

# Master Gardener Monthly Newsletter

## July 2020



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

**UC Master Gardener Program**  
San Mateo and San Francisco Counties

## Gardening Resources

### 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](#).

## Monthly Checklist



### JULY GARDENING CHECKLIST

July is the time of the year the garden is in full swing production. Picking, weeding, preserving and enjoying the harvest of homegrown produce are a few things to focus on in July. It’s a good time to sow seeds for many of your fall and winter crops directly into the ground, depending on your zone, and a great time to help guide your fruit trees into a nice, productive season. [View video.](#)

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

## Classes, Clinics, Websites, Videos



### Succulent Propagation (video)

San Mateo/San Francisco Counties Master Gardeners

View a video presented by Master Gardener Janice Moody showing how to propagate succulents using three different methods – leaf cuttings, stem cuttings, and offsets (pups). It’s quick and easy, even for a beginner! [View video.](#)



### Growing Lettuce in Warm Weather (website)

Sacramento County Master Gardeners

Lettuce seeds germinate poorly in warm summer soil since heat may cause seed dormancy. Lettuce may bolt in response to the stress of high temperatures, and the leaves may become bitter as the plant puts its growth into flowering. Leaves wilt, toughen, and get bitter if the plant becomes water stressed in heat. Visit the Sacramento County Master Gardener website to learn which varieties of lettuce are best for warm weather. [Visit website.](#)



**Fire-smart Landscaping (website and video)**  
Marin County Master Gardeners

Plan and maintain a fire-smart landscape within the context of supporting a healthy ecosystem. Today's recommendations for fire-prone communities are rapidly evolving. Stay abreast of ordinances that may exist in your city, as well as state law on fire-smart landscaping requirements. Visit the Marin County Master Gardener website to learn how to be fire smart. [Visit website and view video.](#)



**Gardening (videos)**  
Santa Clara County Master Gardeners

Learn more about growing vegetables, least-toxic pest management, pruning fruit trees, growing the world's hottest pepper, irrigation, bindweed removal, root rot and more. Visit the Santa Clara County Master Gardener website. [View videos.](#)



**Conserve Water (website)**  
Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency

Learn numerous ways to conserve water inside your home and in your landscape, use a water-wise gardening tool, take a landscaping class, read materials about water conservation, learn what types of rebates are available, and watch videos. [Visit website and view videos.](#)



**Secrets to Successful Succulent Gardening (video)**  
San Mateo/San Francisco Counties Master Gardeners

Learn the secrets to a successful, healthy, and colorful succulent landscape from Janice Moody, a Master Gardener and garden designer. She will discuss pre-planting considerations before you go out and buy a truckload of plants and then ponder where to put them. She will also provide garden design basics that include use of color, shapes, textures and heights, along with her favorite hardy landscape succulents for the Bay Area. And lastly, she discusses how to care and maintain your succulents for a year-long healthy and colorful landscape. [View video.](#)

[View our calendar for the status of future events and past monthly newsletters](#)

## Ask A Master Gardener!

Do you need help with your garden? Have a pest problem? Curious about what will grow well in your region?

[Advice to Grow By -- Ask A Master Gardener!](#)

**COVID-19 Update**

Due to the "Shelter in Place" order issued by all Bay Area counties, including San Mateo and San Francisco, the Master Gardeners are working remotely, effective March 17, 2020. [All questions can be directed via email.](#)

Please provide the following information to facilitate a prompt response:

1. Name
2. City of residence
3. Email
4. Phone, best time to call

5. Description of problem/question -- for plant or pest problems, please attach photo(s)

Since the Bay Area “shelter in place” requirements have kept many of us at home, gardening in your own backyard has become much more popular! We are seeing an increased interest at the Helpline from both new and established gardeners. It is fun to see many new gardeners asking for advice with questions such as “What do I do with these raised vegetable beds? ”and “ How do I start a vegetable garden when I know nothing about gardening?” During the first 30 days of our “shelter in place,” we have had 147 helpline questions, with 17% of them asking about the Spring Garden Market. Many, many thanks to all of our Helpline Volunteers who are working the Helpline remotely and keeping our clients happily gardening!

For more information, [visit Advice to Grow By – Ask a Master Gardener!](#)



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