



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardener Program

September Public Newsletter

September Gardening

Hopefully fruit trees were thinned well in late spring, but if not, or not enough, be sure to provide staking to avoid breaking branches. As fruit ripens, be sure to keep any fruit that drops cleared from under the trees – that will avoid ant infestations and disease. If ants are climbing up to the fruit, use salad oil applied to the trunk/branches to foil their incursions.

As berries come to the end of production, cut back old canes and tie up new ones as they begin to grow. As we go later into summer and the leaves of iris/daffodils, etc. die off, it's time to dig up the bulbs to overwinter and/or share with friends. Deadhead roses as blossoms fade and give them a dose of fertilizer for the next round of bloom.

Begin to think about planting seed for winter veggies at the tail end of summer. Plan for winter/early spring flower seed as well....in hopes that we will again get the rain they need to do well. As your veggie garden fades, prepare to renew the beds by cultivating at least a foot deep and applying a good dressing of compost and fertilizer for those winter veggies you're contemplating.

- Fertilize camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons as they begin to set buds in late summer/early fall. If they have a touch of yellow veining on leaves, apply a bit of iron.
- Provide first fertilization to citrus – you will do another application around November and again in January/ February.
- Trim back perennials as they fade so that they are ready to come back with cooler

Upcoming Events:

October 5: Free Plant Give and Take. Bring a box to The Grange Plant Exchange and Take Home Free plants. For more information go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/988258503244455>

October 12: Public Workshop TBA

Nov. 9: Public Workshop Backyard Farm

If you visit the Certified Organic Farmer's Market on Saturdays, corner of 16th and M stop by and visit the Master Gardeners there on 1st and 3rd Saturdays.

temps and hopefully rain. Divide the ones that have gotten very large or take cuttings and start new plants to put in other areas of your garden or to share. Trim a woody piece about three inches long, dip planting end in rooting compound, place in potting soil with vermiculite and keep slightly damp. (You can do the same with the cuttings you took from your chrysanthemums!)

Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul.

Luther Burbank



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Good to know gardening basics:
Merced/Atwater USDA Growing Zone 9a (low temperature range 20-25°F)
Average First Frost 11/11-20 Average Last Frost 3/11-20

MMG Officer Slate for 2024-2026
President: Judy MacLaren
Vice-President: Denise Glassertt
Secretary: Cathy Fossum
Treasurer: Mary Shasky
Past President; Mindy Munchmore-Thompson
Member-at-Large: Bri Freeman
Volunteer Coordinator: Tom Dinwoodie



Merced Master Gardeners
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