



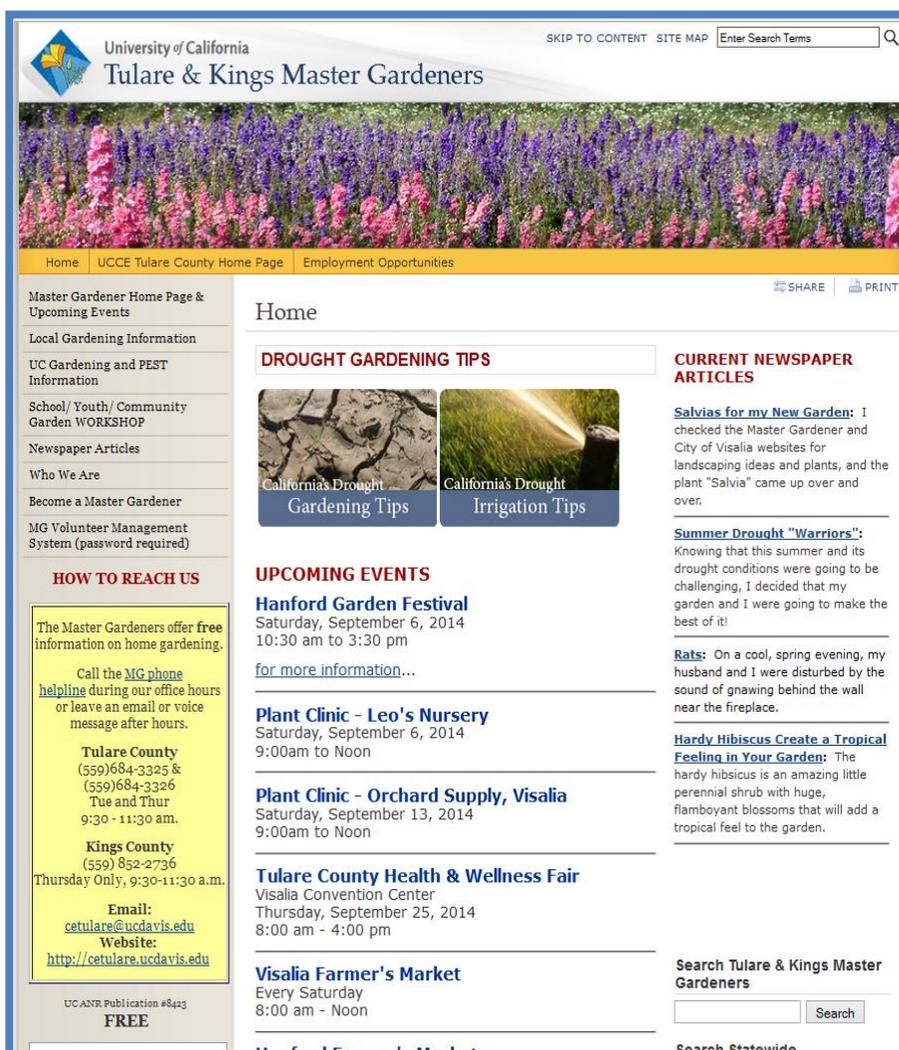
How to Find Answers to Your Home Gardening Questions

by Anne Skinner, UC Master Gardener

The members of the Tulare & Kings Counties Master Gardener Program are trained volunteers associated with the University of California Cooperative Extension. They provide gardening information to the public based on scientific research from University of California.

The Master Gardeners have an informative web page at: http://ucanr.edu/sites/UC_Master_Gardeners/, which highlights upcoming public events with details on how to attend them. The Master Gardeners hold outreach events for the public, such as garden festivals, booths at local farmers' markets, a speakers' bureau, plant clinics at local nurseries, and demonstration gardens. Some questions are best answered face-to-face, and the Master Gardeners are increasing outreach events every year. If you have a particular plant problem, you can bring a sample (in a sealed plastic bag or container, please) to any Master Gardener event, or to the UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Offices: 4437-B S. Laspina St., Tulare; or 680 N. Campus Drive, Hanford.

In addition to face-to-face assistance, the Master Gardeners provide answers to questions and concerns related to individuals' home (non-commercial) gardening, via telephone calls. Tulare County residents can reach the Master Gardener Volunteers on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, at 684-3325 or 684-3326. Kings County residents can reach the Master Gardener Volunteers on Thursdays from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, at 582-2736. You may also call the offices at your convenience and leave a message. The Master Gardeners will promptly return your call on the next office day.



The screenshot shows the website for the University of California Tulare & Kings Master Gardeners. The page features a navigation menu with links to Home, UCCE Tulare County Home Page, and Employment Opportunities. A sidebar on the left lists various resources such as Master Gardener Home Page & Upcoming Events, Local Gardening Information, and contact information for Tulare and Kings Counties. The main content area includes sections for Drought Gardening Tips, Current Newspaper Articles (with links to 'Salvias for my New Garden' and 'Summer Drought "Warriors"'), Upcoming Events (listing the Hanford Garden Festival, Plant Clinics at Leo's Nursery and Orchard Supply, and the Tulare County Health & Wellness Fair), and the Visalia Farmer's Market. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

Another excellent resource available to home gardeners via the UC Master Gardener's webpages is the **UC IPM (Integrated Pest Management)** website, complete with photos, videos, and strategies. If you have a pest in your garden, including insects, diseases, weeds or rodents, this website contains helpful articles outlining everything pest related. Furthermore, you will be able to peruse the **UC Guide to Healthy Lawns**, which is an excellent interactive tool to improve the appearance of your lawn and save water.

The **Newspaper Article** archive contains past articles listed by topic. The Master Gardener articles are all researched and focus on the writer's area of interest. Try checking the archive for recommendations on plants that do well in the Central Valley prior to planting flowers. It can save you time and money and give you some different choices.

The **Local Gardening Information** pages contain resources on specific garden topics. For example, in "Gardening Central Valley Style," there is a helpful link to hundreds of photographs of water-wise gardens. The list of "Ornamental Landscape Trees for Tulare and Kings Counties," is indexed by ultimate height and specific features, such as flowering or drought tolerant. Check out the "Vegetable Planting Guide for the San Joaquin Valley," on the **Vegetables, Herbs and Gourds** page.

A new online feature of the Master Gardener program is our **Facebook** page. Please visit: www.facebook.com/mgtularekings14 for information regarding new and ongoing events, along with gardening facts and tips. Having a presence on **Facebook** helps the Master Gardener volunteers share research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management and sustainable landscape practices. Please "like" their **Facebook** page and share the information with your friends and family.

Upcoming events include a Garden Festival at the Hanford Mall on Saturday September 6 from 11:00 am to 3 pm, and Plant Clinics: Leo's Nursery in Visalia on Saturday September 6 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, and at Orchard Supply Hardware in Visalia on Saturday September 13 and Saturday September 27, from 9:00 am to 12 noon. We hope to see you there!

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