

How Does Your Garden Grow?



News from UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County

February 2018

From The Editor

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2018! Read on for news about construction at the demo garden, upcoming events and lots of gardening advice.

Happy Gardening!
Odile Morrison, Newsletter Editor

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New Outdoor Classroom for Demo Garden



In 2017 Calaveras Master Gardeners received a Whole Kids grant for \$2000 to create an outdoor classroom area. Additional funds were contributed by the memorial fund for Master Gardener, Tony Abel. Designed and built by talented Master Gardener Erin Harper, construction of the structure is now complete. The plan is to have this area completely finished by our first Open Garden in March.



2018 Event Calendar

Check out our full program of events for 2018 [here](#)

Next Open Garden March 24

10am to 1pm

Tree Giveaway!

[More](#)

Next General Meeting March 20, 2018

10am to noon, San Andreas Library

“The History of Olives in Calaveras County”

Presented by Terry Beaudoin

[More](#)

Facelift for Children's Garden



In preparation for our next season of Open Gardens, Frank Ross is busy rebuilding the arbor and fence around the Children's Garden. He and his wife Linda are the incoming garden champions for this important area. Thanks to you both!

To Do List for March

By Teresa Spence, University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Of Calaveras County

- As spring growth appears on roses, annual flowers and berries, fertilize with compost or well as decomposed manure. It will give your plants a slow release of nutrients.
- Check roses, grapes and ornamentals for signs of powdery mildew. Treat with sulfur when growth is at least 2" and temperatures are below 90 degrees.
- Keep pulling young weeds while the soil is still moist and the weeds come out easily.
- If you plan on growing tomatoes from seed, March is the best time to start the seeds so they will be ready to plant out in May.

Prepare the soil in your vegetable garden for summer vegetables:

Before working on preparing soil in the garden make sure it is not too wet, otherwise it will form clumps. Take a handful of soil and squeeze it, if it holds together it is too wet, if it crumbles it is ready to work. Clean up around and in your beds by removing all old vegetables, weeds and debris prior to digging in the soil.



Good organic soil is loose and fluffy, filled with air, and live organisms. It should have a Ph between 6.5 to 6.8. If it is too acidic or alkali no matter how much organic matter it contains, most plants will not be able to access the nutrients. It is



important to test the soil with a simple soil test kit, or send soil samples to a testing lab for more extensive analysis. If the soil is too acidic, below 6.0, powdered limestone or other amendments can be added, if it is too alkali above 7.0, ground sulfur or other types of amendments can be used to acidify the soil. It is best to do this several weeks before planting as it will take some time for the soil to absorb these amendments.

All soils benefit from organic matter. Well aged compost or manure mixed in the soil at a depth of 8 to 12" will promote good drainage and provide nutrients to the vegetables. Just prior to planting, add a layer of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer, such as manure and bone meal, dig it in to the top 2" to 4 " of soil and water it in thoroughly. You are now ready to plant your summer vegetable garden.

Follow the time and temperature guidelines for each individual vegetable before planting. After planting, place a layer of mulch over all exposed soil, but not touching the plants, this will help to moderate the temperature of the soil and keep it from drying out and forming a crust.

Water as necessary, using a drip system to deliver moisture to each individual plant is the best way to efficiently water vegetable beds without wasting precious resources.

The soil preparation prior to planting should produce healthy and bountiful crops throughout the summer.

Planting Potatoes

By Teresa Spence, University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Of Calaveras County

Consider planting potatoes this year; late February is a good time to plant this crop. Potatoes prefer a light, loose and organic rich soil that drains well. There are many varieties of potatoes. It is best to buy seed potatoes; avoid potatoes bought in the supermarket as they are treated with growth inhibitors. There are many methods of planting potatoes. Here is an example of one of them: Dig a trench 12" deep by 12" wide. The length will depend on how many plants are wanted, allowing at least 18" between plants. If gophers are a problem in the garden, line the trench with 1/2 " to 1" chicken wire, going up all the sides and leaving a couple of inches above the soil. Place 3 to 4 inches of soil back into the trench, place seed potatoes 18 inches apart, then add another 3 to 4 inches of soil on top of the potatoes.

