



Keyhole Gardens and Compost.

The Glenn County Master Gardeners were given a keyhole garden container. Keyhole gardens were first designed in Africa. The keyhole garden consists of a raised bed that has a compost bin located inside the bed. Materials are added to the compost bin and as the material decomposes it will nourish the soil and plants around the bin. Penny Pawl a Master Gardener from Napa county recommends “when you plant a keyhole garden, aim for variety of plants in small groups as opposed to a single crop. Some vegetables do not do well in this type of situation, such as tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn and squash.”

The compost mixture put into the keyhole bin should be the same as you put into any other compost bin. As a review here are some basic information about composting.

- ◆ Always add equal amounts of greens and brown material.
- ◆ Keep the pile moist, such as a wrung out sponge.
- ◆ Never use pet or human waste, it may contain pathogenic bacteria, viruses and parasites that require prolonged high temperatures to be destroyed.
- ◆ Do not use charcoal briquettes—they contain sulfur oxides and other chemicals that are toxic to soil and plants .
- ◆ Grass clippings can be used as long as the clippings don't contain pesticide residue or the seeds of weeds. Bermuda grass clippings should not be used.

The UCCE Master Gardeners of Nevada and Placer Counties have a lot of information about composting on their website. Here is a link to their resources.

http://ncmg.ucanr.org/Composting_Resources/



The keyhole planter in the demonstration garden.

Compost and Manure and Food Safety

The UCCE of Nevada and Placer Counties has a publication on the safe use of manure in compost and in gardens. Manure contains E. coli bacteria and must be properly treated, to be safely used in gardens. For more information the publication can be found at the following link:

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/placervevadasmallfarms/files/135458.pdf>



UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram
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Master Gardener Business

August meeting on Wednesday the 7th , 1:00 at Orland Office

September meeting on Wednesday the 4th, 1:00 at Orland Office

Xerces Society Monarch Waystation

Update on the Waystation kit. The Orland High School FFA and Farm will be partnering with the Master Gardeners on this project. The school will plant the milkweed and nectar plants at the school farm. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate the life cycle of monarch butterflies to students and the public.

At the start of the school year we will be reaching out to other schools to determine if there is an interest in being part of the plantings.

Excess Produce Update

In Willows, the food bank is open on Tuesday from 1 – 4. Excess produce should be dropped off between 1230 and 1 PM so it can be distributed. They have no way to store excess produce that is not handed out.

In Orland excess produce can be dropped off at the Senior Center, 19 St Hwy 32. They are open Monday to Friday 10—2.



Tomatillos in the demo salsa garden.



The first tomato in the demo salsa garden has ripened.