



DECEMBER 2015

Contact Your Local Master Gardener

Amador County

(209) 223-6838
Office hours: 10 am–Noon
Tuesday–Thursday
mgamador@ucdavis.edu

El Dorado County

(530) 621-5512
Office hours: 9 am–Noon
Tuesday–Friday
mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu

Sign Up Online

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 at:
<http://ucanr.edu/mgenews>

Free Pest Notes

Free Pest Notes are available on a variety of topics. For more information, call or email your local UCCE Master Gardener office. To explore the Pest Notes on the UC Integrated Pest Management (IPM) website, go to www.ipm.ucdavis.edu



Who's Lurking in the Forest?

By *Janice Johnson*

UCCE Master Gardener of Amador County and California Naturalist

Have you seen a pair of eyes or heard an unusual noise at night and wondered who is lurking in the forest? I did until several years ago when I bought my first trail camera and now know. I live upcountry above Buckhorn, off the beaten path, and there is a lot of wildlife activity here. During the day I get pictures of the usual suspects: deer, squirrels, birds, and occasionally a neighbor's dog. At night it is more interesting with skunks, foxes, ringtail cats, bobcats, mountain lions, and bears. I'm hooked and am still thrilled when I get a good picture or video on my trail camera. The picture at the top of this page, of the three lions, is from my trail camera a couple of weeks ago. See videos of this at the Master Gardeners' Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/UCCEAmadorMG?ref=profile>. The Master Gardener Facebook site also has lots of interesting garden information so it's worth being our Facebook "friend."

So, even if you aren't as remote as I am, you'll enjoy seeing who is lurking in your yard. A trail camera will answer who is eating the apples on your tree or whether there is a raccoon in your pond. You can get a good trail camera for under \$200 and mine gives me hours of entertainment.

If you want to learn more about the wildlife that share the forest with you and how to live in harmony with them, join me Saturday, January 16th, 9 am to noon at the GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road, Martell. I will teach you how to be a good steward of your property by keeping your forest healthy. Learn why you should clear brush and thin trees, and how to recognize some common pests and diseases of conifers and oaks. 🍷



Citrus: Winter's Zucchini

Part 2 – Oranges & Their Next of Kin

By Stacy Ryerson
UCCE Master Gardener and Master Food
Preserver of Amador County

[Click here to Read Part 1 – Lemons, Limes & Their Next of Kin](#)

Oranges

Bouquet de Fleurs Sour Orange – *Citrus x aurantium* 'Bouquet de Fleurs'

USDA Zones 9a to 11. The most ornamental of all the sour oranges. 'Bouquet de Fleurs' has rounded, glossy leaves and waxy white flowers that are used in the manufacture of neroli oil, a component of classic perfumes. The peel flavors liqueurs such as Grand Marnier and Cointreau, and the high-pectin fruit is the basis for classic marmalade. This orange is perfectly happy in a large patio pot where it will become a 6'x6' shrub that will flower in spring and fall. Fruit tends to remain on the tree throughout the year.

Moro Blood Orange – *Citrus sinensis* 'Moro'

USDA Zones 9a to 11. For Moro blood orange fruit to ripen properly, plant in full sun. If in a colder winter area locate in front of a stone wall so the retained heat will help ripening in early spring. The tart juice has a fresh raspberry flavor.

Trovita Sweet Orange – *Citrus sinensis* 'Trovita'

A chance seedling of the Washington navel orange, the Trovita orange is juicier and sweeter than its parent, with smaller fruit and may have a few seeds. Since the Trovita ripens and blooms in spring, you may have blooms and fruit at the same time. While this orange will thrive in USDA Zones 9a to 10, it is also suitable for bright light indoor culture in colder zones since it will develop a sweet flavor without a lot of heat.

Mandarins

Satsuma 'Owari' – *Citrus reticulata* 'Owari'

The Owari satsuma is more cold-hardy than other citrus, USDA Zones 8 to 10. Mature trees will survive dips from mid 20s down to 15 degrees. There's nothing more exciting in the gardening world than picking your own mandarin oranges. Fruit ripens in late fall through early winter.

Gold Nugget – *Citrus reticulata* 'Gold Nugget'

Gold Nugget mandarin bears after Owari satsuma, extending the tangerine season through June. Gold Nugget is marvelously flavorful and sweet, usually seedless, and easy to peel. Tree is more upright and vigorous than Owari, but shares the same cold hardiness, down to about 25 degrees.

Tangelos

Minneola Tangelo – *Citrus paradisi x Citrus reticulata* 'Minneola'

USDA Zones 9 to 10. Hybrid of a mandarin orange and a grapefruit or pummelo. They are so unlike other citrus fruits that they have been set aside in a class by themselves. Tangelos range from the size of a standard sweet orange to the size of a grapefruit, but are usually somewhat necked at the base. The peel is fairly loose and easily removed. The pulp is often colorful, subacid, of fine flavor and very juicy. The trees are large, more cold-tolerant than the grapefruit but not quite as hardy as the mandarin.

