



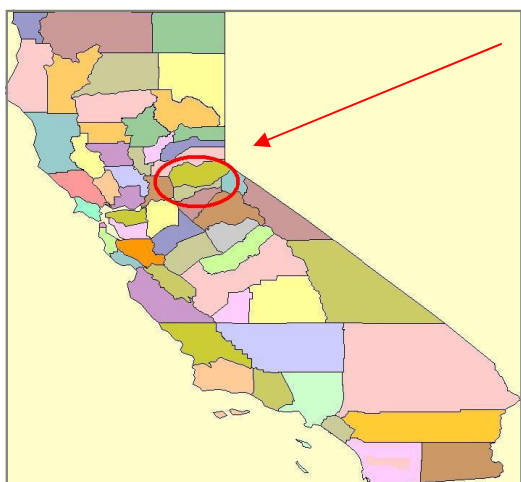
Issue #14

February 2011

Expanded Newsletter Circulation

Welcome, El Dorado County readers!

We are expanding our Newsletter circulation and number of contributing writers by teaming up with El Dorado County Master Gardeners for our monthly publication. The gardening environment and interests in both counties are very similar, making this joint venture a natural expansion of the University of California **Cooperative** Extension between Master Gardeners.



We'll share information about upcoming classes and events in both counties, increasing your opportunities to learn how to have a successful gardening experience.

Traveling out of county? Master Gardeners around the state offer classes on a wide variety of subjects. Check out the calendar of events at <http://ucanr.org/Calendar/>.

If you're reading this issue because a thoughtful friend forwarded it to you, please feel welcome to request your own monthly copy at one of the following websites.

- Amador County: <http://ceamador.ucdavis.edu/newsletterfiles/newsletter3145.htm>
- El Dorado County: <http://ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu/newsletterfiles/newsletter2833.htm>

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Master Gardeners

Advice to grow by ...

Amador County

209-223-6838

Office hours: 10am–Noon

Tuesday–Thursday

mgamador@ucdavis.edu

El Dorado County

530-621-5512

Office hours: 9am–Noon,

Tuesday–Friday

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My Garden – February Tasks

Glen Johnson, Amador County Master Gardener



If you are considering adding fruit trees or berries to your garden, February is the time to do it. You can obtain bare root stock from your local nursery or for special varieties via internet or mail order.

For specifics on planting fruit trees see: http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/The_Big_Picture/Preparation_&_Planting/ and <http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/8048.pdf>.

For specifics on planting berries see: <http://ucanr.org/sites/gardenweb/Berries/>.

If you have all the fruit trees you have room for but would like some additional varieties, grafting a scion of the varieties you want may be the answer. If you missed the Amador County Grafting Clinic on Saturday, February 5th, call your local Master Gardener office for advice on how to graft fruit trees. Generally you can graft fruits with pits to other fruits with pits, and fruits with seeds to other fruits with seeds.



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My Garden – February Tasks

Continued from page 1

I have one spot where I previously removed a diseased tree that I am trying to decide what to put in. I need to make up my mind soon or the selection may be very limited.

February is the time to do your last dormant spraying. Be sure you don't spray apricot trees with sulfur solutions. Use fixed copper sprays for apricot trees. It is also the time to do your touch up pruning, except on the apricot trees as they shouldn't be pruned within 6 weeks of any rain. You can do spring pruning of the apricots after the end of the rains.



In January with a forecast of dry weather for the following week I sprayed my orchard with lime-sulfur and then it rained the next day. So much for the weather service forecasts. I sprayed again during the dry spell that followed and will do my final spraying in mid-February as long as the weather cooperates.

If you have blackberries and didn't get the old canes cut out last fall and the new canes put up on wires, you can still do it, but you need to finish it before March. You will likely find that the new canes that were touching the ground have sprouted roots. If you would like more plants just pull or dig them up preserving as much root as possible and cut the rooting end from the cane with about 12" of cane and the roots. Plant them about 5' apart in mounded soil with the roots just covered with soil. Water occasionally if we have a long dry spell.



If you have all the berries you need, share the new plants with a neighbor or friend. Just put the plant in a 1 gallon pot with some moist potting soil and it will keep until ready to plant. If it will be just a few days before they are planted you can put several in a pot with moist potting soil. The main thing is to keep the roots moist but not wet.



For raspberries you can dig up the sprouts from the roots outside of the area you want to keep them growing in. Planting and keeping are about the same as for blackberries.

Spring Plant Sales!

Mark your calendar for two fantastic Master Gardener plants sales! Choose from a variety of plants grown by local Master Gardeners and donated by local nurseries. Choose from beautiful selections of herbs, vegetables, natives, annuals, perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees.



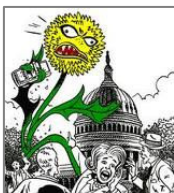
When Where

April 16 Veterans Memorial Building in Placerville

May 7 UCCE Office/GSA Building in Jackson

Stay tuned for additional details. Until then, save the date and start planning your shopping spree. All proceeds benefit your local Master Gardener outreach programs.

