



Sustainable Organic Gardening Workshop



Spring is rushing forward, the temperature outside is rising, and we in El Dorado County are scurrying to get our spring vegetable gardens prepped and planted. It is a glorious time in the foothills. We know that with a little work, we can have an amazing bounty of yummy foods throughout the year. But many families remain unfamiliar with the joys and benefits of home vegetable gardening. Meanwhile, the cost of nutritious foods is

skyrocketing. Two dollars for a red pepper? Seriously?! Therefore, in the spirit of our University of California Cooperative Extension charter—to research, teach, and provide community outreach to home gardeners—we are offering a workshop to help families reduce food costs, improve nutrition, and enhance their food security.

On July 14, 2018, the UCCE Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County, in collaboration with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, will be presenting a half-day workshop on sustainable organic gardening. We'll be offering the community a chance to spend a day at the beautiful Shingle Springs Rancheria, learning to develop and maintain a garden that doesn't require costly or wasteful chemical additives, and emphasizes conservation of critical resources like water and pollinators. We'll look at sustainability from seven perspectives: native ecosystems, soil, compost, beneficial plants and insects, organic pest and disease management, seed saving, and food preservation. In each case, we'll emphasize how a novice gardener can get started growing cost-effective, nutritious food. Here's a brief overview of the topics workshop attendees can choose from:

- ▶ **Native Landscape Management:** Native Americans have always structured their food supply by practicing sustainable land management. You'll join Miwok tribal members as they describe how respect for the land and keen observation has sustained generations of indigenous people.

(continued on page 2) ▶

SPRING 2018

Contact Your Local Master Gardener

Amador County

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

El Dorado County

530-621-5512
Office hours: 9 am–Noon
Tuesday–Friday
mgeldorado@ucanr.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



► *Sustainable Organic...* (continued from page 1)

- **Eco-Gardening—Turning Dirt into Gold:** Plants thrive in soil that is teeming with life, and nurturing soil is absolutely key to sustainable gardening. Learn what this means, why it matters, and how to work with your soils to improve plant health.
- **Active Composting:** Learn the elegantly simple but critically important techniques to make compost that will enhance your garden. Hot and cold compost methods, optimal ratios of greens and browns, aeration, moisture, and uses for the final product.
- **Organic Pest Management:** Learn about plant diseases, insects, and “pests” in the garden. Learn to identify various bacterial and viral diseases, distinguish between insects and understand their lifecycles, and make decisions about what needs management and what is essentially a harmless part of your garden ecosystem.
- **Eco-Gardening—Attracting Pollinators, Beneficial Insects, and Other Natural Predators:** Learn how plant selection affects beneficial insect populations, which provide ecological benefits such as biodiversity and natural pest control.
- **Home Grown Seeds!** Seed saving is easy, fun, sustainable, and saves money. Learn the basics of growing, harvesting, and storing seeds. Vegetables, flowers, herbs, and native plants will be discussed.
- **What to Do with Zillions of Zucchini?** Is zucchini taking over your garden? Are neighbors leaving bags of zucchini on your doorstep? Learn preservation techniques that turn zucchini into surprisingly different types of delicious food that you can enjoy throughout the year. 🍷



CLASSES IN THE GARDEN

Come join UCCE Master Gardener Barry Wold and others for *Saturdays with Barry* in the vegetable garden at the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 am to noon, as he demonstrates various home gardening techniques. It's never too early to plant a little food garden and enjoy the magnificence of nature's genius in sustaining us on this beautiful planet. Visit the Sherwood Demonstration Garden at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville. Built on property owned by the El Dorado County Office of Education, SDG is located between Folsom Lake College-El Dorado Center (FLC-EDC) and the Community Observatory. See page 8 for more information.

Happy spring, and happy gardening!

Get Answers to Your Gardening Questions Online

http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners

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

Got a specific question?

Ask a question through our online form:

[Ask a UCCE Master Gardener of Amador County](#)

[Ask a UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County](#)

Or just email us!

