



UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe August 2024

This month can be a busy one for Tahoe gardeners! Just check the 16 task to do list Master Gardener Jen Cressy came up with at the end of this newsletter! You will have an idea of all the ways you can spend time improving your landscape and gardens. Smoke has returned, so please be careful to limit time outdoors as your health allows. Days are getting shorter and the sun is moving to the south. Light in your garden may change during the month and favor plants that have been shaded earlier in summer. I enjoy adding some new fall annuals to my south facing garden this time of year, as they get the sun they need to flourish in September and October.

In this issue, we offer tips for growing carrots (indoors or outdoors!), a trip to the beautiful Butchart Gardens in Western Canada, and resources for garden pests that you need to know about.

Feedback is always important to us. Please contact me with suggestions and requests!

Sandy Gainza
UCCE Master Gardener Volunteer, Newsletter Editor

Find Master Gardeners at the El Dorado Farmers' Market Tuesday Mornings!

Look for the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe sign at the **El Dorado Farmers' Markets** on Tuesday mornings. We are here to answer gardening questions, share your growing successes (or war stories), and offer you the tips you need to increase your enjoyment of your summer landscape. The market runs from 8 am to 1 pm and is located at 2732 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Click here for a list of UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County events.](#)
- [This link will take you to the complete list of UCCE Central Sierra events.](#)
- [Click here to learn about UCCE Master Gardeners of Placer County events.](#)

- [UCCE Master Food Preservers of Central Sierra events are listed here.](#)
- [University of Nevada Extension events are found here.](#)



GARDENING THROUGH THE SEASONS WORKSHOP

FALL INTO CONSERVATION

Tuesday, 8/27 6pm - 7:30pm

Free to join at South Tahoe Public Utility District
1275 Meadow Crest Drive

Or join virtually by scanning the
QR code at the time of the workshop



stpud.us



What blooms in the fall for three season color? Come to the final "Gardening Through the Seasons Workshop" and find out!

The fall workshop hosted by South Tahoe Public Utilities Department and the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe will focus on preparing your garden for winter and learning to shut down your irrigation system. We will also discuss adding plants to your garden that shine during the autumn season.

"Our goal is to help residents create beautiful, sustainable landscapes that are both functional and water efficient,"

-Jennifer Cressy, Master Gardener and STPUD Water Efficiency Technician.

"Gardening Through the Seasons Fall" will be held at South Tahoe Public Utilities District office boardroom on **Tuesday, August 27 from 6 to 7:30 pm.** This event is **free.** The address is 1275 Meadowcrest Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA.

To attend the "Gardening through the Seasons" fall course virtually, please scan this QR code at the time of the workshop (8/27 at 6 pm). The QR code listed above will not scan.



Tips for Growing Carrots in Lake Tahoe

Kristianne Hanneman, Master Gardener

(Photo Credit: Jonny's Selected Seeds)

Although we have a short growing season here in Tahoe, it is possible to grow and enjoy carrots. You can grow them indoors in containers that are at least 12-inches deep that are placed in a sunny spot, or sow the seeds directly outside 2 weeks before the last frost date. Growing carrots is especially fun for kids,

since they enjoy digging them up. Once harvested, wash and dry them well and store them in a refrigerator for up to several weeks.

Here are some tips for growing carrots successfully:

1. Choose an early carrot variety.
2. Carrot seeds can be planted after soils reach 40°F; seeds germinate best at 55-65°F.
3. Carrots grow best at 75°F, but most varieties tolerate down to low 30s for short periods.
4. Plant seeds ¼-inch deep and space them 2-3 inches apart.
5. If necessary, thin carrot seedlings when they are 3-4 inches tall.
6. Most carrots are ready to harvest in about 3 months; dig one up to check!

Carrots are biennial. If you do not harvest them, they will flower and seed the following year. However, they will become too hard to eat.

For more information:

[Master Gardeners of Sonoma County Tips on Growing Carrots](#)

[Utah State Univ. Yard and Garden Extension: How to grow carrots in your garden](#)

Learn about what "BUGS" you!