When the potato plant is 5 or 6 inches tall, add the rest of the soil around the plant leaving the top 2 inches above the soil. The potatoes will form along the stem of the plant.

Potatoes need adequate moisture, but should not be too wet, as this will rot the tuber. You will see a plant in about 3 to 4 weeks a plant. If there is still a chance of frost, protect the plants with frost cloth. In about 6 to 8 weeks the new potatoes will be forming; at this time you can gently harvest some of the small potatoes by carefully digging around the plant with a trowel without disturbing the mother plant. After you reach into the soil and remove some delicious new potatoes, gently tamp down the soil around the plant.



In about 8 to 12 weeks the potatoes will have enlarged, and in about 12 to 16 weeks the plants will be dying off. When the plants have dried up, dig up the potatoes and brush off the soil, allow them to dry out in a cool, dark well-ventilated area for about a week to 10 days. Thin-skinned potatoes do not last as long as thick-skinned potatoes; these potatoes will store in a cool dark place for a few months. Each plant can produce approximately 2 to 4 pounds of potatoes.

Event Calendar 2018

March 24	Open Garden & Tree Giveaway 10am to 1pm Winter Plant Sale 10am to noon
April 28	Open Garden 10am to 1pm Plant Sale 10am to 12.30pm
May 10	CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market 4pm to 6pm
May 12	Kids Day in the Garden 10am to noon
May 26	Open Garden 10am to 1pm Plant Sale 10am to noon
June 14	CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market 4pm to 6pm
June 23	Open Garden 10am to 1pm Plant Sale 10am to noon
July 12	CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market 4pm to 6pm
July 28	Open Garden 10am to 1pm
August 9	CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market 4pm to 6pm
August 25	Open Garden 10am to 1pm
September 13	CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market 4pm to 6pm
September 22	Open Garden 10am to 1pm Plant Sale 10am to noon
October 27	Open Garden 10am to 1pm Plant Sale 10am to noon

Kids Day is May 12, 2018

Mark your calendars for our annual Kids Day at the demo garden. This fun, free event will take place from 10am to noon on Saturday May 12 this year. It is a partnership with First Five and Prevent Child Abuse Council.

Katie Johnson Joins the Cooperative Extension Team

It is with great pleasure that we introduce our new Nutrition, Family and Consumer Science Advisor for the UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra. She is excited to join the Central Sierra team and to begin building partnerships and assessing health needs in order to develop an integrated approach to fighting obesity, chronic disease, poor nutrition, and inactivity in the region. She received her B.A. in Environmental Studies from Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She then went on to receive her Masters of Public Health from UC Berkeley in Public Health Nutrition. She lives in Sonora with her husband Larry who owns and operates Red Earth Farm. Katie's main office will be in Calaveras County. Welcome Katie!



Reforestation Workshops in March

We are pleased to announce a Reforestation on Lands Affected by Wildfire and Tree Mortality Workshop that will be held in Placerville on March 7th, Sonora on March 9th and Mariposa on March 16th. This is a cross agency workshop being held by the Tree Mortality Task Force, CalFire, Society of American Foresters, UCCE, and Natural Resources Conservation Services. The workshop is aimed at landowners, foresters and others who are involved in planning and executing tree planting and reforestation projects.

Register online at:
<http://ucanr.edu/reforestationworkshop/>.

Master Gardener Tree Mortality Toolkit

UC Central Sierra has a toolkit designed to give Master Gardener volunteers resources for extending research based information on the tree mortality issue at http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Forestry/Tree_Mortality_Train_the_Trainer_Presentations/

First Open Garden - March 24

Tree Giveaway!

