

Master Gardener Monthly Newsletter

August 2020



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
San Mateo and San Francisco Counties

Featured Article



BEWARE, THE INVADERS

In the July 2020 issue of the Coastside Magazine, two of our San Mateo/San Francisco Master Gardeners discuss garden escapee plants that are not native to the area. They advise to do some quick checks before adding a new plant to your garden. Is it on a California invasives list? If the plant tag states that it reseeds happily or establishes itself quickly or spreads easily, beware! [Read more.](#)

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



AUGUST GARDENING CHECKLIST

August marks the beginning of the end of summer and a key transitioning period in your garden. Check out our video for 20 tips on what to do in your garden in August. [View video.](#)

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

Backyard Gardening



Gardening During Pandemic (survey)
Urban Agriculture/Food Systems Advisor

Dr. Lucy Diekmann, the Urban Agriculture/Food Systems Advisor for Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, is part of a group of researchers in the US, Australia, and Germany who have created a survey to see how gardening has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The study examines: (1) What motivates gardeners during the pandemic, (2) has gardeners' use of their gardens changed, and (3) what additional support would be beneficial for gardeners. If you are interested, please consider taking the survey. Completing the survey should take between 10 and 15 minutes. You can also help by reaching out to other gardeners by sharing the survey. The survey is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Please share widely! All gardeners are invited to participate and it is anticipated that results will come from gardeners on at least three continents.



Summer Fruit Tree Pruning (video)
San Mateo/San Francisco Counties Master Gardeners

Summer pruning maintains a tree's shape and size (keeps them small), encourages fruit on lower branches, allows more sunlight and air circulation into a tree to ripen and color up fruit, prevents branches loaded with fruit from snapping, prevents diseases and pests, and controls fungal problems in apricot and cherry trees. [View video.](#)



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.](#)

Gardening While Sheltering in Place (website)
Princeton Environmental Institute

Princeton researchers found that gardening at home had a similar effect on people's emotional well-being (or happiness) as biking, walking or dining out. The benefits of home gardening were similar across racial boundaries and between urban and suburban residents, and it was the only activity out of the 15 studied for which women and people with low incomes reported the highest emotional well-being. The results suggest that household gardens could be key to providing food security in urban areas and making cities more sustainable and livable. [Visit website.](#)



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.](#)



Mulching (video)
San Mateo/San Francisco Counties Master Gardeners

Learn how to save water, time weeding and to protect the microbes in our soil by mulching. Learn one method that also helps add some nitrogen to your vegetable garden. [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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