Amador: mgamador@ucanr.edu

El Dorado: mgeldorado@ucanr.edu



Spring is planting time and the UCCE Master Gardeners are ready to provide you with fabulous plants for your garden and landscape. Master Gardeners have propagated and lovingly cared for plants that will soon be offered for sale in Amador and El Dorado County plant sales.

El Dorado County

In El Dorado County, the annual spring sale will be held on April 21, 2018. Check the plant sale inventory that will be published at least a week in advance of the sale and make your shopping list. The inventory for the sale will be available:

mgeldorado.ucanr.edu/ or

<https://www.facebook.com/UCCEEIDoradoMG/>

If you have never visited the Sherwood Demonstration Garden (SDG), it is located at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville. Campus Drive intersects with Green Valley Road, and to help make sure you don't miss the entry, we will have people, signs, and balloons at the intersection. The SDG doesn't have its own parking lot; please note the Folsom Lake College charges a \$2.00 parking fee and this parking fee will be in effect during our sale.

We do our best to provide you with carts and/or cartons for holding your plants as you shop but we suggest you bring your own if you can.

We will not only have plant sale booths, but we will also have booths offering information from the UCCE Master Gardeners, UCCE Master Food Preservers, and Backyard Beekeepers of El Dorado County, as well as information about integrated pest management and composting. The SDG is now open for the season, so be sure to leave time to tour the garden and see many of the plants in place. The SDG will be open from 9 a.m. to noon on day of the sale.

The Master Gardeners do all the propagation of all of the plants we have for sale and have been carefully

tending the plants for as long as two years. We have worked diligently to establish a reputation for providing quality, well-tended plants for the sales. We accept cash or check only, please.

To whet your appetite be sure to take a look at the video about the UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County Plant Sale at:

<https://youtu.be/AobzQcQzDq0>

Amador County

In Amador County, our annual Spring Plant Sale and Expo will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are excited about having our Sale and Expo at a new location in the American Legion Hall located at 12134 Airport Rd in Martell.

Start your spring gardening off right by picking up your favorite tomato or other vegetable varieties which have been propagated and cared for by Master Gardeners. Not sure what to plant? Master Gardeners can make suggestions and recommendations based on what has grown well for them in the area.

But it is not just vegetables that you will find at the plant sale. We will also have flowering plants, as well as perennial trees and shrubs. The plant list will be posted a week before the sale, so check our website and start planning:

http://ucanr.edu/sites/Amador_County_MGs/

We accept cash or check only, please. Parking is free and plentiful. Come early for the best selection. All sale proceeds support free classes, programs, and activities provided to the community by UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County.

We plan to have experts on hand to answer your irrigation questions as well as home landscape and garden questions. There will be a kids' area where youngsters can plant seeds to take home and learn what seeds need in order to survive. The UCCE Master Food Preservers will be on hand too, passing out samples and recipes. ♡





By Paula Bertram
UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

Greetings, fellow garden geeks. Good news! You can “grow your own” garden seeds! It’s simple, saves money, promotes diversity, and protects our food supply. Here are easy steps to selecting, collecting, and protecting your very own seeds...

SELECTION is key to your success. Just plan to save seeds only from “open-pollinated” plants. Open-pollinated is anything that isn’t a hybrid. Check out seed catalogues and nurseries. If there is a designation near the name of the plant that says “F1” or “Hybrid,” don’t save seeds from that plant. Hybrids just don’t reliably reproduce the same plant—they may revert to a less desirable ancestor. But if the plant or seed packet says “heirloom” or “open-pollinated,” then go for it.

Remember—there are both open-pollinated and hybrid varieties of many plants. A seed catalogue may offer “Sugar Baby” watermelon, which is a classic open-pollinated small variety. They may also feature “Sweet Favorite,” which is an F1 hybrid. Nothing wrong with hybrid seeds or plants—just don’t use them for seed saving. If you love marigolds, for example, plant an old fashioned breed such as Harlequin French, not a hybrid. If you’re lucky, they may reseed themselves right in your garden.

For beginning seed savers, the easiest and most reliable veggies are peas, beans, peppers, lettuce, and tomatoes. These stalwart citizens are often “self-pollinated.” This means that each plant is likely to pollinate itself, and not get playful with neighboring plants of the same species, resulting in a home-grown hybrid. Same rules apply for herbs and flowers.

