



## 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 Programs 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.edu>
- **Hotline:** Gardening questions are reviewed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. To submit a gardening question, complete an *Ask a Gardening Question* form online at our Master Gardeners of Placer County website: [http://pcmg.ucanr.edu/Got\\_Questions/](http://pcmg.ucanr.edu/Got_Questions/).
  - ✓ **Call:** The Hotline phone number is (530) 889-7388. Upon calling, all gardening questions will be redirected to our website link shown above to complete an *Ask a Gardening Question* form.
  - ✓ **Visit:** A Master Gardener will be on site the first Wednesday of each month from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Master Gardeners of Placer County office is located at 11477 E Avenue in the DeWitt Center in Auburn.
  - ✓ **Bring in a plant/pest sample:** Samples should be in a sealed plastic bag and can be dropped off at the Master Gardeners of Placer County office at the address shown above Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Publications:**
  - ✓ Annual, *Gardening Guide and Calendar*. See <http://pcmg.ucanr.edu> for availability and pricing.
  - ✓ Quarterly newsletter, *Curious Gardener*. Subscribe and download past issues at [http://pcmg.ucanr.edu/Curious\\_Gardener\\_Newsletter/](http://pcmg.ucanr.edu/Curious_Gardener_Newsletter/).
  - ✓ Auburn Journal newspaper “Ask a Master Gardener” article every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.
- **Public Workshops:** Check our website for date/time and topics, <http://pcmg.ucanr.edu>.

## ***UC Master Gardeners of Placer County – Outreach (continued)***

- **Farmers Markets:** May through October at four venues.
  - ✓ Auburn – across from courthouse, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1st and 3rd Saturdays
  - ✓ Roseville – Fountains, Whole Foods parking lot, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. every Tuesday
  - ✓ Lincoln – Fowler Ranch, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 1st and 3rd Sunday through September
  - ✓ Lincoln – Sun City, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday through September
  
- **Meeting the Public:** Visit our booth at fairs and festivals.
  - ✓ Tri-County Home & Garden Show (August)
  - ✓ Auburn Home Shows (May and September)
  - ✓ Mountain Mandarin Festival (November)
  - ✓ Earth Day and other local festivals (throughout the year)
  
- **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 cost saving alternatives.
  
- **Social Media:**
  - ✓ Facebook – Placer County Master Gardeners
  - ✓ Instagram – placercountymgs
  - ✓ X (formerly Twitter) – UC Master Gardeners-@PlacerCountyMGs
  - ✓ Pinterest – UCCE Master Gardeners of Placer County
  - ✓ YouTube – UC Master Gardeners of Placer County, <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGyCT7v6eGw5ilfsxnbAaja>
  
- **Speakers by Request:** Want a Master Gardener to speak on a particular topic at your garden club or organization? Contact us via the hotline by email or phone (530) 889-7388.
  
- **Special Events:** See <http://pcmg.ucanr.edu> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of May. This tour is held in various locations around Placer County each year. 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 **even 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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