



Merced County Master Gardener's Public Newsletter

May 2024

Upcoming Events

- Sat, May 4th and May 18th – [Visit our booth at Merced Certified Farmers Market, 16th Street parking lot between M & K street.](#)
- Sat, May 11th – Drip Irrigation: Containers Landscape, Garden, and Orchard 10-12 noon – [Details here](#)
- Sat, June 8th -Pest Management in the Veggie Garden: A Non-Chemical Approach – [Details here](#)
- Wed, June 5th – Sun, June 9th – Visit our educational booth, information booth, and demonstration garden at the [Merced County Fair](#).

Advice to Grow By... Ask Us

Do you have questions about plants, trees or pests in your home garden or in your containers? Here's how to get answers:

- Bring your questions, photos, and/or samples to talk with us in person, at our booth at the Merced Certified Farmers Market on the first and third Saturdays of each month (April – Oct). We will either help you get answers on the spot or fill out a questionnaire to submit to our Gardening Helpline for more research.
- Send an email to anrmgmerced@ucanr.edu giving a description of the issue, attach photos of impacted plant(s) and pest, and provide your name and phone number to contact you.

2024 Master Gardener Training Class Update

The trainees are completing the final exam this week and will graduate Sat, May 4th.

We commend them for their hard work and commitment in completing 15 weeks of comprehensive training in the Master Gardener Program!

Garden To-Do's – May

By Pat Shay, Merced County Master Gardener

Prime gardening season is upon us. Ready, Set.....GARDEN!!

Fertilize roses as buds appear.

Plant flowering annuals and all summer veggies.

Consider employing edible gardening practices and add some veggies/berry plants to annual beds.

Plant flowering annuals and all summer veggies.

Edible flowers, carnations, violas, lilacs, roses, lavender, marigolds and nasturtiums and herb blossoms in your beds will attract beneficial to aid in general pollination and help control harmful pests.

As you add tender young annuals to the garden guard against too much sun too soon. Some may need afternoon shade for the rest of the season.

Make sure all young trees and shrubs are staked against too much wind. Remember not to stake too tightly so that the plant has some flexibility as it grows stronger.

Prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs after bloom.

Monitor weed growth as you begin irrigation.

Begin mulching all beds to prepare for increased temps on the horizon.

Be water wise – irrigate in the morning before the sun evaporates the moisture. Monitor closely as temps in May can vary from cool (less water) to fairly hot (more water).

Remember that California natives, as a rule, do NOT need fertilizer.

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