



Build a Cold Frame *and enjoy fresh produce thru the winter*

By Gail Fulbeck, UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

Even though winter brings shorter days and colder weather there is no reason to forego the satisfaction of bringing healthy, home grown produce to the table all year long.

Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and many other edibles grow best during the cool season. If you planted broccoli, cauliflower, kale, cabbage, or other cole crops in August you may have already started harvesting. If not, then you could get a late spring crop by planting now inside a cold frame.

A cold frame is nothing more than a sturdy frame with a clear lid. Frame materials can range from brick to concrete block to straw bales to wood. The lid can be fashioned out of recycled windows, greenhouse panels, or polycarbonate. The frame should be taller on one side than the other, with sloping sides so the lid will angle downward. A slope of about one inch per foot is sufficient.

Unlike a hot bed, which uses a heating cable, the cold frame is passively heated by the sun; no electricity is needed. Face it south or southwest and consider placing a windbreak, such as a bale of straw, on the north side if your chosen site receives winter winds. Be sure nothing will shade the structure.

(continued on page 2) ►

WINTER 2018–2019

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

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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



► *Build a Cold Frame...* (continued from page 1)

If rodent intrusion is likely, take appropriate precautions such as lining the inside with hardware cloth before adding soil. Depending on your crop, fill the enclosure with 6 to 18 inches of good quality planting mix.

Even in winter the sun can create enough heat inside during the day to damage your plants. To provide air flow and to prevent your plants from burning, a temperature-activated vent opener is a worthy investment. Essentially a piston filled with material that expands with heat and contracts with cold, one can be purchased from a greenhouse supplier for \$35 or \$40.

When you are ready to plant, decide if you want to direct seed or buy starts at the nursery. Nursery starts are not generally available after October or November, so direct seeding may be your only option. Radishes and greens are an excellent choice; they can be planted close together and thinned every week or two. Thinned plants are used as baby greens, leaving remaining plants room to grow to maturity. Most greens are fully mature in 45 to 55 days. Small seeds such as lettuce can be scattered on top of the soil and covered with only the lightest layer of fine soil. A repurposed flour sifter can be handy at this point! Remember to keep newly planted seeds well moistened until they begin to sprout, after which you can employ the Goldilocks rule. If too wet your seedlings can rot, and if too dry they will dehydrate. Watering should be done in the morning so leaves are dry before the lid shuts for the night.

Join us in the Sherwood Demonstration Garden's vegetable garden on December 8 when our Second Saturday program will begin at 10 am with a demonstration and discussion of cold frames. The entire Sherwood Demonstration garden is open that day from 10 am until noon. Master Gardeners love to share their knowledge, and are a great resource for gardening solutions! ♡

Home Landscaping for Fire 🔥 🔥 🔥



Incorporating fire safe concepts into the residential landscape is one of the most important ways you can help your home survive a wildfire. This winter, consider taking some time to evaluate your home landscaping with the help of the UC ANR publication, *Home Landscaping for Fire* available at: <https://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8228.pdf>. Also, see page 6 of this newsletter for information on a Fire-wise Landscaping class to be held on January 26.

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



Sherwood Demonstration Garden

By Sue McDavid,

UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden had another very successful season being open to the public from April 1 through October 31. Many docent-led tours were given, several public education classes were held in the garden with lots of hands-on teaching and, of course, hundreds of visitors came to see our ever-changing garden. From comments received, it looks like the garden is a go-to place for folks in El Dorado County as well as from outside our county.

Some plants were taken out of the various sixteen themed gardens for one reason or another, as well as plants added to them. Gardens are never static and this could not be more true than in the Sherwood Demonstration Garden.

Now that colder weather is occurring, plants in the various gardens are beginning their dormancy, but the garden that really shines in fall and early



Muhlenbergia capillaris
and *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blond Ambition'

winter is the Ornamental Grasses garden. This garden was the first planted five years ago because deer do not normally bother grasses and our fence had not been constructed yet. It was astonishing how quickly and vigorously the chosen grasses grew, no doubt due to the wonderful loam soil in the garden.

As the accompanying photo shows, the *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (Pink Muhly) is the real star; as late afternoon approaches, it is backlit by the sinking sun and looks like a pink cloud floating above the green foliage. The *Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blond Ambition' (Blue Grama, Mosquito Grass) in front of it really stands out against the pink inflorescences. Another grass that has outperformed expectations is the *Miscanthus sinensis* var. *condensatus* 'Cosmopolitan' (Eulalia, Japanese Silver Grass). Most descriptions say it will



Miscanthus sinensis var. *condensatus* 'Cosmopolitan'

grow 7–8 feet, but in the demonstration garden, it reaches at least 10 feet. This is a good natural barrier grass if there is something a person wants to hide. (Be aware though that for a couple of months after it is cut down to the ground in January/February, those ugly sights will be apparent until it regrows.)