COLLECTION Patience is essential. Wait until the tomato is overripe, disgusting, and almost ready to fall off the vine. Leave the spring peas on the plant until the husks turn brown and crisp—ditto the pole beans. Of course, you can eat all the delicious veggies you want—just remember to leave a few behind for collecting later. Mark them somehow to remind you not to pick.

Wet seeds—like tomatoes or peppers—need to be rinsed and dried off on paper towels before storage. Dry seeds—such as beans and peas—can simply be popped out of those crispy hulls. Clean seeds as well as you can before storage. Small seeds like lettuce, herb, and some flowers can be hard to collect. Put a net or paper bag over the flower head after it matures, tie it around the stem and wait. The seeds will fall into the bag when ready. Easy-peasy.

PROTECTION Dark, dry, and cool is the way to go. Put your seeds in sealed paper envelopes or small jars and store them in the refrigerator. Label them—name, date of collection, source (“Mom’s orange cosmos” or “Stolen after dark from the neighbor”). You want to remember what worked and what didn’t. You also want to remove outdated seeds from your stash—many will lose vitality after 3 years.

For further information, find a seed library near you. Take a look at www.seedsaversalliance.org or www.seedsavers.org. These websites offer a wealth of information about seed sharing.

Looking for still more on seed saving? Join UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County on July 14, 2018, at the Shingle Springs Rancheria for a Sustainable Organic Gardening Workshop. For more information on the workshop, refer to the article beginning on page 1 of this newsletter, or visit mgeldorado.ucanr.edu 🍷

PLANT SALE



SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018 8:00AM-2:00PM

**Sherwood Demonstration Garden
6699 Campus Drive, Placerville**

CASH OR CHECKS ONLY. SORRY NO CREDIT CARDS!

See our Website at http://ucanr.org/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners
Or check us out on Facebook.

UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County

UC ANR is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Should you need assistance, or require accommodations for any physical challenge, please let us know.

The University of California working in cooperation with County Government and
the United States Department of Agriculture

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MASTER GARDENERS PLANT SALE & EXPO

START YOUR SPRING GARDENING OFF RIGHT!
TOMATOES | HERBS | VEGETABLES | FLOWERING PLANTS

Educational activities for adults and kids!

SUNDAY
APRIL 29TH

10:00 AM –
2:00 PM

CASH OR
CHECKS ONLY

AMERICAN LEGION HALL
12134 AIRPORT BLVD., MARTELL (JACKSON)
QUESTIONS? (209) 223-6838



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Amador County

Proceeds Support Free Classes, Programs & Help Line in Amador County



Free! PUBLIC EDUCATION CLASSES

Classes are from 9 am to Noon, unless otherwise noted.

Please call ahead or check online to confirm locations.

Click on the class title for the option to schedule an email reminder for the class.

Amador County

Click on class title for more information.

Questions? Call 209-223-6838.

Apr 7 [Attracting Pollinators with Container Gardening](#)

If you do not have room for a big garden, or are looking for a little variety, you might try your hand at container gardening. It can be a fun and easy way to raise flowers and vegetables at home. The UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County are presenting a free Public Education class on container gardening with an emphasis on attracting pollinators to your garden. A wide variety of plants, pollinators and appropriate containers will be discussed. Handouts will be provided.

Location: Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson.

Apr 21 [Raising Backyard Chickens](#)

Are you ready to start raising your own chickens or just beginning to consider home grown poultry? Fresh eggs are one of the many benefits that come from having your own chickens, a popular practice many people find fun and rewarding. The UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County will be offering a free Public Education class to cover the basics of choosing and raising chicks as well as selecting appropriate breeds, housing, nutrition and the importance of keeping your chickens in optimal health. Handouts will be provided. Location: Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson.

