

Talk Gardening with Master Gardeners
9 free Saturday workshops, 12:00pm – 1:00pm
Gardens at Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

March 24:

Great Compost Made Easy – learn steps, methods and tricks for great compost.

This talk will cover all of the details of composting: mixing greens and browns, other good ingredients, composting container options, keeping your pile hot and how to use your compost in your garden.

Master Gardener Sam Foushee makes amazing compost and grows beautiful vegetables in 3 Bay Area community gardens.

April 28:

Creating a bountiful summer vegetable garden that fills your plate and fits your space.

April is the ideal time to get your summer vegetables into the ground. Big spaces or small, you will learn how to grow wonderful summer vegetables, what varieties work best in our climate and when to plant. General gardening hints and questions & answers at the end.

Master Gardener Ann Naffziger created a “food forest” in her Alameda front and back yards. She grows everything from apples and asparagus thru dried beans all the way to zucchini. She’s got bees and chickens too!

May 26:

Tips and tricks for growing great vegetables in containers.

Containers are a good option for growing on decks, patios and compact yards. This talk will cover suitable containers, soil, vegetables and herbs for container gardening as well as light, water and fertilizer requirements. General gardening hints and questions & answers at the end.

Master Gardener David Blood shares many years of experience gardening in containers great and small.

June 23:

Got bugs? Outsmarting pests in your garden safely. Bring leaf & bug samples!

Want to learn more about what is eating your vegetables? Or what virus killed your tomato plants? And where to find out more when you do have a pest problem in your yard? This is the talk for you. Dennis will help you learn how to identify your bugs and manage them in the least toxic manner.

Master Gardener Dennis Brown will help you see your way through aphids, ants, snails and slugs as you learn about common pests and diseases.

July 28:

Native bees: learn all about our amazing bees and how to attract them to your garden.

What are native bees and why should we care about attracting them to our gardens? Celeste will give an introduction to common bees of our area, their ecology and life cycles and what plants we can grow to attract them. We should be able to spot many different species visiting the plants in our garden.

Native bee advocate and expert Celeste Ets-Hokin will inspire you to create beautiful bee habitat in your backyard.

August 25:

Planning and planting a Great Winter Vegetable Garden.

Why should you consider growing vegetables in the fall and winter? Sam will talk about benefits of a fall and winter garden and the wide array of vegetables you can grow in the cooler months. He will also cover the special needs vegetables have in the fall and winter as well as how to plan your garden and plant for success.

Master Gardener Sam Foushee grows beautiful vegetables during all seasons in 3 Bay Area community gardens.

Sept. 22:

Creating butterfly habitat in your backyard.

Come and learn how to attract butterflies to your backyard. Marla will cover the butterfly life-cycle, how to host butterflies in all of their forms and what plants work well in our climate to keep butterflies in our yards.

Master Gardener Marla Lee will share her wealth of knowledge on the subject of creating butterfly habitat. She created the Bay Farm Elementary School Butterfly Habitat garden in Alameda.

October 27:

Tips for Putting your Garden to Bed (12:00) and Outstanding Plants for the Bay Area (12:45)

Tips for how to put your garden to bed for winter: cleanup, compost, pruning and feeding.

October is a great time to prepare your garden for winter planting, mulching and enriching your soil through the use of cover crops. Join us for a practical and useful discussion covering pruning, fertilizing, feeding and mulching.

Master Gardener David Blood will share knowledge gained from years of careful winter preparation in his home garden in Oakland as well as in the community gardens he has tended.

Learn about truly outstanding perennials for the Bay Area

What makes a great plant for our summer-dry gardens? What does "drought tolerant" mean in the plant world? Meredith will discuss our Master Gardener's list of "Outstanding Plants", many of which are showcased in our Trials Garden. We will also discuss their planting and watering needs.

Master Gardener Meredith Kaplan worked in the landscape industry and will share her knowledge of the best plants for our climate.