Continued on page 3 ➤

Get Answers to Your Gardening Questions Online

http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners

- Information about Master Gardeners and how to become one
- List of public classes
- Calendar of Master Gardener events
- Useful links to gardening websites
- Home gardening publications

Got a specific question? Just email us!

Amador: mgamador@ucdavis.edu

El Dorado: mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu

► *Citrus: Winter's Zucchini (continued from page 2)*

Kumquats

Nagami Kumquat – *Fortunella margarita* 'Nagami'

Of all the citrus trees, the kumquat may be the most decorative and suitable for pot culture. It's also fairly cold-hardy relative to other citrus, since it is semi-dormant in winter. For outdoor growing, kumquat plants are cold hardy from Zones 8b to 9 and are known to be some of the more cold tolerant citrus. Kumquats flower in the summer with fruit appearing in winter. The bright orange fruit will ripen throughout the spring, but fruit can last on the tree until June. Kumquats are eaten whole, since the peel is the sweetest part of the fruit. Thin slices of kumquat can make iced tea special.

Calamondins

Calamondin – *Citrus x Citrofortunella mitis*

Hardy to 20 degrees and is hardier to cold than any other true citrus species, only the trifoliate orange and the kumquat are more tolerant of low temperatures. The attractive calamondin tree ranges from 6½' to 25' high with aromatic, dark green leaves, glossy on the upper surface, yellowish-green beneath. The flowers are sweetly fragrant. The showy fruits are round, to 1¾" wide, with very aromatic, orange-red peel. The pulp, in 6 to 10 segments, is orange, very juicy, highly acid, seedless or few seeds. The calamondin is moderately drought-tolerant. There is a beautiful striped fruit variety. 🍷

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR CITRUS GROWERS

- [UCCE Foothill Farming - Mandarins & Other Citrus](#)
- [Planting and Care of Young Citrus Trees - UC ANR](#)
- [Freezing Citrus Fruits - NCHFP](#)
- [Spiced Orange Jelly - NCHFP](#)
- [Citrus Marmalade - NCHFP](#)
- [Canning Grapefruit Sections - Ball](#)
- [Oranges: Safe Methods to Store, Preserve, and Enjoy - UC ANR](#)
- [Blueberry Citrus Conserve - Ball](#)
- [Honey Orange Slices - Ball](#)
- [Orange Chili Marmalade - Ball](#)
- [Freezing Lemon Curd - Ball](#)

UC ANR Catalog

Featured Publication



How to Attract and Maintain Pollinators in Your Garden

UC ANR Publication Number: 8498

ISBN-13: 978-1-60107-852-0

Copyright Date: 2013

Author: Ponder, Frankie, Elkins, et al.

Available for Free Download as a PDF at

<http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/Details.aspx?itemNo=8498>

About three-quarters of all flowering plants rely on insects or birds for pollination, and that includes one-third of all crop plants. This publication shows you how to create a landscape that is welcoming for bees and many other pollinators.

 [Visit the full UC ANR Online Catalog Here](#)

Does Your Garden Need a Makeover?

By Janice Johnson
UCCE Master Gardener of Amador County
and California Naturalist

Does your garden need a makeover? Mine does! I remember starting with a landscape design almost twenty years ago, but you couldn't tell that now. I am the kind of gardener that gets a new plant and then walks around the yard until I find a bare spot, and that's its new home. I tend to grow plants that reseed themselves and I know I don't need all those hollyhocks, larkspur, or amaranth, but I don't want to pull them out until they are finished blooming and unfortunately by then they have spread more seeds. Even if your garden is more orderly than mine, it will still benefit from a makeover and now is the time to do it.

“After four years of drought it's easy to tell which plants are the keepers and which ones are struggling and need to go.”

After four years of drought it's easy to tell which plants are the keepers and which ones are struggling and need to go. We are all hoping for more rain this winter, but this is not our first drought and it won't be our last, so why not plant a garden that will look good in the bad years and great in the rainy years. How do you start? I'd start by deciding what plants give you the most joy in your garden with the least amount of work and water, and I'd keep them. I'd remove the plants that are poor performers. Just because you are removing a plant, it doesn't mean another one needs to go in its place! A little space around your plants can be a good thing.

If you want to buy new plants, the “All-Stars” are a good place to start looking. What are All-Stars? This is taken from the Arboretum All-Stars web site.



“The horticultural staff of the UC Davis Arboretum have identified 100 tough, reliable plants that have been tested in the Arboretum, are easy to grow, don't need a lot of water, have few problems with pests or diseases, and have outstanding qualities in the garden. Many of them are California native plants and support native birds and insects. Most All-Star plants can be successfully planted and grown throughout California.” The All-Stars website http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx has a database to help you find the right plants for your garden. This is very useful site but I have one complaint, they don't tell you the USDA hardiness zones (<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>). So, before you fall in love with a plant, be sure that it will grow in your zone.

The All-Stars site also gives you a list of nurseries that sell these plants and the dates of the plant sales at UC Davis. Other sources for great water wise plants are your neighbors, local nurseries, and your Master Gardeners. My challenge to you is take a look at your garden today. If it needs a makeover, now is the time to do it and you won't be alone as I'll be doing my garden, too.

