Mulching

Mulching is one of the simplest and most important things you can do for your garden. Mulching preserves soil moisture, reduces evaporation, moderates fluctuations in soil temperature, keeps weeds down, encourages worms and other beneficial soil organisms, hides drip lines, and keeps your garden looking neat and well organized. Remove any weeds before applying mulch. Apply a two to four inch layer of mulch, but do not let it come in contact with the plant itself. The thicker the mulch, the harder it is for weeds to grow. Replenish mulch as needed; this is best done in the fall, after leaf cleanup.

Water-Wise

Over-watering plants can actually cause more damage than under-watering. When setting up your irrigation system it is best to be conservative to start, and then increase watering times if plants appear stressed. For the first few weeks after planting, check that each plant is receiving the appropriate amount of water. Grouping plants with similar watering needs together, in terms of watering frequency and amount, will help optimize water delivery and make your watering system easier to set up. You will need to make adjustments if plants are not getting enough water or are being over-watered.

Lastly

Don't be discouraged when plants fail to survive. This happens in all gardens. Many plants have a finite life, such as annuals (which provide seasonal color), and short-lived perennials. Plants may not flourish in a particular location or type of soil, or may be destroyed by garden pests such as gophers, deer, and voles. Nonetheless, you will be rewarded many times over when you develop a successful garden.

The Butte County All-Stars list in this brochure, and a photo gallery of All-Star plants can be found at our web site www.ucanr.edu/p/57979.

Gardening Questions?

Call or visit the Hotline / Help Desk
Phone: (530) 538-7201
Wednesday 9AM–12 PM and Thursday 1–4 PM

Butte County Cooperative Extension Office
2279-B Del Oro Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

UC Master Gardeners of Butte County
www.ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/

BUTTE COUNTY
All-Stars

Plants that thrive in our Mediterranean Climate

UC Master Gardeners of Butte County
Demonstration Garden
at
Patrick Ranch, 10381 Midway, Durham, CA

UC CE | University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program

An attractive garden has the ability to suspend time, while sharing the beauty and glory of nature.

—Michelle Ramsey, Butte County UC Master Gardener

This brochure includes a list of plants and trees that UC Master Gardeners of Butte County have grown in their Demonstration Garden, along with information on garden planning, planting, and maintenance. However, the plant list is updated only twice a year, so you may find some plants in the garden that are not on the list, and conversely some plants on the list that are no longer in the garden.

Our Mission

The Butte County UC Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden was developed to serve our mission to the public: education with an emphasis on sustainable gardening practices for the home gardener. Plans for the Demonstration Garden include 18 distinct gardens, with different areas of interest, such as Lawn Alternatives, Living with Oaks, Native Plants, Espalier Fruit Trees, and Pollinator Garden. The Demonstration Garden is open to the public free of charge.

A number of free garden demonstrations and workshops are offered at the Demonstration Garden throughout the year. Visit our web site at www.ucanr.edu/sites/bcmg/ to see what is currently being offered and sign up.

Butte All-Stars

The Butte All-Star Garden was the first of our gardens to be planted at Patrick Ranch. Our goal is to identify the best landscaping plants for use in Butte County. Butte All-Stars must be: easy to grow; well suited to our climate and soils; low-maintenance, especially in terms of fertilization and pruning; drought tolerant; able to support beneficial wildlife; and readily available to home gardeners. We compiled the list based on research and feedback from local nurseries and home gardeners with tried-and-true experience. We're proud to share the success of this garden with the public and invite you to visit often.

Daylily blooming in the All-Star Garden in June.

Planning Your Garden

Fall is the best time of year to plant a new garden. However, before you purchase a single plant or tree, make sure you have researched and understand the following:

1) The type of soil you have, including any drainage issues. Good drainage is critical to the success of your plants. Poor drainage subjects plants to a perpetually wet root system, which can result in increased root disease, iron and manganese deficiencies, and other growth problems. Before planting anything, identify and correct drainage issues caused by compacted soil, soil layering, or soil type.
2) Sun and shade patterns throughout the day in your intended garden area.
3) Gopher problems. If you have gophers, see "How to Manage Pests in Gardens and Landscapes" at https://tinyurl.com/kknux4e. You should also consider building or purchasing gopher baskets for each of your plants.
4) The most appropriate drip or micro-sprinkler system for your garden.

Using graph paper can be helpful to lay out your garden design and irrigation system to scale. Avoid overcrowding in the garden by allowing enough space between plants for them to grow to their mature width and height. Your design should place smaller, shorter plants in front with taller, larger plants in the rear. Also consider including hardscapes in your garden design. Hardscape features such as paths, seating areas, water features, and boulders add garden interest, invite you into the garden, and provide much-needed wildlife habitat.