Even though the garden is closed to the public during winter except for the second Saturday of each month when activities for visitors go on in the Vegetable Garden, work never stops. Currently, plants are being deadheaded and cut back, vegetables are being harvested and general cleanup goes on. ♡



Heritage Rose Project Gets Underway in Jackson

*By Susan Price
UCCE Master Gardener of Amador County*

Just this past spring, a group of UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County gathered at the Mountain Ranch home of Judy and Bob Dean for the purpose of gathering cuttings of heritage roses. Heritage roses, classified as roses which appeared before 1867, may also be referred to as “Old Garden,” “Antique,” or “Heirloom.” These roses, which were rescued from old homesteads, cemeteries, mining camps, etc., from throughout California, have been lovingly collected and nurtured in the Dean’s garden. After the Butte Fire in 2015, which came dangerously close to the Dean’s home, it became evident that a second, “backup” garden would help preserve these old and rare varieties for future generations to enjoy.

Bob Dean, a Board member of the Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT), suggested a partnership with the UCCE Master Gardeners would be a wonderful collaboration. The MLLT owns 200 acres of lightly used agricultural land on Jackson Gate Road in Jackson, surrounding the Chichizola Store, which is one of the earliest stores to cater to gold miners in the region.

The MLLT’s primary goal is to preserve the foothill landscape and promote agricultural and historic values. Protecting and preserving the living history of heritage roses would be a nice fit. The Master Gardener program is tasked with sharing

horticultural and botanical information and knowledge to the community. With this garden, Master Gardeners can encourage and increase public knowledge about these forgotten beauties, taking the opportunity to promote sustainability and best gardening practices. Workshops and teaching opportunities abound.

While modern roses have a reputation for being demanding and difficult to grow, heritage roses do not necessarily fit that mold. Many heritage roses offer intense fragrance, cold hardiness, and disease resistance on their own rootstock. They come with easy care and low water requirements. Proof may be seen by those collected from sites where plants were neglected for decades.

The Heritage Rose Garden is planned to be roughly 40 feet by 100 feet. A plot diagram is in the works. A dry creek bed for drainage, meandering paths, and several benches are envisioned. To provide year-round interest, a selection of other plants will be included. Those chosen will expand on the historic/native plant palette and create further learning opportunities. Ten UCCE Master Gardener volunteers are involved in propagating the roses. In late fall, the group will visit the Dean garden once again to take dormant cuttings. So far, about 40 cuttings from the spring collection have been successful!

Now, comes the time to put the ideas and sketches to work, creating a garden to showcase these wonderful old roses. Donations and grants are being solicited so that the project can begin in earnest.

Fencing, irrigation, rocks for edging and pathways are needed. It is hoped that some Gold Rush and/or agricultural relics can be incorporated in the design to add some additional historic interest and charm. Many Amador County organizations have expressed interest in the garden and it is envisioned that the project will eventually increase in scope and depth and include further collaborations.

Trenching for the dry creek bed should begin soon. Hopefully, the rains will come and make the job of preparing the soil much easier. A groundbreaking celebration is planned for next spring, when the first heritage rose will be planted at the site, marking the beginning of a wonderful new Amador County destination. ♡

Sustainable Organic Gardening Workshop

by *Catherine Mone*

UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County

On February 23, 2019, the UCCE Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County will present a half-day, low-cost workshop on Sustainable Organic Gardening. Our goal is to help families understand how easily they can create sustainable gardens that reduce food costs, improve nutrition, and enhance food security. The workshop provides a condensed version of several popular UCCE Public Education classes in a single day.

The workshop is perfect for those who know something about organic gardening and want a stronger and more accurate scientific foundation, but it's also a great opportunity for beginning gardeners to quickly gain expertise.

We'll look at sustainability from four main perspectives: how soil functions, how to create compost to improve your soil, how to choose beneficial plants that will help attract the insects you need for pollination and pest control, and how to enjoy the abundant fruits of your labor throughout the year.



Here are our sessions for the day:

► **Sustainable Soil: Turning Dirt into Gold**

Plants thrive in soil that is teeming with life, and nurturing soil is the foundation of sustainable gardening. Learn how to assess and improve your soil to improve plant health, conserve water, and prevent erosion.

