



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardener Program

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

August 2022 Merced Master Gardeners Public Newsletter

Happy Gardening!

Have gardening questions?
The Helpline Number is 209 385-7403.
The Helpline email is
anrmgmerced@ucanr.edu

MMG Calendar:

October

- 1 Farmer's Market
- 8 Fall-Winter Container Gardening
- 15 Farmer's Market

If you are interested in native plants *Google Doug Tallamy*, and you will get the necessary link to his whole series. He advocates finding the native plants for your area and using them to support the bio diversity around you. For example, some trees will bring more birds to your yards because certain caterpillars live on those trees.

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

Garden To-Do's: Oct., Nov., Dec. By Pat Shay, MMG

If any of us needed a nudge to appreciate the devastation that climate change can bring to our gardens, we need only remember the week of three digit temperatures we experienced the last week of August this year. What a horror....at least in my garden. Brings home very clearly the need to try to make plantings using drought tolerant natives as much as possible.

This is the time of year to plant trees and other natives. IF we get rain this fall, plants put in beds now have time to develop good root systems in the cool weather coming and are better able to withstand the mostly dry, warm (to HOT) conditions here.

For those who want to add natives to their gardens, a wonderful opportunity awaits at the UC Davis Arboretum plant sales scheduled for October 1st, October 22nd and November 5, each day from 9am – 1pm. The first sale day is limited to those who are Arboretum members, but there is a very simple, timely fix if you are NOT a member currently.....you can join on-line as late as sale day and enjoy an additional \$10 off coupon, to boot! A plant list available at the arboretum web site.

OCTOBER

If you are thinking of adding a tree or two to your yard, first consider Dr. Doug Tallamy's advice on trees that provide caterpillars for birds. AVOID Bradford Pears (fruitless pears) which are non-native and provide nothing for a bird's diet. Avoid, or only use sparingly, crape myrtles for the same reason. They are beautiful accents and very reliable color spots, but no caterpillars live on them.

UC Davis Arboretum suggests Arbutus 'Marina', Pineapple Guava, Chinese Fringe Tree, Formosan Flame tree and the ever reliable (though very slow growing) Valley Oak. Another recommendation is the Washington Haw-

Garden To-Do's: (Continued)

thorne which is a very nice tree that produces good shade and is easy to maintain. If they are not available at a nursery near you, ask to have the ones you want ordered. You can also visit the Monrovia Nursery website and order trees to be delivered to a nursery they work with near you.

Just like everything else, soil needs nourishment and rejuvenation to allow plants to put out their best crop, whether vegetable or ornamental. More plant material also helps the soil retain moisture and that is something we are probably going to be in ever greater need of as time goes on. Renee's Gardens produced a great short video of how to use a cover crop, planted at this time of year, to provide plant-based material in our dormant beds so that come spring, when we plant new veggie patches, the soil will be vibrant and ready to perform to its best. Here is the link to that video: https://www.reneesgarden.com/blogs/gardening-resources/how-and-why-to-plant-cover-crop-seeds?_kx=0gSUuAmJ0k1_IMMkUaGPy8ntEltxt2XET9MyVg_yq-A%3D.XfpVk4

This is in no way to say that Renee's Gardens is THE source for the seed material, similar mixes are available at many nurseries and garden centers.

This is the time for garden clean-up, too. As you trim back perennials and begin pruning on shrubs and small trees, remember that wild critters who are beneficial to our gardens love to have nesting material and places to hide/shelter from the colder (hopefully rainy!!!) weather to come. Take some of your cuttings to an unseen/unused corner of your yard and make a stack of 'debris' for them to use.

It's time to feed azaleas, japonica camellias and rhododendrons.

Prune after last bloom: Blue star, brunnera, columbine, baptisia, coreopsis, geraniums, iris, and salvia.

Prune before blooming: aster, beebalm, garden phlox, golden rod, chrysanthemums (ideally these no later than July!)

Do NOT cut back during growing season: astilbe, daylily, lilies

NOVEMBER

After all the pleas to plant natives as much as possible, for those who LOVE daffodils, freesias, crocus, iris, etc., now is the time to plant the bulbs. For best, longest lasting display, stagger planting. Surprisingly these are not terribly thirsty plants and added as accents to the yard are really lovely.

Time to apply the first dormant spray to stone fruit trees to avoid curly leaf.

Time to fertilize citrus. Also, prepare to either give trees a good watering on nights when frost is expected or plan to cover them. IF you choose to cover smaller citrus trees, be sure that the covering material does NOT TOUCH the foliage.

Cold weather will have leveled dahlias. There is no need to dig up the tubers to be replanted in late spring, 2023, but IF you do want to store them or are planning to plant elsewhere in the garden, be sure to store in saw dust and keep in a cool, dry place until time to replant. Trim off all dead vegetation.

If we do not get rain, remember that permanent plantings, existing trees, roses, perennial shrubs, etc., will need irrigation from time to time.

DECEMBER

A living Christmas tree should not be indoors more than two weeks. During its stay, be sure to keep watered. An indoor, living tree should be planted out in the yard after two seasons....unless it is already too big after just one season!

No need to fertilize anything.....except citrus, which should get their second feeding now.

Also it's time for a second dormant spray for stone fruit trees.

Garden To-Do's: (Continued)

If you are desperate for winter color, plant a few large pots of cyclamen, primroses, calendula, pansies, etc. Watch not to place pots under eaves which might flood them during showers.

If you have holly and/or pyracantha, cuttings make great in-door decorations. Just watch for insect visitors.

Happy gardening!



Come Preserve with Us!
Applications due December 4, 2022

Do you enjoy canning or drying food?
Do you enjoy teaching?

Become a volunteer for the UCCE Master Food Preservers of Mariposa County (Serving Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno and Tuolumne Counties)



Photo by Melissa Wornock

Learn It!

Attend the initial training series.

Preserve It!

Make jams & jellies, fruits and veggies, sauerkraut, jerky, soups, and much more.

Teach It!

Educate your community through public classes and events.

Master Food Preserver?
Interested?

Learn about the UC Master Food Preserver Program, community involvement and volunteer requirements at one of our two training information meetings.

Friday, October 21, 12:00 Noon—1:00 pm or **Friday, November 18, 12:00 Noon—1:00 pm**

RSVP at <http://ucanr.edu/2023-mfp-training-mtg>. Can't make either meeting? Sign up at the registration site to receive a link to a recorded meeting.

10 Online Training Sessions **8 Hands-on Lab Sessions**

Fridays, 2:00-4:00: Jan 27, Feb 3, 10, 24; Mar 10, 24; Apr 14, 28; May 5, 19

Dates: To Be Determined

Cost: \$175 (includes books and lab materials)

Class Location: online classes via Zoom, hands-on labs in Mariposa County

For more information, visit https://cemariposa.ucanr.edu/Master_Food_Preserver_Program



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
 Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Food Preserver Program

UC Master Food Preservers of Mariposa County Present:

Basics of Fermenting & Pickling

Have you been curious about fermented and pickled foods? UC Master Food Preservers will present information about the differences and show you how to make your own.



Hands-on workshop covering:

- Fermentation
- Refrigerator Pickles
- Canning Pickled Vegetables

Take home your fermented/pickled vegetables to share with your family. Recipes provided.

Saturday, October 22

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

UC Cooperative Extension—Merced

2145 Wardrobe Ave.

Merced, CA

\$15/person

Registration Required

Visit us <https://cemariposa.ucanr.edu> or call us at 209-966-2417