



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Richard Molinar, Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension-Fresno County, 559-288-7147



Hmong Specialty Crop and Medicinal Herb Conference

Fresno County has about 1,300 SE Asian refugee farmers that grow a variety of specialty crops on the urban fringes of Fresno City and extending out towards Sanger, Fowler, Centerville, and Clovis. This conference is about those farmers and the crops that they grow such as bitter melon, lemongrass, long beans, strawberries, eggplants, and many more.

“The Asian vegetables they produce and the challenges faced by the Hmong, Lao, and Mien farmers here in Fresno are the focus of the meeting,” says Richard Molinar, Farm Advisor at the University of California Cooperative Extension. “You will learn about bitter melon, lemongrass, and various medicinal herbs and how they are used.”

The tour starts at 12:00 PM on July 19th at four different Hmong farms, and concludes with presentations by various speakers on July 20th. The conference begins at 8:30 AM on the 20th at the Orchid Hall in the Asian Village at 4903 Kings Canyon Rd. in SE Fresno. Madeira vine, *Anredera cordifolia*, is a special herb found in Laos that can be used like Elmer’s Glue. Sinqua, *Luffa acutangula*, is similar to zucchini squash and prepared the same way. Lemongrass chicken is a popular dish in many Asian restaurants, and much of the lemongrass comes from farms in Fresno.

Learn about these different vegetables, and much more at this special event. The conference is free and includes a Hmong lunch, Hmong greeters, Hmong dancers, displays of specialty vegetables and herbs. Meet Miss Hmong Fresno. But you must RSVP and space is limited.

Phone the UC Cooperative Extension office in Fresno at 559-600-7285 to reserve a space or for more information. An agenda is found on the Cooperative Extension website <http://cefresno.ucdavis.edu> .

