the shade and will stay tender longer.
- Continue weeding if the soils are still moist.
- Place mulch, at least 3" in depth, in flower beds and around trees and shrubs. The mulch will keep the plants moist and cool and help prevent weeds from growing. Make sure to keep the mulch several inches away from the trunks of the plants.
- Thin fruit on fruit trees see [How to Thin Fruit Trees](#)



2018 Event Calendar

Check out our full program of events for 2018 [here](#)

Next Open Garden April 28

10am to 1pm

Plant Sale

10am to noon

[More](#)

Helpline

Call a Master Gardener

209-754-2880

Kids Day May 12, 2018

Mark your calendars for our annual Kids Day at the demo garden. This fun event will take place from 10am to noon on Saturday May 12 this year. It is a partnership with First Five and Prevent Child Abuse Council. We regularly welcome 150 or more visitors to our garden at these events.

March Plant Sale a Sellout

(almost....)

The first plant sale of the year on March 24 opened with a bang! Dolores Ransom and her team of talented plant whisperers raised over \$2000 in just a couple of hours. All the money goes directly to maintaining our beautiful demonstration garden.



Calaveras RCD Tree Giveaway a Great Success!

Gordon Long, Executive Officer of Calfauna thanked UC Master Gardeners of Calaveras County for hosting the Tree Giveaway at our first Open Garden on March 24, 2018:

"The Calaveras Resource Conservation District's first ever event went off in spectacular fashion. We gave out over 1500 ponderosa pine, sugar pine and giant sequoia on Saturday at the Calaveras Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden in San Andreas. We ran out of trees at the end, but we were a little concerned we would end up with too many left over. That wasn't the issue. Great to see so many landowners who have lost pine trees come by and want to reforest their properties. Now they just need to be sure to water these seedlings at least this first year. These trees came from the USFS Camino nursery north of Placerville and they looked really healthy, so they should well. Thanks to Matt from OneTreePlanted for their generous donation of trees and Debbie and Beverly of the Master Gardeners to host this awesome event. Also thanks RCD board member Frances Schabram, associate board member Brady Debois, and administrator Mary Cole for pitching in. Wow, that was a fun event!

With so much interest, we are excited about making this an annual event. Next time we may need to acquire more trees for Calaveras landowners."

How to Thin Fruit Trees

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

Fruit trees often set an abundance of fruit, often at the expense of the tree or the quality and size of the fruit. It is important to thin fruit from your trees at the appropriate time so that the remaining fruit will reach its maximum size and best flavor. Thinning fruit also lessens the chance of limb breakage.

Most stone fruit such as plums, peaches, nectarine and apricots, and pome fruit, such as apples, pears and Asian pears require thinning. It is important to thin the fruit at the correct time, the fruit should be fairly small 3/4" to 1" in diameter for stone fruit and pome fruit should be 1/2" to 1" in diameter.



The amount of fruit to be thinned depends on the species and the fruit load. For example small stone fruit such as apricot and plums should be thinned to about 2" to 4" apart on the branch, peaches and nectarines to about 3" to 5" apart on the branch. If fruit load is light use the smaller number, if the tree has set a lot of fruit use the larger number. Pome fruit trees produce clusters of fruit, thin to no more than 1 or 2 fruit per cluster keeping the largest fruit in the cluster. With a heavy crop there should be at least 6" to 8" between clusters.

The best way to thin fruit is by hand. Firstly thin out small, disfigured or damaged fruit. If a long branch has fruit its entire length, thin more heavily and thin out fruit on the ends of the long terminal branch. Make sure the fruit on the tree is sufficiently thinned so that at maturity the fruit does not touch.

2018 Plant Sales at the Demo Garden

Future plant sales will be held at the demo garden from 10am to noon at Saturday Open Garden Events: April 28, May 23, June 28, September 22, and October 27.

Next Open Garden - April 28

Press release by Maggi Blood, UCCE Master Gardener of Calaveras County.

The Calaveras County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden will be open on Saturday, April 28 from 10AM – 1PM. **Plant Sale 10am to Noon**

April showers bring May flowers or so the saying goes. This month we will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of various irrigation systems and the water requirements of different plants. April is also a good month to install underground systems since the soil is soft and easier to dig.



History of Olives in Calaveras County

At the March General Meeting, Terry Beaudoin provided a fascinating account of the important role Calaveras County played in the early years of the olive industry in California, as well as the long-lasting impact on the countryside.

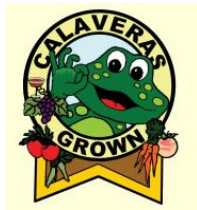


CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market 2018

UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County is hosting a fourth season of the CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Markets at the demonstration garden in San Andreas. The market is the second Thursday of the month from May to September:

May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9 and September 13

This free, fun event features members of the Calaveras band 'Vintage Vibrations' playing jazz, swing and Dixieland. There will be a free kids activity in the Children's Garden.



Terry Beaudoin is the founder and owner of Beaudoin's Olive Products in Valley Springs, Calaveras County. A member of Calaveras GROWN, the Calaveras County Historical Society, and Big Trees State Park Association, he is also on the Board of Directors of the Calaveras Community Foundation.

His love for Olives has been the focus for the last 10 years. Research for his and Salvatore Manna's' Book, "Olives in California's Gold Country" took him to almost every Museum, Historical Society and Olive processing plant in California. He and Sal have already delivered over 50 presentations on Olive history.

Event in April & May 2018

April 28	Open Garden 10am to 1pm Plant Sale 10am to 12.30pm
May 10	CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market 4pm to 6pm
May 12	Kids Day in the Garden 10am to noon
May 26	Open Garden 10am to 1pm Plant Sale 10am to noon



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