

Master Gardener Monthly Newsletter

March 2020



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
San Mateo and San Francisco Counties

Events

SPRING GARDEN MARKET - APRIL 18, 2020



Gardener program!

Your local Master Gardeners will be presenting their Spring Garden Market in April, and we're getting ready by prepping the greenhouses, ordering seeds and potting soil, setting up heating pads, and preparing lists of your favorite plants and vegetables specifically for your microclimates. The location will be at the San Mateo Event Center from 9:00am to 1:00pm. In future newsletters we will provide a link to documents describing plants for sale. Stockpile your cardboard boxes now to take home your purchases.

You can [support future events](#) like the Spring Garden Market by donating to the UCCE Master

MONARCH MYSTERY CHALLENGE

Western Monarch Mystery Challenge
(February 14th - April 22nd)

Monarch butterflies are facing historically low population numbers. They need your help! Help us look for them and be automatically entered to win a variety of prizes every week!

How To Enter

Step 1
If you see a monarch outside of overwintering groves, take a picture! (don't worry, it can be blurry)

Step 2
Report it to iNaturalist (the app is free!) and include species and location OR email it to monarchmystery@wsu.edu

Step 3
Be automatically entered to win a variety of prizes every week you report a sighting!

Facebook: @monarchmystery
Twitter: @westernmonarchmystery
Instagram: @westernmonarchmystery
Email: monarchmystery@wsu.edu

Tufts UC SANTA CRUZ
Western Monarch Society XERCES SOCIETY

A team of researchers from Tufts University, UC Santa Cruz, Washington State University, and the Xerces Society is working on a project to help halt the recent population collapse of the western monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus plexippus*). The western monarch overwinters in coastal California and breeds across the West. The researchers know where they overwinter and where they breed in summer, but there is a gap in the spring after they leave the overwintering areas. Less is known about where the monarchs are and what they're up to. Having a better understanding of this gap may be crucial to developing conservation plans to recover western monarchs. The researchers need community volunteers (that's you!) to participate in their Spring 2020

campaign, "Western Monarch Mystery Challenge." They want everyone in California to be on the lookout for monarch butterflies from Valentine's day (February 14th) to Earth Day (April 22nd). Their area of interest is anywhere outside of overwintering. [Read](#) on how to participate.

Gardening Tips & Tricks

PLANT PROBLEM DIAGNOSTIC TOOL

Choose the affected plant from photos displayed, click on the photo, remove any selections that do not apply, click on the plant names, and continue to filter selections to view the results for a possible diagnoses. [Learn more.](#)

GARDENING RESOURCES

Select links to access gardening resources, California Backyard Orchard, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), publications, and finding a local Master Gardener program. [Learn more.](#)

ARBORETUM ALL-STARS

Do you need help picking plants for your sustainable home garden? Selecting from the "Arboretum All-Stars" list is an easy way to start making "green" choices for your great looking garden. Arboretum All-Stars are top plants recommended by the horticultural staff of the UC Davis Arboretum. They thrive in California's Mediterranean climate and have qualities that make them great choices for sustainable home gardens. Use a [searchable plant database](#) to pick the perfect All-Star for your garden conditions. For more information, view their [website](#).

Videos



MARCH GARDENING CHECKLIST

Nine tips to prepare your organic garden for a successful growing season. [View video.](#)

[View videos](#) created by the UC Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties.

Classes & Clinics



Irrigation for Home Gardeners

Veterans Memorial Senior Center
1455 Madison Avenue
Redwood City, CA
March 7, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm

Did you ever look at your irrigation system and wonder what a particular part is called and what it does? This class will demystify what is needed for an irrigation system to function properly. Please bring your irrigation questions! In this class you will learn about irrigation system components and their functions, and tricks of the trade. [Registration required.](#)



Gardening for Pollinators

La Honda Elementary School Garden
450 Sears Ranch Road, La Honda, CA, 94020
March 14, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm

Create habitats for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. This is a fast-paced beginning class that covers everything you need to know about attracting pollinators to your yard! Register by March 8, 2020, by contacting Liz Chapman at (650) 208-0247 or by [email](#). Class fee is \$25; all proceeds support the school garden.