Depending on your soil type and condition, list any amendments you may need to purchase. Adding organic matter facilitates better drainage by loosening the soil structure. It also improves the water holding capacity of excessively-drained, sandy soils, improves drainage in fine-textured soils, increases the activity and numbers of soil microorganisms, and encourages earthworms.

Plant Selection

Research, identify, and list the types of plants you want in your garden. Consider foliage, size, texture, and flower color. Note whether shrubs are evergreen or deciduous, as this will have an important impact on the look of your garden in different seasons. Selecting plants that are native and drought tolerant saves water, encourages fewer pests, and typically requires less overall maintenance. Incorporating plants that attract pollinators will keep your garden well-visited by bees, butterflies, ladybugs, hummingbirds, and other beneficials.

Note: Each spring and fall, the Butte County UC Master Gardeners hold a plant sale at the Demonstration Garden. Most of the plants are propagated (through cuttings or from seed) directly from plants growing in the garden. We encourage you to visit the Demonstration Garden often and observe the appearance and performance of plants during all four seasons. This can help you determine which plants will work in your own garden design.

Planting

Dig your planting hole two to three times wider than the plant's root ball (or the width of the container) but only as deep as the distance from the top of the root ball to the bottom of the container. This will allow room for the roots to easily expand. If using gopher baskets, you will need to increase the size of the hole to accommodate the gopher basket.

With drainage issues addressed, carefully remove your plant from the container and loosen the edges of the root ball. Place the plant in the hole, backfill halfway with dirt, add water to settle the soil, and let the water soak in. Finish backfilling the hole, gently tamp down the soil, and water once again. Make sure the top of the root ball is at, or slightly above, soil level.

Butte County All-Stars

Plants that thrive in our Mediterranean Climate

UC Master Gardeners of Butte County
Demonstration Garden at Patrick Ranch

Common Name	Scientific Name	Drought Tolerant	Sun/Shade	Calif. Native	Deer Resistant	Cold Hardy	Pollinators Attracted	Flower Color	Seasonal Color	Size HxW (Ft.)
Trees										
Crape Myrtle	*Lagerstroemia indica*	X	sun			X		various	Su, F	25 x 25
Shantung Maple	*Acer truncatum*	X	sun/part shade			X		greenish-yellow	Sp	20–25 x 15–20
Oak	*Quercus spp.*	X	sun	X	X	X	butterflies			30–80 x 30–70
Evergreen shrubs										
English Lavender	*Lavandula Angustifolia*	X	sun		X	X	bees, butterflies	light lavendar	Sp, Su, F	2–3 x 4–6
English Lavender	*Lavandula* 'Hidcote'	X	sun		X	X	bees, butterflies	blue violet, purple	Sp, Su, F	2–4 x 2–6
Green Supreme Manzanita	*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* 'Green Supreme'	X	sun	X	X	X		white to pink	Sp, Su	1 x 1
Howard McMinn Manzanita	*Arctostaphylos* 'Howard McMinn'	X	sun	X	X	X	bees, butterflies, hummingbirds	whitish-pink	W, Sp	5–7 x 6–10
Heavenly Bamboo	*Nandina domestica*	X	both		X	X	butterflies	white, red/orange berries	Sp	1–5 x 2–4
Bush Germander	*Teucrium Frutescens* 'Azureum'	X	sun	X	X	X	bees	dark blue	W	3–4 x 4–5
Wall Germander	*Teucrium Chamaedrys Prostratum*	X	sun		X	X	bees, butterflies	magenta	Sp, Su, F	1–2 x 2–3
Rosemary	*Rosmarinus* varieties	X	sun		X	X	bees, butterflies	blue	W, Sp	1–6 x 3–6
May Night Sage	*Salvia* 'May Night'	X	sun	X	X	X	bees, butterflies, hummingbirds	violet-blue	Sp, Su, F	2–4 x 3–6
Black and Blue Sage	*Salvia guaranitica*		sun/part shade		X	X	butterflies	dark blue w/ black Calyces	Su, F	2–5 x 2–5
Russian Sage	*Perovskia* 'Little Spire'	X	sun		X	X	bees, hummingbirds	violet-blue	Su, F, W	1–4 x 1–4
Winnifred Gilman Cleveland Sage	*Salvia clevelandii* 'Winnifred'	X	sun	X	X	X	bees, butterflies, hummingbirds	blue-violet	Sp, Su, F	4–5 x 4–5
Ornamental Grasses										
Deergrass	*Muhlenbergia rigens*	X	sun/part shade	X		X	bees, butterflies	None	Su, F	4 x 4
Eulalia	*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light'		sun/part shade		X	X		silvery-white	Su, F, W	2–7 x 4–7
Feather Reed Grass	*calamagrostis* 'Karl Foerster'		sun		X	X		pinkish-purple	W, Sp, Su, F	3–5 x 1.5–2.5
Blue Fescue	*Festuca glauca* 'Elijah Blue'	X	sun		X	X		None	Su, F	1–2 x 1
Blue Oat Grass	*Helictotrichon sempervirens*	X	sun/part shade		X	X		None	Su	2 x 3
Leatherleaf Sedge	*Carex buchananii*		sun/part shade		X			None	Su, F, W	1–3 x 1–3
Fountain Grass	*Pennisetum* 'Little Bunny'	X	sun/part shade					whitish-green	Su, F	1.5 x 2