I started this article BBF, Before the Butte Fire. The fire convinced me that not only did I need to get all those tall plants away from the house, but I need to reduce the number of plants, too. I have already made a dramatic change in my garden and plan to have it done by spring. Join me on Saturday, January 16th, 9:00 am to noon at the GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road, Martell, to hear the director of Fire Safe and also a Master Gardener talk about making your garden fire safe. ♡



Free! PUBLIC EDUCATION CLASSES

*Most classes are from 9 a.m. to Noon. Please call ahead to confirm locations.
Click on the class title for full current information, and to schedule an email reminder for the class.*

Amador County

*Unless otherwise noted, the location for all Amador County classes is the GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson.
Questions? Call (209) 223-6838.*

Jan 16 Living in the Forest and Fire Safe Landscaping

UCCE Master Gardener Janice Johnson will teach you how to be a good steward of your property by keeping your forest healthy. Learn why you should clear brush and thin trees and how to recognize common pests and diseases in your conifers and oaks. Learn about the wildlife that share the forest with you and how to live in harmony with them. UCCE Master Gardener and Fire Safe director Cathy Koos Breazeal will teach you how to landscape your yard so that it combines beauty and fire safety.

Additional classes for 2016 are being planned. Check the Amador County Master Gardener website for the most current information (link below).



El Dorado County

*Unless otherwise noted, the location for all El Dorado County classes is the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville.
Questions? Call (530) 621- 5512.*

Jan 9 Pruning Fruit Trees

Master Gardeners Walt Miller and Pam Lane will discuss the basics of how and when trees grow, how to prune to minimize injury and when and when not to prune. The discussion will also focus on how to prune to establish a structurally sound tree that produces fruit. Location: Folsom Lake College El Dorado Center, Placerville, Classroom A105, and Sherwood Demonstration Garden.

Jan 9 Saturdays with Barry (10 AM – Noon)

Join Barry at the Sherwood Demonstrations Gardens' Vegetable Garden the second Saturday of each month for demonstrations on gardening through the seasons. Lots of things are happening in the winter vegetable garden. Barry will explain various planting, thinning and pest control needs as well as needs for the success of your vegetable garden during each month's demonstration. See the many options of what can be grown in El Dorado County during the winter months. Get your questions answered. Weather permitting. Location: Folsom Lake College El Dorado Center, Sherwood Demonstration Garden (behind college).

Jan 23 Fire Wise and Water Wise Landscape

Do you want to create an attractive and fire-wise landscape? Did you know that many plants can be fire-wise that are not water-thirsty? Join Master Gardeners Robin Stanley and Alice Cantelow and retired CAL FIRE Chief Deputy Director Mark Stanley to learn how to balance aesthetics and safety to increase the chances your property and home can withstand a wildfire. We will also be talking about the varieties of plants that are both fire resistant and water-conserving. You'll leave with an individualized list of changes you can make in your landscape to make it both fire wise and water wise. Location: Government Center Hearing Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.

Jan 30 Shade Gardening

Shade gardens offer cool beauty to your landscape. They add texture, color, and flowers to your garden. Join Master Gardener Merry Campbell to learn what plants thrive in all kinds of shade—dappled to deep. Location: Government Center Hearing Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.

University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Food Preserver Program

2016 UCCE Master Food Preserver Training - El Dorado

Who Can Apply

- Priority given to El Dorado County residents. If space allows, neighboring county residents may be accepted.
- Attend our training information meeting to learn about the Master Food Preserver Program, and our volunteer training on Saturday, January 23, at the Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane in Placerville.
- Applicants must be comfortable using a computer and accessing the internet. Quizzes and homework are online; class communication is via email.

How and When to Apply

Visit the website below and fill out the online application. The application deadline is January 30, 2016.

 [2016 UCCE Master Food Preserver Training](#)



**MASTER GARDENERS
ON FACEBOOK**

[UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County](#)
[UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County](#)



University of California
Cooperative Extension

**Master
Food
Preserver**

**FREE
CLASSES**

El Dorado County

Phone: (530) 621-5506 • Email: edmfpu@ucanr.edu
Classes at El Dorado County Fairgrounds from 10-Noon.

Jan 28 [Fair Judging of Preserved Foods
Workshop](#) (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM)

Jan 30 [Fair Judging of Preserved Foods
Workshop](#) (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM)

Mar 19 [MFP/MG Combo Class –
Tomatoes: from Seed to Table](#)

Amador/Calaveras County

Phone: (209) 223-6857 • Email: acmfpu@ucdavis.edu
Classes are from 10-Noon.

Classes for 2016 are being planned. Check the Master Food Preserver website for the most current information (link below). In the meantime, please enjoy these free online publications.

- [Core Canning Techniques](#)
- [Dehydrating Basics](#)
- [Freezing Basics](#)

 [UCCE Master Food Preserver Classes](#)



**MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS
ON FACEBOOK**

[UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County](#)
[UCCE Master Food Preservers of Amador/Calaveras County](#)



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Should you need assistance or require special accommodations for any of our educational programs, please contact us at (530) 621-5502.