

Master Gardener Monthly Newsletter

October 2019



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
San Mateo and San Francisco Counties

Events

BIOREACTOR PROJECT



Gardening Education Center
San Mateo Event Center (next to the Jockey Club)
2495 South Delaware Avenue
San Mateo, CA

Master Gardeners and friends helped fill the [Johnson-Su Compost Bioreactor](#) on Saturday, July 20, 2019, at the San Mateo Gardening Education Center (GEC). A small group of helpers built the cage lined with landscape fabric, and set it on a wood pallet with scaffolding on all sides. Materials to fill the bioreactor were gathered by many Master Gardeners. A hedge at

the GEC was trimmed, chipped, and dried. It took two hours to actually fill the four foot wide by five foot tall cage, and a few more hours of shade setup, discussion, breaks and clean up. In black cement mixing trays, they hydrated or inoculated the fill materials in a compost extract bath that was mixed over and over again until a total of three yards of hedge chips, goat bedding, and oak leaves were soaked and drained. Five gallon buckets were used to fill up the bioreactor. Six four-inch PVC perforated drain pipes were placed into the contents one foot apart for air circulation. Twenty-four hours later the bioreactor reached 110°F. They removed the pipes and frame holding the pipes, added drip irrigation, and covered the top. The air holes were holding up well just as described by Dr. David Johnson who, along with his wife, created the Johnson-Su Bioreactor. Forty-eight hours later, the bioreactor registered 134°F. No turning is required as the perforations in the PVC drain pipes, inserted strategically into the mix, will provide enough air to maintain aerobic conditions. They will now wait 12 months for a highly fungal compost to finish.

Gardening Tips & Tricks

PLANT PROBLEM DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

Choose the affected plant from photos displayed, click on the photo, remove any selections that do not apply, click on the plant names, and continue to filter selections to view the results for a possible diagnoses. [Learn more.](#)

GARDENING RESOURCES

Select links to access gardening resources, California Backyard Orchard, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), publications, and finding a local Master Gardener program. [Learn more.](#)

ARBORETUM ALL-STARS

Do you need help picking plants for your sustainable home garden? Selecting from the "Arboretum All-Stars" list is an easy way to start making "green" choices for your great looking garden. Arboretum All-Stars are top plants recommended by the horticultural staff of the UC Davis Arboretum. They thrive in California's Mediterranean climate and have qualities that make them great choices for sustainable home gardens. Use a [searchable plant database](#) to pick the perfect All-Star for your garden conditions. For more information, view their [website](#).

Videos



OCTOBER GARDEN CHECKLIST

October gets people excited for squash, corn, and other fall crops. However there are plenty of other things to do besides harvesting and decorating for the holidays. Check out a list of things to do in your organic garden during October. [View video.](#)

[View more videos](#) created by the UC Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties.

Classes & Clinics



Pumpkin Succulent Decorating Workshop

Gardening Education Center
San Mateo Event Center (next to the Jockey Club)
2495 South Delaware Avenue
San Mateo, CA
October 5, 2019, 10:00am-12:00pm

Join us outdoors at the Gardening Education Center for our first holiday class of the year. Get ready for Halloween and Thanksgiving and learn how to make beautiful succulent centerpieces with pumpkins. We will provide pumpkins, moss, succulents, plant material and all the tools you need. Using basic centerpiece design principles, you will learn how to arrange and display your unique creation. Participants will leave with a beautiful piece of living art to wow guests, family, and friends. [Registration required](#) (\$25 materials fee).



Critter Control in the Garden

Half Moon Bay Library
620 Correias Street
Half Moon Bay, CA
October 5, 2019, 10:00am-12:00pm

If four-legged critters are destroying your garden and gobbling up the fruits of your labor, then this is the class for you. You will learn many useful non-poisonous abatement techniques to protect your garden from gophers, moles, rats, and raccoons. If time allows, voles, skunks, and deer may also be discussed. Topics will include trapping, creating barriers, and deterrents. Learn to identify which pest is damaging your garden, trapping techniques for gophers, moles, and rats, about barrier methods to keep them out of your space, and which plants are the most gopher-resistant. [Registration required.](#)



Everything You Need to Know About Cover Crops

Lyngso Garden Materials, Inc.
345 Shoreway Road
San Carlos, CA
October 19, 2019, 10:00am-12:00pm

This beginning class will explain what are cover crops, why and how they benefit your garden and when to plant them. Some benefits are the reduction or elimination of fertilizers, improvement of soil structure, reduction of pesticide use, and the increase of soil nutrient retention and water infiltration. [Registration required](#) (event posted 2-3 weeks prior to the event).



Container Gardening for the Holidays

Veterans Memorial Senior Center
1455 Madison Avenue
Redwood City, CA
November 2, 2019, 10:00am-12:00pm

Learn how to create vibrant, beautiful containers that last the holiday season. The class will include design guidelines and the best planting techniques to keep your container garden thriving all season. A wide selection of plants will be presented to demonstrate color and combinations. In this class you will learn how to choose the right container for the location, create a visually interesting and balanced arrangement, and plant and care for container gardens. [Registration required.](#)



San Francisco 30th Street Plant Clinic
225 30th Street (between Church/Dolores)
San Francisco, CA
October 12, 2019, 10:00am-12:00pm

Master Gardeners are available to answer your plant and gardening questions, ranging from general information to advice about specific problems. Parking is limited. When you arrive at the Senior Center, take the elevator to the 3rd floor and ask for directions to the garden. It is all the way down the hallway and out the back door. No registration required.

San Mateo Arboretum Plant Clinic
Kohl Pump House
101 9th Avenue
San Mateo, CA
October 6, 2019, 11:00am-2:00pm

From a table stocked with reference material, we help members of the public with their plant and gardening questions. If we are unable to answer your question, we will submit it to our Helpline for assistance. No registration required.

[View Entire Calendar of Events](#)

Advice to Grow By...Ask A Master Gardener

Ask a UC Master Gardener! Our Helpline assists home gardeners with questions about gardening and pest management. Visit us in three locations at (1) Elkus Ranch, 1500 Purisima Creek Road in Half Moon Bay, from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Mondays; (2) Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Avenue in Redwood City, from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Thursdays, and (3) at the San Francisco Botanical Garden Library, 1199 9th Avenue in San Francisco, from 10:30am to 2:00pm on Wednesdays. You can also contact us at (650) 276-7403 or by [email](#). For more information view our [website](#) or read more about the [Helpline](#).



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