Sandy Gainza, Master Gardener

(Photo credit: Scott Bauer)

This time of year, it seems that the pest population around Lake Tahoe reaches critical mass. The bugs and vertebrate pests have all had time to reproduce and

the kids are hungry! How should you handle pests? The University of California (which supervises this Master Gardener program) has many resources to help homeowners, farmers, and landscape pros get accurate, researched based solutions to pest problems. Start [HERE!](#)

The University of California Integrated Pest Management website contains information to help you identify which pest you have and how to control it. Bookmark this site and use the years of research of the UC to make informed decisions about pest control. I use the section called "[Home, Garden, Turf and Landscape Pests](#)" to drill down into the pest I am trying to learn about. There is also a "[Weed Photo Gallery](#)" which can help you figure out which weed you have and the methods of control.



Thinking of using pesticides? Check [HERE](#) for accurate information on pesticide registration, active ingredients, and information on bee toxicity of different pesticides. ***KNOW YOUR PEST...pesticides are very specific and using the wrong one is a poor use of resources and will not take care of your pest problem.***

If you plan to use pesticides, you must read and follow the directions on the label. The label is a **legal document** and **you are breaking the law if you apply a pesticide in a manner not specified on the label.** The University of Nevada has created a very concise and complete [e-brochure](#) which covers the hows and whys of pesticide label reading.

Using these tools, identify and learn more about what is and what is not a pest. Often, an insect is beneficial to your garden. You will have more options to pest management in your garden if you do your homework. Quite often, changing the environment to make it less attractive to pests may be all you need to do. Watering practices, barriers, moving plants to better locations, removing attractants such as bird feeders; all of these can help without resorting to chemical methods of control.

We hope you find these websites useful. Both the University of California and the University of Nevada have spent countless person hours researching and publishing information to help our community. Use it!

Traveling Gardener - Butchart Gardens, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada

David Long, Master Gardener

(Photo Credit David Long)

The Butchart Gardens are located in Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, about 14 miles from the capital city of Victoria. The gardens are one of the must-see tourist stops when visiting western Canada. Family owned and operated by descendants of Robert Pim Butchart and his wife Jennie. Jennie Butchart started the Garden in 1904 as part of the family home's landscaping. Today the garden consists of 55 acres of

immaculately landscaped grounds.

[READ MORE](#)



August Tips for Tahoe Gardeners

Contributed by Jen Cressy, Master Gardener

1. Stay on top of weeds, especially as and before they go to seed. This includes the pretty weeds as well.
2. Avoid a heavy prune on shrubs and trees as it will stimulate new growth that may not have time to harden off before winter.
3. Clean up dead annuals so they do not harbor pesky pests and disease.
4. Raise the deck on your lawnmower to help shade the soil and reduce evaporation. 3 to 4 inches should do the trick.
5. It's fire season, continue to remove woody plants, mulch and pine tree debris near your home structures. Zero to five feet is the ember resistant zone.
6. Caterpillars are emerging. Have some tolerance for these leaf eating, soon to be beneficial moths and butterflies.
7. Thanks to the squirrels, the green pine cones are beginning to be released from our trees. Keep an eye on your potted plants less they turn into a "save it for later" pine cone storage space.
8. Keep your recirculating water features and bird baths clean and mosquito larva free.
9. Clean out empty bird houses so they are ready for next spring.
10. Garden cutting tools may be ready for a mid season sharpen.
11. Don't throw that ground cover in the heap! Share your overgrown creeping stoncrop, bugle weed and creeping jenny with your gardening friends and neighbors.
12. Sow peas the second half of the month for a fall crop. You can also sow Chinese cabbage, leaf lettuce, mustard greens, Swiss chard, spinach and arugula late in August.
13. Continue to harvest your squash and tomatoes before something else eats them.
14. Fertilize heavy feeders (flowering annuals and vegetables) with organic products.
15. Order spring blooming bulbs for planting in September.
16. As some perennials move into summer dormancy, mark their locations so you don't accidentally fill in the spot with a new plant this fall or early next spring.

FINALLY: Make sure to enjoy the fruits of your labors and spend time not working in your garden.

UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe
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<https://ucanr.edu/sites/mglaketahoe/>

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