



University of California Cooperative Extension 2145 Wardrobe Ave. Merced, CA 95341-6445

June Merced Master Gardeners Public Newsletter

Have gardening questions?

The Helpline Number is 209 385-7403. The Helpline email is anrmgmerced@ucanr.edu

Public Educational Opportunities

Sept	9	Fall and Winter Veggies
Sept	23	House Plants
October	14	Succulents and Cacti
October	28	Vegetative Propagation
Nov	11	Leaf Composting & Vermicul-
December	9	Grow your Soils

Check Merced Master Gardeners Facebook page for information.



Merced Master Gardeners
ucanr.edu

To find out more about the Master Gardeners Program, point your phone's camera at the QR code and follow the link.

Enjoy The Dog Days of Summer

Garden To-Do's

By Pat Shay

August (Just in case you still need it.)

We're moving toward the end of summer, so maintenance is the name of the game. Roses need to be deadheaded routinely to encourage re-bloom. Continue to fertilize per container label.

Fruit is near or ready for harvest. If your trees are loaded, use props to keep branches from breaking. Remove fruit that has fallen as quickly as possible. That lessens opportunistic neighborhood animals from scavenging and lessens the chance of insect and/or disease infestation. Once fruit is harvested, consider some summer pruning to manage size and shape.

Start winter vegetables, broccoli, cauliflower, chard, lettuce and spinach in flats. If you plan to start them in a greenhouse, be sure that they are shaded from mid-day heat and that there is plenty of circulation.

Prune hydrangeas right after bloom fades. Cut stems back to 12 inches or less. Water in your choice of fertilize or fish emulsion to keep flowers blooming longer into fall.

Continue to deep water established trees. If you lost shade trees through the drought and want to replace them or add a tree or two to your landscape, summer is a great time to determine which areas can most benefit from new shade. Consider trees that will add the most to the ecosystem as homes to insects that attract birds. Hold off actual planting until September or October.

If you have hummingbird feeders, be sure to keep them clean and filled since the heat is as hard on our feathered friends as it is on us. Do the same with bird-baths. Put a small rock or two in birdbaths so that bees have a place to land when they come for water.

September

As summer wanes, it is time to begin planning for

Garden To-Do's

spring! Now is the time to begin planting spring blooming bulbs, such as daffodils, anemone, iris and perhaps some less common ones like freesia and sparaxis.

Now is also the time to plant sweet peas. It is recommended that the seeds be soaked overnight before planting for best germination. A good idea, too, to plant in succession so that the boom period will last longer. Planting them in the right spot will result in self seeding for years to come. Morning sun and afternoon shade is best here in the hot Valley.

This is also the best time of year to plant California natives. Many chapters of the California Native Plant Society hold sales in September and October.

If you've decided to add a tree or two to your landscape, those which will contribute most to the biodiversity of your yard are oaks. Because they are very slow growing and become quite large, you might want to consider other choices. For suggestions visit www.calscape.org (website for the California Native Plant Society). You can enter your zip code and see plants that are native to your area. Look for the plant sales mentioned above, as well. From now through late fall, plant seeds or starts of winter vegetables.

To boost the color of blue hydrangeas, add 1 tablespoon/foot of plant height of aluminum sulfate to the soil around the plant or 1 teaspoon for a plant in a container. Depending upon whether you live in town or in a more rural setting, prepare for fire season. Mow or weed-eat open areas to keep grasses in check. Remove pruning debris. Leave some branches, etc. for birds and small critters to use for winter protection.



SELECTION & CARE FOR HOUSEPLANTS



Presenter: **Cathy Fossum, Merced County Master Gardener**

SEPTEMBER
Saturday 23rd
10:00 to Noon

What you will learn:

- Choosing houseplants for your space and what you can manage
- Proper watering, fertilizing and re-potting to help your plants thrive
- Pruning, pinching and propagating for the best growth
- Controlling insects, pests and plant diseases
- Learn which houseplants are pet (and toddler!) friendly

LOCATION: UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CLASSROOM
2145 Wardrobe Avenue, Merced

Pre-Register: 209-385-7403 Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
(CLOSED 12-1 for lunch)

Or email: anrmgmerced@ucanr.edu

* Walk-ins are encouraged and welcome to attend
FREE Event - Donations accepted

BECOME a
MASTER GARDENER!

Learn all about our
2024 Master
Gardener Training
Program
Immediately following
the workshop.

Join Us!



UPCOMING 2023
WORKSHOPS

OCTOBER 14th *Succulents & Cacti*
OCTOBER 28th *Vegetative Propagation*
NOVEMBER 11th *Leaf Composting & Vermiculture*
DECEMBER 9th *Growing Your Soils*

Master Gardeners are a University of California, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources trained volunteer group within the University of California Cooperative Extension that seeks to extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of Merced County. Master Gardeners accomplish this through extension, informative outreach programs, and workshops. You can also find us at Merced's Downtown Farmers Market on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays spring through fall from 8:00 to 11:00 am



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Merced County

FALL & WINTER VEGETABLE GARDENING WORKSHOP



PRESENTER: Merced County Master Gardener **TOM DINWOODIE**

SEPTEMBER
Saturday 9th
10:00 to Noon

What you will learn:

- The benefits and pitfalls of container gardening
- The ease and greater variety of starting plants from seeds
- What grows best in the fall and winter in the San Joaquin Valley
- How to grow a super garden and what are the super foods
- Free seeds, plant starts and more!

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**BECOME a
MASTER GARDENER!**

An Informational Session about our 2024 Master Gardener Training Program will immediately follow the workshop. Join Us!



UPCOMING 2023 WORKSHOPS

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See Complete Workshop Calendar on page 9.

Several great webinars are available to the public for free and take place from 12 to 1pm PDT on the third Thursday of every month. Webinars are recorded and posted to the UC IPM YouTube channel. Visit the UC IPM webinar website for more information.

See page 4 for information on how you too can become a Master Gardener.

Become a Merced Master Gardener! Next Class: January 2024



When: Training classes will begin on January 6, 2024 and be on most Saturdays through, April. Dates to be announced.

Information Sessions: September 9 and 23 at 12 Noon.

Applications: Due on October 20, 2023.

Cost: approximately \$200 includes all books, supplies and materials. Some scholarships available.

Where: Classes held: UCCE Merced County Office, 2145 Wardrobe Ave, Merced

Merced County Master Gardeners are UC trained volunteers who educate the community about home horticulture, by sharing the information they have learned through a variety of programs and projects, including workshops, seminars, helplines, farmers markets and school gardens. No gardening experience necessary, just curiosity and a willingness to learn and to answer community members' questions about gardens and landscapes.

Classes include hands-on experiences:

- home landscaping
- vegetable gardening
- water conservation
- home orchards
- weeds
- plant pathology
- soils and fertilizers
- composting
- insects
- plant propagation and much more.

As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the Merced Master Gardeners website cemerced.ucanr.edu

Grow! Learn! Educate!

Author's Name/s goes here