► **Composting**

Composting can be elegantly simple, or it can be a stinky mess. Come learn important techniques for a healthy decomposition process that results in compost that will enhance your garden, not spread diseases and weeds. We'll discuss hot and cold compost methods, optimal ratios of greens and browns, aeration, moisture, and uses for the final product.

► **Beneficial Plants and Insects**

Learn how to choose plants that support the beneficial insect populations that provide ecological services and natural pest control. Distinguish different insects, understand their lifecycles, and make decisions about what needs management and what is essentially a harmless part of your garden ecosystem.

► **Food Preservation:**

What to Do with Zillions of Zucchini

The Master Food Preservers will round out the day by showing you safe and creative ways to extend the pleasures of your harvest, by canning, freezing, drying, and other preservation techniques. Recipes will be provided.

Come join us to learn how to develop and maintain a garden that doesn't require costly or wasteful chemical additives, conserves valuable resources, and provides your family with a fun hobby and yummy food.

Registration is open at <http://ucanr.edu/sustainable-organic-gardening>. The cost is just \$25 and includes a light bag lunch and handouts. For more information, or if you require special accommodation, please call 530-621-5502. ♡



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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.

Jan 19 Bare Dirt to Garden Oasis

Have you just moved into a brand new home or an existing one where the landscape plants are lacking or inappropriate for life in the foothills? Not sure what to do about it or where to start? This class will provide relevant resources and ideas for bringing your property to life. Methods and materials used in garden design and planning for beautiful, resilient, water-wise landscaped areas will be presented. Location: Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson.

Jan 26 Raising Roses in the Foothills

Roses are a popular choice for local home landscapes and gardens. This class will provide detailed information about the most popular types of roses which can be grown in a landscape or garden setting in Amador County and how to propagate a rose from a growing tip. The best care and maintenance of your roses throughout the year, including planting, irrigating, fertilizing, and pruning will be covered as well as managing common rose diseases and pests with Integrated Pest Management strategies. The class will also feature an update on the Heritage Rose Garden, a Master Gardener project in progress at the Community Garden. Location: Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson.

Feb 16 Grafting Backyard Fruit Trees

Interested in improving the quality and variety of fruit trees in your backyard orchard? This class will provide information about grafting methods you can use on fruit trees in your home orchard. Local Master Gardeners will present a hands-on clinic covering a variety of grafting techniques for home gardeners. Whip, tongue and cleft grafts will be demonstrated and practiced. Bud grafts will also be discussed. Learn how to grow a fruit salad tree. A variety of fruit tree scions may be available for participants to take home. Location: Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson.

Feb 23 Flowers in Your Garden – All Year Long

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

El Dorado County

Click on class title for more information.

Questions? Call 530-621-5512.

Dec 8 2nd Saturdays with Barry – Cold Frame Planting

A lot of things are happening in the winter vegetable garden. Master Gardener Barry Wold will explain various planting, thinning, and pest control methods as well as needs for the success of your vegetable garden during each month's demonstration. **Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 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.)

Jan 12 2nd Saturdays with Barry – Growing Succulents and Perennial Gardens

A lot of things are happening in the winter vegetable garden. Master Gardener Barry Wold will explain various planting, thinning, and pest control methods as well as needs for the success of your vegetable garden during each month's demonstration. **Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am.** 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.)

Jan 26 Fire-wise Landscaping

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 along with 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 in Placerville.

Feb 2 Spring and Summer Vegetables

Location: Government Center Hearing Room, Building C, 2850 Fairlane Court in Placerville.

WHAT TO PLANT AFTER TREE LOSS

DOWNLOAD THE BROCHURE AT:
<http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/files/266459.pdf>

TREE MORTALITY INFORMATION:
http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Tree_Mortality/



MORE RESOURCES:

UC Forest Research and Outreach:
<http://ucanr.edu/forestry/>

UC Forest Stewardship Series – Pests and Disease:
<http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8246.pdf>

CAL FIRE Tree Mortality Mapper:
<http://egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer/>

CAL FIRE Ready for Bark Beetle:
<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Bark-Beetles-Dead-Trees/>



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](#)



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Upcoming Classes

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

Jan 23 Bring Your Own Pressure Canner

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

Jan 26 Waste Not Want Not

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

Jan 31 From Freezer to Jar

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

Feb 9 Citrus

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

Feb 13 Citrus – from Tree to Table

(9:00 am–noon) Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive in Cameron Park.

Feb 16 Make & Take Workshop: Using Your Own Pressure Canner

Workshop size limited. Workshop fee: \$25.00. Register early at http://ucanr.edu/feb16_mfpclass. (9:00 am–noon) Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane in Placerville.

[Central Sierra Master Food Preserver Classes](#)



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.