Common Name	Scientific Name	Drought Tolerant	Sun/Shade	Calif. Native	Deer Resistant	Cold Hardy	Pollinators Attracted	Flower Color	Seasonal Color	Size HxW (Ft.)
Groundcovers										
Woolly Yarrow	*Achillea tomentosa*	X	sun		X	X	butterflies	yellow	Sp, Su	6″–8″
Emerald Carpet Manzanita	*Arctostaphylos* 'Emerald Carpet'	X	sun/part shade	X	X	X	bees, butterflies, hummingbirds	pink turning to brick-red berry-like drupes	W, Sp	1 x 6
Plumbago	*Ceratostigma Plumbaginoides*	X	sun/part shade		X			blue	Su, F	1 x 1.5
Candytuft	*Iberis Sempervirens*	X	sun		X		butterflies	white	Sp	.5–1 x .5–1
Partridge Feather	*Tanacetum Densum ssp. Amani*	X	sun/part shade				butterflies	yellow, white	Su	.5–1 x 2
Common Bearberry	*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* 'Massachusetts'	X	sun/part shade	X	X		butterflies, hummingbirds	white, pink	Sp, Su	.5–1 x 3-6
Elfin Thyme	*Thymus Elfin*	X	sun		X	X	bees, butterflies	lavender-pink	Sp, Su	.5 x 3
Deciduous shrubs										
Butterfly Bush	*Buddleja davidii,* 'Dark Knight'	X	sun		X		butterflies, hummingbirds	fragrant, bright vibrant colors	Sp, Su	6–8 x 3–5
Rose of Sharon	*Hibiscus syriacus*	varies	sun			X	butterflies, hummingbirds	purple, white	Su	8–10 x 6–8
Flowering perennials										
Black-eyed Susan	*Rudbeckia* 'goldsturm'	X	sun		X	X	bees, butterflies	yellow rays w/black center	Su, F	2–3 x 1–2
White / Purple Coneflower	*Echinacea* 'White Swan'	X	sun/part shade			X	butterflies	white	Sp, Su, F	2–3 x 1–2
Bearded Iris, German Iris	*Iris germanica*	X	sun		X	X	hummingbirds	purple falls w/yellow beards	Sp	2–4 x 2
Winter Iris	*Iris unguicularis*	X	sun		X	X	hummingbirds	various	F, W, Sp	2–4 x 3
Margarita BOP	*Penstemon heterophyllus* 'Margarita BOP'	X	sun	X		X	butterflies, hummingbirds	blue violet	Sp, Su	1–2 x 2–3
Oregano	*Origanum* 'Kent Beauty'	X	sun		X	X		pink	Su, F	1 x 1
Purple Penstemon	*Penstemon* 'Plum Flowered'	X	sun/part shade		X	X	bees, butterflies	plum-purple	Su, F	2.5 x 1.5
Lemon Thyme	*Thymus Citriodorus*	X	sun		X		bees, butterflies	pale lilac	Su	.5 x 1
Golden Lemon Thyme	*Thymus Citriodorus* 'Aureus'	X	sun		X		bees, butterflies	white, pink	Sp, Su	4″ x 12″
Daylily	*Hemerocallis spp.*	X	sun/part shade				butterflies	red, apricot, yellow, orange	Su, F	1–3 x 1–2
Spurge	*Euphorbia* 'Chameleon'	X	sun/part shade		X	X	butterflies	yellowish-green	Sp, Su	1 x 1–2
Autumn Joy Sedum	*Sedum Spectabile* 'Autumn Joy'	X	sun			X	bees, butterflies	pink to copper, brown, red	Su, F	1–3 x 1–3
Creeping Winter Savory (Herb)	*Satureja Montana*	X	sun/part shade		X	X	bees	white, pink	Sp, Su, F	1.5 x 1
Catmint	*Nepeta faassenii* 'Walker's Lowe'	X	sun		X		butterflies, hummingbirds	lavender blue	Sp, Su	2.5 x 3
Yarrow Cultivars	*Achillea* 'Coronation', *Achillea* 'Moonshine'	X	sun		X	X	bees, butterflies, hummingbirds	yellow	Sp, Su, F	2–3 x 1–2

SEASONAL COLOR: Winter (W), Spring (Sp), Summer (Su), Fall (F)