



May 2022

Greetings Tahoe Gardeners,

The calendar says its Spring, but as we all know high elevation gardening always gives us a surprise now and then.



This month's newsletter includes a yard cleanup article by one of our Master Gardeners. Last year's devastating fires has shown how important this annual ritual is to us mountain folk.

I'd also like to give a shout out to **Wildfire Safety Expo**. Click **here** for a link for information.

The Grow Your Own Tahoe is half way through their 2022 workshop season. See repeated article below. Registration and recordings of this year's workshops can be found **here**.

Also, I will be resigning as the Program Coordinator for the Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners as soon as my replacement is found. It is a 50% position located in SLT with full University of California benefits. More information to apply is found on our **website**. You do not need to be a Master Gardener to apply. A love of gardening and the ability to work with a group of dedicated volunteers would be helpful.

Very best,

Mary Wall
Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners
Program Coordinator



Spring Yard Cleanup
By Sandy Gainza
Lake Tahoe Master Gardener

As what may be our last big storm of the season passes through this week, it is time to think about spring yard and garden clean up. One reason to clear up your space is to make room for plants that have gone dormant and are now re-emerging from their winter hibernation. Another critical reason to clean up the fallen needles and debris from winter is to increase your home's

defensible space. Last summer's fires showed us that our lovely Tahoe Basin could be destroyed by wildfire. Making the time to do a good spring clean up is one step you can take to mitigate fire hazard. Check out these three links for more information on creating and maintaining defensible space around your home. The Lake Tahoe area has numerous resources to educate the public and offer support to homeowners wishing to do more to prevent fire damage to their property.

This article, published by the Living With Fire Tahoe organization on April 20, 2022 provides an up to date, simple to follow list of chores you should do around your home to increase your defensible space against the hazards of wildfire:

<https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/uncategorized/spring-is-here-its-time-to-think-about-your-defensible-space/>

The North Lake Tahoe Fire Prevention District website is full of information useful to you regarding fire prevention and safety. Here is their latest announcement regarding their chipping program:

<https://nlffpd.org/news/chipping-defensible-space-services-begin-may-9-2022>

A free PDF of the publication "Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe and Vicinity" is available here:

<https://tahoercd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/LandscapingGuide.pdf>

Chapter 5 of this publication is devoted to fire prevention. Chapter one of the guide also contains information on the concept of "Best Management Practices", which are designed to protect water quality of Lake Tahoe, preserve the natural habitat of plants and wildlife, and inform residents of their shared responsibility as stewards of this very special basin we share.

The UC Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners' website has additional links to other resources you will find useful as you begin your spring gardening. Be sure to check it out here;

https://ucanr.edu/sites/mglaketahoe/Gardening_in_Tahoe/

Every spring gets us reacquainted with old friends in our garden as the perennials and bulbs wake up and poke out new leaves and stalks. Be careful as you rake away the pine needles to search for buds and shoots. One useful tip is placing small sticks in the fall near tender plants to make sure you can locate them come spring. Keep in mind that there will still be two months of possible freezes, so if you get excited at the garden centers and choose new plants, you will have to protect them from frost until mid-June.

Where can you take your piles of pine needles, dead leaves and pine cones? South Tahoe Refuse will accept green waste. Remember you can use large trash cans, eliminating those plastic trash bags! For more information, check here:

<https://southtahoerefuse.com/str-clean-green-waste-drop-off-location/>

The North Lake Tahoe Fire Prevention District offers information for Placer County and El Dorado county residents regarding disposal of green waster here:

<https://www.ntfire.net/green-waste-disposal>

The Tahoe Douglas Fire District has begun its spring “Compost your Combustibles” each year from the end of May until early July, fire district residents can drop off green waste at the Stagecoach parking lot by the Ridge. More information is on their Facebook page.

The UC Master Gardeners hope this list of resources proves useful to you as you clean up your yard and prepare for the outdoor season!





[REGISTER](#)



The Grow Your Own Tahoe (GYOT) workshops open early this year with a session on Germinating Seeds and Transplanting. GYOT is a collaboration among several local organizations to bring high elevation organic growing expertise to local gardeners. Slow Food Lake Tahoe is managing the registration process which can be done [here](#) for all the workshops.

Note that all sessions are offered online. Several are also offered in person at the Truckee Community Garden (different dates). A limited number of plants and seeds can be purchased.

March 2 Germinating seeds and Transplanting

April 6 Growing Mushrooms

May 4 Gardening 101 & Fertilizer

May 11 Beans & Peas from Seed

May 18 Spicy Salads! Leafy Vegetables

May 25 Potatoes & Sunchokes

June 1 Squash

June 6 Tomatoes

June 15 Herbs

REGISTER



UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe
530-314-8383
laketahoemg@ucanr.edu
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/mglaketahoe/>

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UCCE MG of Lake Tahoe | 1100 Lyons Avenue, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

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