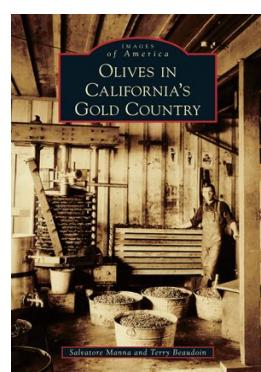
The Calaveras County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden will be open on Saturday, March 24 from 10AM – 1PM. Plant sale 10AM -12. The Demonstration Garden is located at the County Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas.

The Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD) has been awarded hundreds of ponderosa and sugar pine and giant sequoia seedlings through CalFire, OneTreePlanted, and the El Dorado RCD to be given out to landowners who lost trees to the Butte Fire and/or tree mortality in Calaveras County.

Come to the UCCE Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden between 10 am and 1 pm Saturday March 24th for up to 10 containerized seedlings. Master gardeners will be on-site to give instructions on how to plant and grow these seedlings into tall trees! For more info, please call UCCE office @ 209-533-5695.



Next General Meeting March 20



Our next general meeting will take place on Tuesday March 20th, 2018 at the San Andreas Library from 10am to noon. **Everyone is welcome to attend the speaker's presentation at 11am.**

10am: Business Meeting
11am: Speaker:
Terry Beaudoin presents,

"The History of Olives in Calaveras County".



Master Gardener Board of Directors

Elections were held at the November 2017 annual potluck. Thanks to Terri Bishop for her outstanding service as Vice President. In addition to maintaining the waterwise garden, Terri will continue to spearhead our annual Kids Day event, held in May each year. She has now stepped down from this role and Odile Morrison has been elected to the position.

Another thank you to departing board Member at Large, Michele Rugo. Michele continues to offer her expertise in many areas, including artistic creations for the plant sale, help and advice in the vegetable garden and her invaluable editing skills. Her family of colorful plantpot creatures are also just one of contributions to the Children's Garden. Welcome to Sue Hopwood, who is our newly appointed Board Member at Large.

Congratulations to incumbents Barbara Olivier and Deanna Correa who were elected for a second term.

2018 Board of Directors:

Cora Jacobson, President
Odile Morrison, Vice President
Barbara Olivier, Secretary
Lynn Darmstead, Treasurer
Bev Vierra Pennington, Demo Garden Coordinator
Dolores Ransom, Member Liaison
Sue Hopwood, Board Member at Large
Deanna Correa, Youth Programs & Special Projects

Master Gardener Coordinator

Debbie Powell
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Just because....



CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market 2018

UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County is hosting a fourth season of the CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Markets at the demonstration garden in San Andreas. The market is the second Thursday of the month from May to September:

**May 10, June 14, July 12,
August 9 and September 13**

This free, fun event features members of the Calaveras band 'Vintage Vibrations' playing jazz, swing and Dixieland. There will be a free kids activity in the Children's Garden.



PlantRight Survey

Excerpt from PlantRight Blog February 1, 2018

Last year marked the 8th year of [PlantRight](#)'s annual [Spring Nursery Survey](#), and thanks to a large number of UC Master Gardener volunteers, as well as volunteers from other organizations, it was a huge success! The UC Master Gardener Program and its volunteers have been a key partner since the inception of the survey in 2010, and make up most of our volunteer base. Farther afield, volunteers from the California Native Plant Society, Association of Professional Landscape Designers, Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, and Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture help by surveying nurseries in more remote areas.

2017 by the numbers:

- 172 volunteers
- 332 garden centers
- 45 counties

According to the 2017 [Spring Nursery Survey Fact Sheet](#), the rate of nurseries selling invasive plants continues to decline. In 2014, 44% of nurseries surveyed were selling locally invasive plants; this rate dropped to 35% in 2015, to 31% in 2016, and 29% in 2017. Of the nurseries that were selling any invasive plants in 2017, only 8% had more than one species of invasive plant for sale. This is down from 2016, when 10% of stores (that sold any invasive plants) had more than one invasive plant for sale.

No Spring Nursery Survey in 2018