May 5 [Solving Garden Problems with Integrated Pest Management](#)

Home gardeners often encounter unwanted pests, insects or weeds, in their lawn or garden. Integrated Pest Management or IPM is a practice you can use to solve most garden pest problems while minimizing risks to people, pets and the environment. If you are interested in up-to-date information on how to safely and effectively handle garden pests, plan on attending the Public Education class provided by the UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County. Pest identification and appropriate biological, cultural and chemical controls for the home gardener will be covered. Hand-outs will be provided. Location: Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson.

[Master Gardener of Amador County Classes](#)

El Dorado County

Click on class title for more information.

Questions? Call 530-621-5512.

Apr 7 [Back to Basics for Gardeners](#)

Come and learn the basics of gardening from the beginning. Know your soil, proper tools and technique, how to read a nursery plant label and buy healthy plants, irrigation methods, what does “full sun” really mean and more. Location: Government Center Hearing Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court in Placerville.

Apr 7 [Spring Propagation](#)

Weather permitting, participants are invited to a presentation on the selection and germination of seeds, starting media, containers, growing out, hardening off, and transplanting seedlings. Following the presentation, participants will have an opportunity to plant seeds to take home. Seeds and containers are provided; bring clean gloves to participate. **Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.** Parking fee: \$2.00 (see kiosks in college parking lot). Location: Sherwood Demonstration Garden, 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville (behind Folsom Lake College, El Dorado Center).

Apr 11 [Irrigation](#)

With summer coming soon, it is very important to preserve our water resources, while protecting the investments in our plants and landscaping. Master Gardeners will discuss the basics of home sprinkler and drip irrigation systems. Learn how to provide your plants with the water they need and reduce your water bill. Location: Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive in Cameron Park.

Apr 14 [2nd Saturdays with Barry – Cover Crops, Companion Planting & Summer Gardens](#)

A lot of things are happening in the spring 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. **Time: 10:00 am to Noon.** Parking fee: \$2.00 (see kiosks in college parking lot). Location: Sherwood Demonstration Garden, 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville (behind Folsom Lake College, El Dorado Center).

[Master Gardener of El Dorado County Classes](#)

Sherwood Demonstration Garden Open April 1 to October 31

From April 1 to October 31, the Sherwood Demonstration Garden (SDG) will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am – 2 pm.

UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County care about your safety. SDG is closed when it is raining or when temperatures reach above 95 degrees.

Our website now has a link to the weather forecast we use. Please check our website before visiting for these or any other changes in current open days.

On open days, there are trained Master Gardener docents on duty to talk with visitors about the garden and answer questions.

Guided tours can be arranged for small or large groups by contacting Sheri Burke at 530-676-1009.

Visit the SDG at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville. Built on property owned by the El Dorado County Office of Education, SDG is located between Folsom Lake College-El Dorado Center (FLC-EDC) and the Community Observatory.

Parking in the FLC-EDC parking lot is \$2.00.

For more information about the Sherwood Demonstration Garden, please call the UCCE Master Gardener office at 530-621-5512 (Tue-Fri from 9-12) or check out the SDG pages on our website.

 [Sherwood Demonstration Garden](#)



University of California
Cooperative Extension

**Master
Food
Preserver**

**PUBLIC
CLASSES**

Upcoming Classes

- For information on El Dorado County classes, call 530-621-5506 or email to edmfp@ucanr.edu
- For information on Amador/Calaveras County classes, call (209) 223-6857 or email to acmfp@ucdavis.edu

Apr 14 Make & Take Workshop: Bacon

(9:00 am–noon) Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane in Placerville.

Apr 18 Boiling Water and Steam Canning Basics (Jams & Jellies)

(6:30 pm–8:30 pm) Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson.

Apr 21 Make & Take Workshop: Cured Salmon (Gravlax)

(9:00 am–noon) Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane in Placerville.

Apr 21 Jr's Jams & Jellies: Kids Class

(10:00 am–3:00 pm) El Dorado Fairgrounds Marshall Building, 100 Placerville Drive in Placerville.

Apr 26 Dill with It

(6:00 pm–8:00 pm) Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane in Placerville.

May 12 Do It Yourself Mixes

(9:00 am–noon) Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson.

 [Central Sierra Master Food Preserver Classes](#)



MASTER GARDENERS ON FACEBOOK

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



MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS ON FACEBOOK

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