



UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County 2026 Sierra Foothills Native Plant Workshop Series

Let 2026 be the year you explore native plants for the first time or take your native-plant knowledge to a new level!

Nevada County is Rich in Native Plant Diversity

This county enjoys a unique richness of native plant life. California, itself one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, has 7600 types of native plants. Of these, over 2400 are locally native to Nevada County, one of the highest counts in the state!

No matter where you live—forest, chaparral, town, or an apartment, you can garden successfully with locally native plants.

SPECIAL 2026 WORKSHOP SERIES ON NATIVE PLANTS

To support increasing interest in native-plant gardening, UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County are offering a series of free public workshops to help you select and care for native plants that appeal to you and to the wildlife you want to support.

Master Gardeners are designing each workshop to appeal to both new and experienced native-plant gardeners. Join us for these special workshops. No registration required.

Attend all these workshops or whichever suits you best. If you're new to native plants, try to attend our first workshop, so you're well oriented for the others.

Here's a bit about each of our six workshops. Each workshop will be held on a Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon. Location legend at the end of the workshop schedule. Looking forward to seeing you!

April 4. Native Plants: The Big Picture *Grass Valley Veterans Hall*

As an introduction to concepts we'll cover throughout our native-plant series, learn how to achieve both beauty and benefits through gardening with native plants. We'll share insights specific to native plants on landscape design, plant selection, and meeting your goal as a gardener. Throughout, we'll focus on locally native plants and their advantages to you and to the ecosystem.

May 16. Calscape: Your Guide to Native Plants Online *Madelyn Helling Library, Nevada City*

Learn an easy way to select and care for California native plants. Join the Master Gardeners of Nevada County for a free, **hands-on** workshop about Calscape.org, a website of the California Native Plant Society. Calscape helps you bring native plants into your life, with handy search features and an intuitive user experience. Limited to 25 participants, so **register in advance** at <https://bit.ly/3ZPccba>.

June 13. Gardening for Wildlife with Native Plants *MGNC Demo Garden*

Your plot of earth was once a precisely evolved community of cooperative plants and animals – a fantastic web of life that started underground with tiny organisms and reached into the sky with birds and insects. You can help rebuild that community by restoring native plants to your landscape. This workshop will feature the top local native plants to create habitats and provide food for many different species including birds, pollinators and small mammals.

July 25. The Power of Keystone Plants & Plant Communities *MGNC Demo Garden*

Like people in a family or town, plants thrive better among plants that support them. Plants that grow together in nature are called a plant community. Discover the plant communities of Nevada County. Learn how plants in plant communities benefit each other and how you can use them in your landscape for more successful and ecologically valuable gardens.

Sep. 12. Lawns and Native Grasses: Planting with Purpose *MGNC Demo Garden*

Replacing traditional lawns with native plants and grasses reduces water use, fertilizer needs, and ongoing maintenance while conserving natural resources. The deep root systems of native grasses also improve soil health and provide long term slope stabilization by reducing runoff and erosion, making landscapes more resilient to drought and heavy rain. Learn how planting native grasses in your landscape as a backdrop to blooming plants, or to support ground structure, benefits both you and the natural world around us.

Oct. 10. Native Plant Roundtable: Your Questions Answered *MGNC Demo Garden*

Come learn more about what matters to you about gardening with native plants! Our presenters from this year's series of native-plant workshops will share special tips about gardening with natives and then open up to discuss the topics you want to know more about. Ask our experienced Master Gardener native-plant gardeners your questions, based on your own garden experience or on any of our native-plant workshops.

Workshop Locations:

Grass Valley Veterans Hall – 255 S. Auburn Street, Grass Valley

Madelyn Helling Library – 980 Helling Way, Nevada City

MGNC Demonstration Garden – 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley



UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources