



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

**June Merced Master Gardeners Public Newsletter**

**Happy 4th of July**

**Have gardening questions?**

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

**Public Educational Opportunities**

July	8	Culinary Herbs
August	12	Citrus
September	9	Seed Saving
September	23	House Plants
October	14	Fall and Winter Veggies
October	28	Vegetative Propagation
November	11	Leaf Composting & Vermiculture
December	9	Grow your Soils



**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.

**Merced Fair: Celebrate**

Our Garden won 2nd Place, We'd like to thank Atwater's Stepping Stone Nursery for the loan of beautiful plants for the garden.



Our Educational Booth not only won 1st place, but was considered most educational.



## Garden To-Do's for July 2023

By Pat Shay

It's been a pleasure to enjoy milder temperatures this year. No doubt our gardens are also relieved – less irrigation, less mulching, less wilt, but temps still high enough to expect ripening/blooming on schedule. Uncharted territory, so we shall see....

### July

In a normal year we would be considering ways to maintain moisture levels and guarding against searing temps. We can probably expect the heat to hit, though perhaps not quite as hot, nor for as long duration. That said, mulching is still the order of the day. This practice helps plants maintain uniform moisture levels, supports plant health and leads to good harvests. As always, maintain a couple of inches of clear ground around the base of your plants – avoid letting the mulch touch plant material.

We cannot be lulled into thinking that the heat won't hit, so it is important to stay current with the weather forecast and adjust automatic watering systems accordingly.

As has been mentioned many, many times, IF you still have a lawn, it is much more efficient to set sprinklers for two rotations in the morning – one at around 5 a.m. for ten to fifteen minutes and again around 6 a.m. for the same amount of time. The lawn can absorb the water it receives and utilize it properly, as opposed to one 20 – 30 minute cycle which leads to waste, or the dreaded 'urban drool' when water goes down the drain rather than onto your lawn.

Again on the lawn – adjust your mower (or tell your gardener to adjust his) to a somewhat higher level – lawn will use less water than if it is 'skinned'.

Put some color in your yard – add salvias (reds, blues, purples) and other perennials and/or self-seeders such as coreopsis, gaillardia, rudbeckia or add annuals such as rock rose (portulaca) and zinnias. Both of the latter bloom like crazy for weeks and weeks and thrive in the heat.

Give your houseplants a vacation – put them outside! More delicate ones can go on a shaded patio or under an overhang on an east or north facing wall. Use the mist setting on a sprinkler to get rid of dust.

Give mature trees long, slow waterings with a bubbler once a month. The drought was VERY unkind to mature trees and this winter's wonderful rains have helped them considerably, but monthly deep watering will keep them healthy.



### Fair Information Booth

You are receiving this email because you provided your email address at a Master Gardener Event. If you do not wish to receive email from the Merced Master Gardeners, please let us know