



## UCCE Master Gardener's of Glenn County Newsgram

December 2021

# Seasons Greetings

**Wishing all the Master Gardeners a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.**

### Root Vegetables

Winter is the time of year when we consume more root vegetables, but did you know most of what we call root vegetables are not actually roots?

Carrot, parsnip, horseradish and parsley root, are true taproots. The roots are much longer than they are wide and taper to a point. Thin lateral roots sprout from them in random locations or in discrete vertical lines.

Beets, turnips, rutabaga, radish and celery root are hypocotyls. A hypocotyl is a swollen fusion of taproot and stem base. The taproot portion is covered in fibrous secondary roots.

Onions, garlic, shallots and leeks are bulbs, constructed entirely of swollen modified leaves. The papery covering surrounding the fleshy leaf bases are also constructed out of modified leaves, all arising from the basal plate (true compressed stem) that interfaces with the spindly roots on the bottom.

Sweet potato and cassava are root tubers. A root tuber is an enlarged root that stores starch and other nutrients. Smaller lateral roots often branch from its surface and obtain water and soil nutrients.

Potato, sunchoke, jicama, yam are stem tubers. These vegetables have eyes, the eyes are the most conspicuous clue that potatoes are subterranean stem tubers, not roots. The eye of the potato is a node on the stem capable of giving rise to a branch, which could eventually emerge from the soil and become a green, leafy shoot.

Information for this article is from the *Botanist in the Kitchen* blog. Here is a link to the original post. Note: The article is heavy on plant anatomy and taxonomy. Reading will count towards CE hours.

<https://botanistinthekitchen.blog/2021/11/09/the-botanist-in-the-root-cellar/>



Pictures showing the difference between sweet potatoes and potatoes. Sweet potatoes are root tubers and sprouts form when placed in water and sun. The sprouts are pulled of the sweet potato and are called slips. The slips are then planted. The potato has eyes, eyes are a cluster of buds which start to grow when exposed to the sun. The potato with the eyes are planted in the ground.





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### Master Gardener Business

#### Monthly Meeting

Starting in January of 2022 the Master Gardener's monthly meeting will change to the last Wednesday of the month. That means our next meeting will be on Wednesday January 26th.

#### Work day

We have planned a work day in the garden for Thursday January 13, as long as it is not raining or we are having strong winds. The plan is to put down a layer of cardboard and cover with wood chips.

#### Master Gardener Training Class

The next class begins on Tuesday January 18. A syllabus with the class schedule is filed in VMS under the documents section. A copy will also be emailed to members.

#### Tehama Together

We have had a request from a group called Tehama Together which a group of volunteer organizations. They have a Garden Mentoring Program and have asked for participation from the Master Gardeners. Sue has agreed to attend the groups next meeting on December 8 and find out more information about the group and what role they asking Master Gardeners to perform.

### Home and Garden Pest Newsletter

UC IPM has a new Home and Garden Pest Newsletter. It is an e-newsletter that will be published three times a year. The newsletter will contain reliable, up-to-date information on how to identify and manage new and existing pests in and around the home, garden and landscape.

Here is a link to the first issue.

<https://www2.ipm.ucanr.edu/home-and-landscape/home-and-garden-pest-newsletter/?src=redirect2refresh>