Let's Compare Notes



All gardeners—novice and expert—sometimes have a plant that just doesn't work in their garden but we keep trying each year to make it grow, until we finally say, "I will never plant this again!"

Email us with your "I will never plant this again" experience at mgamador@ucdavis.edu.

We would love to hear your stories!

February Down Slope

Lou Ohls, Amador County Master Gardener



It's Jonquil time in the fog belt. Clumps of white and gold blooms grace the winter annual weed areas, promising that spring will come again. Flowers of almonds, apricots, cherries and plums also burst out of the fog. It is almost too late to spray with dormant oil, and/or copper sulfate. It is time to look seriously at the pruning hook.

With mature fruit trees, I wait until the blossoms fade and get an early flowering season to match the later fruit. It is time to take the weed bucket on serious walks around the perennial beds. Green clumps of Eurasian annual weeds, hare barley, rip-gut brome, wild oats and various thistles lift out easily before the roots reach past the leaf mulch. One must resist the temptation to grab a shovel on sunny days, the ground is too cold and wet.

Annual beds are a different matter. There are beds with row covers, and beds without. Even without row covers, if you were thorough in using "little spring" seeding in October, and weeding in November and December, cool season flowers and vegetables will be struggling to give an early show of poppies, calendulas, hollyhocks, lettuce, spinach, kale, endive, onions, garlic, and radishes. The oriental vegetables, pac choi (aka. bok choi) and tatsoi can be planted throughout winter without protection, some can be allowed to bloom for "rapini" recipes. Wrap holdover beets in foil, like potatoes, for an hour of cooking alongside the coals of the wood



Under the row covers, early cabbage, kale and kohlrabi, lettuce, spinach, and endive are harvestable about now. They will be out of the ground and in the pot before the aphids and cabbage worms know they were there. The rows can be re-seeded with lettuce for a second stove. Leaf lettuce, grown to give away in May, is best planted in the rows now. Just simply sprinkle finished compost over the seed and water in.

Miner's Lettuce

Linda Hagye, Amador County Master Gardener

Here is something to show the kids while you take those nice walks in between rain showers. Miners Lettuce, its common name, appears late in January through May. It appears after heavy rains in areas hit by the sun, but the best stands are in the shade. The lettuce turns reddish as the temperatures warm up and the leaves dry out.



The name Miner's Lettuce is from its use during the California gold rush, as the miners ate it for its vitamin C, which prevented scurvy.



This plant can be eaten as a leaf vegetable. It can be used in salads raw or when boiled its taste is similar to spinach. It is sets off a salad with the little flower in its middle.

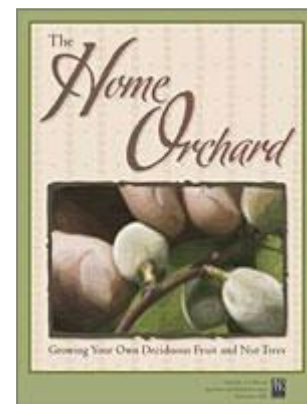
Book Review

The Home Orchard – Growing Your Own Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees

Kathy Ruiz, El Dorado County Master Gardener

This soft cover book was written with the home gardener in mind. It is very readable with great illustrations, charts, tables for reference and each chapter closes with references and useful websites. The book underwent an extensive peer review process at the University of California.

This book is available at your Master Gardeners office, along with so many more very helpful and informative books. Check them out.



Battling the Codling Moth

Linda Hagye, Amador County Master Gardener

The codling moth larval is where the moth does most of the damage. The larvae leaves holes in apples and pears, filling the holes with reddish brown crumb like droppings. These droppings are called frass.



The first codling moths emerge from over-wintering larvae that had been hiding in loose tree bark scales or orchard debris. They even hide in the soil at the tree base. The males appear when temperatures hit 55 degrees F at dusk; mating occurs when temperatures are 62 degrees F or higher. Moths are more active before and after twilight.

The female codling moths start the first generation of the season. They deposit thirty to seventy flat and light pink or whitish colored eggs on leaves, spurs or developing fruit and nuts. The eggs hatch into larvae and bore into fruit. Eventually they leave the fruit and search for sites to pupate into moths. The cycle then starts again. They can produce two and three generations each year.



A successful control strategy is one that interrupts the codling moth's life cycle at the point that the female codling moth lays her eggs or the eggs start to hatch.

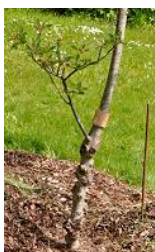


Destroy infested fruit - Six to 8 weeks after bloom, check the fruit. Remove the fruit from your tree if there is evidence of boring larvae. Destroy the fruit before the larvae crawl out. Do not compost. Pick up all dropped fruit especially in May and June and destroy.



Traps - Lure the male moths with pheromone (a sex attractant) baits and traps to interrupt the mating cycle. Bait and trap from April through September. Change the sticky bottom of the trap every 4 weeks or sooner, if necessary.

