

Where to Go for Gardening Advice

By Rebecca Miller-Cripps

Lots of scientific research has gone into the subject of home gardening, but the practice of gardening is an art. And, as an art form, it can be frustrating when things don't turn out as planned. When you need answers to gardening questions, where can you go?

University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners in both Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties are trained to bring science and research-based answers to your gardening questions. Where can you find Master Gardeners when you have a gardening question?

1. Master Gardeners have an information table at the Sonora Certified Farmers Market on Saturday mornings, through October 20, on Stewart Street in downtown Sonora. It is open to the public from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Stop by and bring your questions on garden topics.
2. Master Gardeners are at the OSH information booth, located on the main aisle just inside the nursery area doors, on Thursdays, April 26 through October. They are on hand from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Bring samples, photos and questions!
3. Master Gardeners have an information booth at the Farmory at Columbia Airport. The Farmory is open Wednesday and Saturday, all year, from 11-5 and Master Gardeners are there from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your questions and, if we don't have the answer, we'll find out and get the information back to you.
4. Master Gardeners compiled their best advice into a book called *Sharing the Knowledge: Gardening in the Mother Lode*. It is available at all Open Garden Days. It can also be purchased at the Mountain Bookshop in the Junction Shopping Center, and at the UCCE office at 52 North Washington Street in downtown Sonora. A "must-have" for Mother Lode gardeners, the book is priced at \$15, including sales tax.
5. And speaking of Open Garden Days, UCCE Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County open their demonstration garden to the public on the first Saturday of each month, February to November, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The garden is located on the campus of Cassina High School, 251 South Barretta Street near "The Dome" in Sonora. On August 4, Master Gardeners will be joined by Master Food Preservers to offer information on food dehydration and how to build a solar food dryer. They will also discuss summer pruning.
6. In Calaveras County, the Master Gardener demonstration garden is located at 891 Mountain Ranch Road in San Andreas, California. Currently the garden is open to the public each fourth Saturday of the month, March through October, at Open Garden Days where demonstrations, workshops, children's activities, garden tours and plant problem clinics are held. Check out the [Classes & Events webpage](#) for dates and times.
7. UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County also hold office hours to answer your gardening questions! They are available from 10-noon on Wednesdays at the UCCE office in Calaveras County, located at 423 East Saint Charles Street in San Andreas.

8. If you are not able to join Master Gardeners in person, please check out the gardening information found at [http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Master Gardeners/](http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners/). Answers to many garden problems can be found at <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/>. You can also call 209-533-5912 in Tuolumne County, 209-754-2880 in Calaveras County, or fill out our <http://ucanr.edu/ask-mgoftc>. You can also find us on Facebook.

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