
Ventura County Master Gardener Monthly Checklist.

SEPTEMBER.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES

- ✓ September is a great time to plan for fall but don't plant yet. Waiting until late fall will give your plants a better chance to establish before next summer comes along.
- ✓ Watering can be tricky this time of year since we don't usually get rainfall until the fall months. With the extended heat of this past month, most native plants can take a deep watering now. Be mindful not to let water sit or let your soil stay saturated. Most native plants are not adapted to those conditions.
- ✓ [Calscape.org](https://calscape.org) from the California Native Plant Society can help you with everything from choosing plants and design to saving water, gardening for pollinators and wildlife and planning ahead for climate change.

GROWING FOOD

- ✓ If you are planting from seed, September is the optimal time to start carrots, celery, leeks, winter zucchini
- ✓ Acceptable crops would be bush beans, beets, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, radishes, summer squash, and Swiss chard but waiting until October might give you better results with these cool weather crops.
- ✓ If you are buying transplants instead of planting from seed, the planting schedule should be adjusted by one or two months
- ✓ You can find the complete planting chart here [SoCal Vegetable Planting Guide](#)
- ✓ Not sure how to get started? We have a plethora of classes that you can sign up for here, [UC Master Gardeners of Ventura Events](#)
- ✓ Check out this article for storing your harvest [Harvesting and Storing](#)

PLANTS AND FLOWERS

- ✓ Keep an eye on your young seedlings. Even drought tolerant ones will need regular water to get established.
- ✓ To add fun colors to your garden, fall is a good time to plant daylily, alyssum, alstroemeria snapdragons and petunias.
- ✓ To attract beneficial insects, try aster, chamomile, coreopsis, feverfew, marigold, scabiosa, and yarrow. Honeybees like floral consistency so plant in patches of 3' square. To attract native bees, plant a variety of native flowers in smaller patches. For fall blooms, add plants from the aster or daisy family.

TREES & SHRUBS

- ✓ Most established ornamental trees and shrubs do not require a routine fertilizer. A list of plant-specific fertilization information can be found here, [Fertilizing Fruit and Shade Trees and Shrubs](#)
- ✓ If birds and other pests are helping themselves to your fruit, you can cover trees with netting. Same for blueberries.

TOOL AND IRRIGATION CARE

- ✓ Invest in a moisture meter probe to check on your soil. A simple handheld probe will save a lot of guessing.
- ✓ Clean and sanitize tools, all metal parts (sharpen or replace blades)
- ✓ Rub wooden handles with linseed oil. Store in dry place.
- ✓ Check drip lines and emitters for wet patches and dry patches. Consider switching from high flow to low flow. Replace timer batteries.
- ✓ Check out our [free irrigation class September 12th](#). Sign-up and information here, [Drip Irrigation at Calleguas MWD](#)

INSECTS, PESTS & WEEDS

- ✓ You can find information on weeds and their management by species here, [Weeds and Other Unwanted Plants](#)
- ✓ Keep an eye out for powdery mildew. Rinse affected leaves in the morning. Allow leaves to dry completely by nightfall. For especially bad cases, prune affected parts and throw away in regular trash. Do not add to compost pile or green recycling bin. [Powdery Mildew on Ornamentals](#)
- ✓ Keep an eye out for any standing water. This is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. [Mosquitoes](#)
- ✓ Snails and Slugs info here [Snails and Slugs](#)
- ✓ Whiteflies information [Whiteflies](#)
- ✓ Aphids love a nitrogen-rich garden. They are less common in a native garden. [Aphids](#)
- ✓ Never mass spray pesticides. You will harm beneficial insects, ladybugs, bees and other pollinators. **90% of all insects are beneficial!**
- ✓ Visit [California Citrus Threat](#) for information on Huanglongbing (HLB) the deadly disease of citrus, and the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) the pest that spreads the disease. Check your citrus trees monthly for infestations and control the ants.
- ✓ For all pest advice - Visit www.ipm.ucanr.edu

WATER, AIR, SOIL, & FIRE

- ✓ Take a free Drip Irrigation class. Information and sign-up here, [September 12th Drip Irrigation Class](#)
- ✓ After a long hot summer, your mature trees will appreciate a deep watering if they haven't been on a regular irrigation schedule. Information on the proper watering of landscape plants can be found here, [Fertilizing and Watering Landscape plants](#)
- ✓ Be sure to keep ahead of removing the dead plants and fire "fuel" in your yard. High hazard fire areas are now facing more stringent regulations. You can view the new regulations here, [Full Zone-Zero Regulations](#) and even sign up for a zoom class on "Firewise Living-From Structure to Landscape" from our home page here [Ventura Master Gardeners](#)
- ✓ You can learn more about your soil here [Ventura County Soils](#) There's even a map where you can access information on your soil properties from the NRCS soil survey.

If you have a home gardening question, reach out to our [UC Master Gardener Help Desk](#). We LOVE questions! Reach us at mgventura@ucanr.edu. Send your questions and photos.