

Opening Keynote

Protecting our Gardens and Crops: The Home Gardener's Role as Front-line Detector

Dr. Deborah Golino, Director of Foundation Plant Services at UC Davis

Gardeners and farmers alike need to be on the look-out for new exotic pests, diseases and weeds. Two new programs from the USDA can assist in this effort. The National Plant Diagnostic Network is charged with training everyone from home gardeners to scientists to recognize these threats and to teach us how to respond if we find something unusual. The National Clean Plant Network participates in safely importing new crop or garden plants from other countries and checking them for plant diseases. Dr. Golino directs one of the two Clean Plant Centers in California and will talk about some of the programs underway at UC Davis and how these help protect our gardens and crops.

10:00 Breakout Sessions

Square Foot Gardens: Small Space, Big Impact!

Melanie Sarkisian & Charlene Novack, UCCE Master Gardeners, Fresno County

The Square Foot Gardening method is all about the spacing. That is why it can save 80% of the space a traditional row garden would take. Square Foot Gardening also conserves 90% of the water, 98% of the seeds and 99% of the work. It is by far, the easiest and most convenient way to garden.

Smart and Good-looking: Garden Redesign for Sustainability and Beauty

Sharon Rossi, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

The typical residential landscape has been designed with an unconscious disregard for nature; however, we can redesign our home gardens to meet our needs for rest, recreation and beauty while incorporating the principles of sustainability. Learn how to create a personal and regionally-appropriate landscape that requires less water and fewer garden chemicals, while remaining attractive through all four seasons.

Growing Blueberries in your Own Backyard

Michael Eggers, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Blueberries are attractive plants which produce delicious fruit, but they are tricky to grow. Find out how to select a plant with fruit to suit your taste and get it well established in your garden. You will also learn how to care for your blueberries and maximize your production.

Lawns and Ground Covers: What's In and What's Out

Michelle Le Strange, Tulare/Kings County UCCE Turf & Landscape Farm Advisor

Lawns and groundcovers play an important role in almost every home landscape and seem to require a lot of maintenance and water to look good. When water availability becomes an issue, the lawn is always targeted as a water hog. Michelle will show you ways to effectively use the lawn in a valley landscape, discuss types of lawns and varieties best suited for the San Joaquin Valley, give tips to minimize maintenance time, and suggest several broadleaf groundcovers that can be used instead of a grass lawn.

All Things Citrus

Lance Walheim, Horticulturist, Author and Owner of California Citrus Specialties

Learn how to choose citrus varieties according to climate, adaptation, ripening period, ornamental characteristics and fruit quality. Lance will also explore the citrus family from A to Z and speak to the care of citrus trees, including proper planting, watering, fertilizing and pest control.

11:00 Breakout Sessions

What! No Lawn? Designing for our Mediterranean Climate

Jody Palmer, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Want to redesign your garden to be more climate-appropriate and conserve water? Where to begin? What plants work best? This presentation will take you through the design process, offer attractive lawn alternatives, and Jody's plant favorites appropriate for our valley.

No Chickens in your Veggies, Please!

Robbie Cranch, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Now that you've raised those beautiful fruits, vegetables, herbs and edible flowers (or purchased them from your local farmers market) how do you keep them fresh and healthy until they reach your table? This presentation will review best food handling and storage practices for the edible landscape and beyond...with a refresher on why your chickens (and other companion animals) should not roam!

It's All About Lavender

Valerie Kissler, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

One of the most useful, easiest-to-grow herbs in the Central Valley is lavender. Propagation, planting procedures, harvest, and pruning will be discussed in this session along with ideas for the many uses of this multi-faceted plant. Come find out which lavender to plant for your intended purpose – whether it be for culinary, crafting or in the landscape.

Gardening with Children at School and at Home

Rose Pipkin, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Children enjoy digging in the dirt, planting seeds and eating the food they grow. How to start a children's garden and then maintain it will be the focus of this presentation. Helping children develop an interest in healthy activity and good nutrition will also be explored.

How to Irrigate your Garden Efficiently and Save \$\$\$

Tim Sullivan, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Higher water rates are here in Fresno. This seminar will educate gardeners on how to irrigate properly in the San Joaquin Valley. New irrigation technology and techniques that will save you time will also be discussed.

1:00 Breakout Sessions

Vegetable Gardening Basics

Carolyn Unruh, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

If you have thought about growing your own vegetables but don't know how to get started, this session is just what you need. Join Carolyn for an introduction to planning, planting and growing fresh and nutritious food in your home garden.

Smart Ideas for Making Your own Potting Bench

Russ Lindquist, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Gardeners enjoy a useful and attractive space for working with plants. Have you ever thought about making your own potting bench? Russ Lindquist, Master Gardener and woodworker, will share tips as well as facilitate discussion and suggestions from the group. You will leave with ideas about planning, size, configuration, features, materials, and finish. Russ will also recommend tools that may be helpful in your project.

Trees for Small Spaces

Jackie Bradley, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Trees enhance our landscapes and lifestyles, but smaller lot sizes make it a challenge to find appropriately sized trees. Learn some great tree choices for small yards or for tucking into a courtyard, side yard or patio space. Tips on shaping overgrown shrubs and large-species shrubs into small trees are also included.

Petscaping: Gardening with Fido

Karen Basso, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Dogs are man's best friend and they are members of our families. Learn how to garden with your dog underfoot and always in the yard and still maintain your sanity. Learn which plant materials will work with your dog, and how to create pet friendly zones including sun and shade areas and containment.

Attracting Pollinators to your Garden

Becky Thompson, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Bees, butterflies, moths and wasps pollinate 70% of the flowering plants on earth and are directly responsible for one out of every three bites of food we eat. Learn how to provide healthy, flowering habitats and nesting sites in your garden.

2:00 Breakout Sessions

Add Texture and Color with Cactus and Succulents

Ruth Saludes, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Learn about planting, potting and caring for cactus and succulents. Topics include soil preparation, transplanting, how often to water your plants, finding the proper amount of sunlight/shade as well as discovering microclimates. Some design and display ideas will also be discussed.

Beyond Lady Bugs: Beneficials in your Garden

Norm Smith, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Beneficial insects and mites of San Joaquin Valley gardens will be presented. The usual, widely known beneficials like lady bugs, praying mantids and green lacewings will be discussed, but some of the lesser known, but not necessarily less important, predators and parasitoids will also be presented such as Chalcidoid parasitoids, vespid wasps, sphecid wasps and predatory beetles.

Back to Basics: Soil, Soil, Soil

Beth Teviotdale and Michael Harman, UCCE Master Gardeners, Fresno County

Healthy happy plants grow in high quality soil. Learn some soil basics: how to care for your soil, solve some common soil problems, and top this off with some tips on the value of ADDING compost to even the healthiest soil.

What's Happening to my Roses?

Carole Chavin, UCCE Master Gardener, Madera County

This presentation will focus on the ten top rose diseases: how to recognize them and how to treat them. Samples of these diseases on roses and some products used to treat them will also be discussed. Disease resistant varieties will be identified.

Weed Free? It's Possible!

Maggie Courtis, UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County

Learn all you need to know to win the war on weeds. You will leave understanding solarization, when and how to use pre- and post-emergent chemicals properly and cultural practices to minimize the invasion of weeds. This seminar will teach you how to identify weeds and use appropriate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies to control them. Web-site resources will be shared for future reference.

Closing Keynote Speaker

Gardening as a Healthy Habit

Missy Gable, Director, Statewide Master Gardener Program

Gardening is a phenomenal habit. Why? Because gardening gets you outdoors; and moving. Did you know that simply being in an outdoor environment causes physiological and mental changes in your body that can make you healthier? Come and learn what the outdoors can do for your health and wellbeing.