



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Master Gardener Program

Nov-Dec Public Newsletter from the UC Master Gardeners of Merced County

Upcoming UC Master Gardeners of Merced County Events:

**November 9th: Mini-Backyard Farm Workshop
Pruning Workshop TBA**

Garden To-Do's:

By Pat Shay

November: With significantly cooler temps and frost on the horizon, move delicate plants to protected areas.

If you plan to start spring annuals for early color, start seed or grow young plants in cold-frames or a greenhouse. Continue to plant bulbs for spring if you want a display covering several weeks.

It's time for the first application of copper sulfate to stone fruit trees to prevent curly leaf.

If there has been no rain, continue to water roses, but do not fertilize. Make sure that all rose debris is removed from under the plants to maintain plant health into next year. Cut back perennials and divide as necessary. 'Pieces' can either be planted in other locations in your landscape or traded/given to friends who would like something 'new' for their landscape. Citrus needs protection from the cold. Smaller trees can be covered. Citrus in sheltered places can be protected by a good watering in the evening – water under the tree will evaporate and create temperatures higher than the air.

If you want to add a tree/trees for fall color, now is a good time to visit nurseries to see what is most appealing. Further, now is a good time to plant trees in the garden because they will develop good root systems over winter and really 'take off' in spring.

Continue with garden clean-up to be ready for spring. If you have room, create a habitat for wildlife (birds, small critters either animal or reptile will thank you for providing shelter) in a remote nook in your yard....probably best away from shared fences....your neighbors might not like having uninvited visitors.

Check irrigation systems and flush out lines. As rains come, check your irrigation system and reduce, if not entirely shut off, water for the winter. Carefully monitor new plantings and trees to be sure that they are receiving sufficient water if rains are not regular.

Dahlias will collapse with frost. Trim back the foliage. Here in the valley it is warm enough to leave the tubers in the ground.

December: Time to protect your garden for the cold weather to come. Move sensitive plants, if you haven't already. Check any young trees that may need a bit of support to withstand stormy winds. If you have conifers or red berry producing plants you can prune as necessary for indoor seasonal decorating.

Monitor winter vegetables and harvest as needed....perfect time for veggie soups/stews with the colder weather. You might want to add some winter flowering plants to your flower beds or large pots for color: calendula, cyclamen, pansy, primrose, stock etc. Placed along a walkway or on a porch they create a lovely impression and brighten your day, too!

Prune back chrysanthemums that are finished flowering. Remaining nice blooms can be used indoors for decorating, too! White chrysanthemums with red berry boughs....nice and seasonal!

No more fertilizer! Plants are resting up over winter.

Consider leaving seed pods on plants that produce them. Many birds will have left on migration, but those that remain here year round will be grateful for 'snacks'. Suet is a

Garden To-Do's: Continued

great source of energy. You can purchase suet feeders or purchase suet from a butcher, add seed and either hang in a string produce bag or stuff pinecones and hang out. Be sure feed source is out of reach of neighborhood cats! Sunflower seeds are great for this. You can use millet, too, but anything the birds drop is subject to germination as temps rise and you will find yourself with a thicket to weed come spring!

A word about Christmas trees. If you plan to have a living Christmas tree, remember that two weeks indoors is really the longest it can tolerate comfortably. Watch out for bugs that have made their home in the tree/pot. Water every few days while in the house and soak well when you return it outdoors. Unless the tree you select is a smallish Norfolk pine, plan to have it indoors only one year....two max....longer and the tree with pot become far too cumbersome to move in and back out....time to find the tree a permanent home in your garden.



Happy Gardening

Contact our Helpline to get answers to your garden challenges and pest problems.



**Send an email to anrmgmerced@ucanr.edu giving a description of the issue. Attach photos of impacted plant(s) and pests, and provide your name and phone number.
Call 209-385-7403 and ask to leave a message for the Master Gardener Helpline.**

BACKYARD MINI-FARM

Learn how to grow amazing fruit and vegetables!

Presenter: Tim Sullivan, Master Gardener of Fresno County

<p style="text-align: center; color: #008000; font-weight: bold;">NOVEMBER Saturday 9th 10:00 to Noon</p> <p>What you will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of Farming and why you can live the farm lifestyle in your own backyard! Increasing Garden Productivity Soil Health Irrigation Vertically Growing & Bush Training <p>LOCATION: UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CLASSROOM 2145 Wardrobe Avenue, Merced</p> <p>*Please Pre-Register by Friday noon the day before the workshop *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://forms.gle/qjYsr4AR5R3ox1H6 Email: anrmgmerced@ucanr.edu Use the QR code to the right: <p style="font-size: small;">*FREE Event - Donations accepted * Walk-ins welcome</p>	 	<p style="text-align: center; color: #c00000; font-weight: bold;">UPCOMING 2024 WORKSHOPS</p> <p>DECEMBER 14th ~ <i>Fruit Tree Pruning</i> <i>More to come in 2025!</i></p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">*Send us your workshop suggestions* anrmgmerced@ucanr.edu</p> <hr style="border: 0.5px dashed #000;"/> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Master Gardeners are a University of California, Division 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.</p> <p>You can also find us at: Merced Downtown Farmers Market 1st & 3rd Saturdays March—October from 8:00-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Help Line Questions: (209) 3587403 Email: anrmgmerced@ucanr.edu Website: ucanr.edu/sites/mgmerced/</p>
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