



MASTER GARDENERS

Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!



About Master Gardeners

Our mission as University of California Master Gardener volunteers is to extend research-based sustainable gardening and composting information to the public through various educational outreach methods. We strive to present accurate, impartial information to local gardeners so they have the knowledge to make informed gardening decisions in regard to plant choices, soil fertility, pest management, irrigation practices, and more.

The Master Gardener volunteer program was started in the early 1970s at Washington State University. Farm Advisors became overwhelmed by all the incoming calls from home gardeners and homesteaders so they trained volunteers to answer these questions and the “Master Gardener Program” was born. The first University of California Master Gardener programs began in 1980 in Sacramento and Riverside counties. The Nevada County and Placer County Master Gardener Associations began soon thereafter in 1983.



Cooperative Extension was established in Placer and Nevada Counties in 1917. Our mission is to help all segments of the community benefit from the scientific advances in our nation's land grant universities, particularly in the areas of agriculture, family and consumer sciences, and youth development. The Master Gardener Program operates under the umbrella of the UCCE.

UC Master Gardeners of Placer County – Outreach

- **Website:** Keep up to date on the latest Master Gardener happenings and read articles by Placer County Master Gardeners for Placer County home gardeners.
<http://pcmg.ucanr.org/>
- **Social Media:** Facebook – Placer County Master Gardeners; Instagram – placercountymgs; Twitter – UC Master Gardeners-@PlacerCountyMGs; Pinterest – UCCE Master Gardeners of Placer County
- **Hotline:** Staffed on Tuesday through Thursday from 9 am to Noon. There are several ways to contact the hotline, **email, call, or visit.**
 - ✓ **Email,** complete the [Ask A Gardening Question](http://pcmg.ucanr.org/Got_Questions/) form online. http://pcmg.ucanr.org/Got_Questions/
 - ✓ **Call** the Master Gardener Hotline at **530-889-7388** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 am to Noon. Phone messages may be left at any time. A volunteer Master Gardener will return your call during staffed hours.
 - ✓ **Visit** the Placer County Master Gardener Office located at 11477 E Avenue in the DeWitt Center, Auburn. Master Gardeners are on site Tuesday through Thursday from 9 am to Noon.
 - ✓ **Bring in a plant or pest sample** contained in a sealed plastic bag for diagnosis. The office is open to accept samples Monday-Friday 8am - 5pm.



UC Master Gardeners of Placer County – Outreach (continued)

- **Publications:**
 - ✓ Annual, *Calendar and Gardening Guide*. See <http://pcmg.ucanr.org> for availability and pricing.
 - ✓ Quarterly newsletter, *Curious Gardener*. Subscribe and download past issues at http://pcmg.ucanr.org/Curious_Gardener_Newsletter/.
 - ✓ Auburn Journal newspaper “Ask a Master Gardener” article every 3rd Sunday.
- **Farmers’ Markets** – May thru October at two venues.
 - ✓ Roseville – Fountains , Whole Foods parking lot, 8am-1pm, every Tuesday
 - ✓ Auburn – Farmers’ Market, across the street from courthouse, 8am-12pm, the 1st and 3rd Saturdays.
- **Meeting the Public** – Visit our booth at the following fairs and festivals.
 - ✓ Spring and Fall Auburn Home Show (May and September)
 - ✓ Mountain Mandarin Festival (November)
 - ✓ Earth Day and other local festivals (throughout the year)
- **Public Workshops** – Check our website for date/time and topics, <http://pcmg.ucanr.org>.
- **School and Community Gardens** – Placer Master Gardeners can provide consultation about school or community gardens: how to get started, layout, irrigation ideas, design standards, planting advice, and costs saving alternatives.
- **Speakers by Request** – Want a Master Gardener to speak on a particular topic to your garden club or organization? Contact us via the hotline by email or phone, **530-889-7388**.
- **Special Events:**

See <http://pcmg.ucanr.org> for specifics.

 - ✓ **Garden Faire** – An annual event held in April, **Free to the public**. Visit the many booths covering a variety of garden related topics. Activities for the entire family.
 - ✓ **Mother’s Day Garden Tour** - An annual tour, the 2nd Sunday of May. This tour alternates year-to-year between north and south Placer County. Even numbered years, the north area; odd numbered years, south Placer. Six gardens are offered in a self-guided manner via tickets/maps sold at local nurseries. Master gardeners serve as docents at each of the gardens to answer your questions.

How to Become a Master Gardener

The UC Master Gardeners of Placer and Nevada Counties train during **odd numbered years**, January through May. During the previous fall, we schedule an informational meeting about becoming a Master Gardener. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help others learn about gardening, please click the link below to sign up on the interest list. We will notify you when the next Informational Meeting is scheduled. Thank you for your interest.

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website: <http://pcmg.ucanr.org/How to Become a Master Gardener/>