Year-Round Edible Garden

Gardening Education Center
San Mateo Event Center
2495 South Delaware Street
San Mateo, CA
March 14, 2020, 10:00pm-12:00pm

Our mild Mediterranean climate allows us to easily grow vegetables year-round. This class will help you focus on the wonderful fresh garden vegetables that you can enjoy by using the [Planting Calendars](#) for San Mateo and San Francisco Counties available for downloading from the Master Gardener website. You will learn to sequence your planting schedule and choose seasonal edibles. A hands-on exercise will teach you how to make and use low tunnels for season



School Garden Leaders Workshop

Arroyo School
1710 Arroyo Avenue
San Carlos, CA
March 21, 2020, 9:00am-12:00pm

School garden leaders are invited to come and be inspired. Topics to be included are activities for young kids, classroom management in the garden, curriculum sample for Middle School, and spring garden foods with kids. Come meet fellow school garden leaders, share ideas, and learn. [Registration required](#) (\$20 materials fee),

extension. [Registration](#) required.



Spring & Summer Vegetable Garden

Lyngso Garden Materials, Inc.
345 Shoreway Road
San Carlos, CA
March 21, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm

It's time to plant your spring and summer vegetable garden: those wonderful salad greens, and vegetables, such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and many others. In this beginning/overview class you will learn how to plan your spring and summer vegetable garden, determine the best location and plant vegetable seedlings, and maintain, irrigate and harvest your plants. [Registration required.](#)



Great Soil -- Great Plants

Lyngso Garden Materials, Inc.
345 Shoreway Road
San Carlos, CA
March 21, 2020, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Great plants start with healthy soil which includes a diverse array of living organisms and good soil structure. In this workshop we explore garden soil and its various components, describe the soil food web, how to build soil structure and discuss gardening practices that help and hinder plant growth. [Registration required.](#)



Home Composting Workshop

Gardening Education Center
San Mateo Event Center
2495 South Delaware Street
San Mateo, CA
March 28, 2020, 12:00pm-2:00pm

Learn how easy and fun it is to recycle your fruit and vegetable scraps, leaves, and plant trimmings into compost in this free workshop. These workshops teach many composting options, including three-bin, vermiculture and grasscycling, suitable for those with or without a backyard. Apartment dwellers welcome! Compost provides valuable nutrients for your garden soil, helps retain moisture, which saves water, prevents erosion, loosens clay and compacted soils for better drainage, and suppresses weeds. It is rewarding to know you are turning what some consider waste into precious organic material for your garden. Receive a \$30 coupon toward composting supplies, plus a bag of compost starter mix. [Registration required -- link coming soon on calendar page](#) (\$30 material fee).



Spring & Summer Vegetable Gardening

Veterans Memorial Senior Center
1455 Madison Avenue
Redwood City, CA
April 4, 2020, 10:00am-12:00p

It's time to plan your warm season vegetable garden: leafy greens, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, beans and so much more. Learn how to prepare the soil, determine the best location for crops and when to plant, irrigate the garden, and manage pests. [Registration required.](#)



San Mateo Arboretum Plant Clinic

San Mateo Central Park Arboretum Pump House
101 Ninth Avenue
San Mateo, CA
March 1, 2020, 11:00am-2:00pm

From a table stocked with reference materials, we help members of the public with their plant and gardening questions. When we are unable to answer a question, it is submitted to our Helpline with client contact information. This plant clinic is held at the Arboretum Pump House on the first Sunday of each month from February to November. If that date falls on a holiday weekend, the plant clinic is held on the second Sunday. No registration required.

San Francisco 30th Street Plant Clinic

225 30th Street (between Church/Dolores)
San Francisco, CA
March 14, 2020, 10:00am-12:00pm

Master Gardeners are available to answer your plant and gardening questions, ranging from general information to advice about specific problems. Parking is limited. When you arrive at the Senior Center, take the elevator to the 3rd floor and ask for directions to the garden. It is all the way down the hallway and out the back door. No registration required.

[View Prior Monthly Newsletters](#) -- [View All Calendar of Events](#)

Advice to Grow By... Ask A Master Gardener

Ask a UC Master Gardener! Our Helpline assists home gardeners with questions about gardening and pest management. Visit us in three locations at (1) Elkus Ranch, 1500 Purisima Creek Road in Half Moon Bay, from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Mondays; (2) Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Avenue in Redwood City, from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Thursdays, and (3) at the San Francisco Botanical Garden Library, 1199 9th Avenue in San Francisco, from 10:30am to 2:00pm on Wednesdays. You can also contact us at (650) 276-7403 or by [email](#). For more information view our [website](#) or read more about the [Helpline](#).



Follow us at SFBayGardeners and/or
share this newsletter on your social media page