Bag fruit – Put un-infested fruit in lunch bags and tie the bags along the stem to keep out the larvae, but keep it loose enough to allow development. For this to work you must bag all fruit.



Tree banding – Wrap the tree trunk 18 inches above the ground with a four inch wide piece of corrugated cardboard, some burlap bags or a sticky barrier, to keep the larvae from reaching developing fruit. Be sure the band is tight enough to trap the traveling larvae while sufficiently loose enough not to damage your tree. If you are using corrugated cardboard, place the corrugations vertical to the ground in order to best trap the larvae. Leave the band there for about a month, remove it and crush and kill the larvae. Band again for a second time in mid-August and remove between November and January to kill the overwintering larvae.

Plant early maturing fruit tree varieties - Early maturing apple trees like Jonagolds, Gravensteins, Galas, Macintoshes, and Red Delicious are less susceptible to codling moth than late-maturing varieties. Prune your trees to keep them semi-dwarfed. This will make it easier to spray and reach the trees.

Chemical Controls – There are only a few pesticides available to the home gardener for controlling codling moth. Application must be timed to occur just before or after eggs hatch. Contact your Master Gardeners for a copy of the IPM Pest Note #7412. You can also download this Pest Note Publication and others from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Integrated Pest Management (IPM) website at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.



Free February and March Classes



All classes are from 9am – Noon. Please call ahead to confirm locations, they may change.

Amador County

February

19: Seed Starting and Asparagus Class

Location: GSA Building, 2200-B Airport Road, Jackson

Join Amador Master Gardeners Janice Johnson and Bob Allen at the UCCE office, 12200-B Airport Rd, Martell for a free class on seed starting and asparagus growing.

It's not too soon to plan your spring vegetable garden. Starting your own seeds is not only cheaper but gives you more choices of what varieties to grow. You can have top quality seedlings ready for your garden when you want them, not when the store decides to sell them. The best part is that it's fun and nothing gets you geared up better for gardening than to have a tray of little seedlings ready to grow!

Nothing says spring more than a juicy asparagus spear dripping with butter. Plant them once and they'll give you decades of enjoyment. Not only will you learn how to grow them, but we'll have some for you to buy at the class.

March

19: Not Your Ordinary Vegetable Garden

Location: GSA Building, 2200-B Airport Road, Jackson

Explore some fun and uncommon vegetables and gardening techniques to liven up your gardening experience this year. Several of the topics include artichokes and asparagus; planting in straw bales; and growing organic vegetables in raised beds. Have fun with your food this summer!

If you have questions about the Amador classes or have other gardening questions, call the Master Gardeners office at 223-6838 between 10am to noon, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. You can also contact us by e-mail at mgamador@ucdavis.edu.

El Dorado County

February

19: Beekeeping

Location: Veterans Memorial Bldg

Bees are a critical part of gardening and without them, we would not be able to enjoy many of our fruits and vegetables. However, bees are under threat of greatly diminishing in population, or even disappearing altogether, because of inappropriate use of pesticides. Join Master Gardener Sharlet Elms for her presentation on how to raise bees and handle them safely.

20: Spring & Summer Vegetables

Location: Veterans Memorial Bldg

It's time to prepare the garden for the delicious spring and summer vegetables. Master Gardener Zach Dowell will discuss garden plant selection, planting times, garden site selection, soil preparation, proper seed planting techniques, and pest management.

March

5: Propagation I – Start from Seed

Location: Bethell-Delfino Ag Bldg

12: Organic Gardening I

Location: Veterans Memorial Bldg

19: Organic Gardening II

Location: Veterans Memorial Bldg

26: Backyard Chickens

Location: Veterans Memorial Bldg

For more information about classes in El Dorado County, contact the Master Gardener office at 530-621-5512 between 9am to noon, Tuesday through Friday. You can also email us at ceeldorado@ucdavis.edu.

Sweet flowers are slow and weeds make haste.
William Shakespeare 1564-1616, English dramatist, poet

Save the Date!

April 29-May 1

Home and Garden Show
El Dorado County Fairgrounds



Visit the Master Gardener Information Booth. Get more information at <http://edchomeshow.com/>.

Pest Notes:

Free Pest Notes are available on a variety of topics. For more information, call or email your local Master Gardener office.



To explore the from the UC Integrated Pest Management (IPM) website, go to <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>.

Get Answers to Your Gardening Questions Online

Don't forget about our great Master Gardener websites — they're loaded with gardening goodies:

- Information about Master Gardeners and even how to become one
- List of public classes
- Calendar of Master Gardener events
- Useful links to gardening websites
- Home gardening publications
- Information request form to get answers to your gardening questions

http://ceamador.ucdavis.edu/Master_Gardener
http://ceeldorado.ucdavis.edu/Master_Gardener

Got a specific question? Just email us!

Amador: mgamador@ucdavis.edu
El Dorado: ceeldorado@ucdavis.edu

Amador & El Dorado Counties Master Gardener Newsletter
Editor: Linda Hagye
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Not on our e-newsletter distribution list yet? Know someone who would like to receive our newsletters and notifications on classes and events? Sign up online:

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