

University of California
Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener News

Amador County

FEBRUARY 2006



Your Co-Pres' Speak

Wow, this has been an exciting month! We had our first public education class of 2006 and in spite of inclement weather there was an excellent turnout. We had a very productive planning meeting which was based on the input from the December meeting. We have already put many suggestions into operation. A recap of the meeting is available in the Master Gardener office for those who did not attend the regular January meeting.



We will have a healthy snack at each meeting along with the other stuff, which seems to be popular with many people. We will provide time at each meeting for MG's to share their problems, solutions etc with the rest of us. We will do a Plant of the Month for Amador County instead of Show and Tell. Additional sign ups are need for this new section.

In keeping with the Master Gardener's mission statement to educate gardeners and support and promote gardening in Amador County, Marie has set a rounded educational schedule for 2006 that will appeal to the many different interests of Amador County gardeners. This will be successfully only with the continued support of the entire Master Gardener group in Amador County.

We will be doing public education classes in the evenings and will have more evening Master Gardener meetings. The first of these evening meetings is scheduled for April 18th

at Larry Jones home starting at 5:00 with a potluck at 7:00. Spouses are invited.

February's meeting will be held at the Amador County Senior Center, so that the public will be able to attend. Ed Lavio from Dave Wilson Nursery will be here to speak about the Backyard Orchard. Ed is an entertaining speaker and very knowledgeable. He will tell you of lots of interesting concepts about owning fruit trees! His talk is scheduled to start at 2:00. We will have our meeting at 1:00 along with a seed exchange. Bring extra seeds to share with other MG's.

Marie is working hard to bring Jerry up to speed since he is a brand new MG. He's a quick learner and things are rolling along beautifully. We wish to thank everyone for their support in 2005 and their continued support in 2006.

Marie & Jerry

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Feb. 4 – Sat. – **Grafting Fruit Trees**, 10am-noon at the Ag Office.

Feb. 18 – Sat. – **Rose Pruning**, 10am-noon at Grace Fellowship Church.

Feb. 21 – Tuesday - **MG Monthly Meeting**, 1:00 pm at **The Senior Center**. Speaker is **Ed Laivo from Dave Wilson Nursery**. Guests are welcome

Secretary's Notes

JANUARY 17, 2006

New MG President Jerry Trottier convened the January meeting at 1:05 PM. He introduced one of the newest members to the program David Hennings. Jerry then turned over the meeting to Lucy Martin, the Volunteer Recognition coordinator.

Lucy began the 2005 awards program with an announcement that Scott Oneto had been presented with a ceonothus plant to thank him for his tireless contributions to the program throughout the year. She then gave special thanks to Jim Wilson who was instrumental in selecting and installing the new Master Gardener database.

Lucy's next order of business was to present pins that honor the number of volunteer hours that Master Gardeners accumulated in 2005. John Otto, Leen Breesch and Tracy Furman received their 125-hour pins. Jim Switzer was awarded his 250-hour pin. Jack Lyall and Rita Martin were honored for their 500 hours of service. Bernice Honeychurch reached the 750-hour milestone. Janice Johnson who has surpassed over 1000 hours of volunteer service is now a Lifetime Member of the MG program. Her name will be engraved on the special plaque that memorializes these dedicated individuals who have contributed so much to make the program what it is today.

Lucy then announced the names of the outgoing officers and invited them up to select a gift from the garden related items. She thanked Jack Lyall for commuting from Sacramento to participate in so many MG activities. Dennis Miller did an outstanding job as co-president as well as teaching classes and offering support in countless ways. Larry Jones was the Fair Coordinator along with Bernice Honeychurch and they both did an outstanding job under difficult circumstances. Donna England continued on as Secretary and wrote the monthly meeting report for the Newsletter. Joe Matthews was the Treasurer as well as the speaker of the Master Gardener Minutes for the local Hometown Radio station. Rita Martin continued to do an outstanding job as editor of the monthly newsletter. Huba Toth was the

Home Visits coordinator and made sure that those citizens who required an at home diagnosis were taken care of in a timely and efficient manner. Peggy Sullivan has done an excellent job as Phone Clinic Chairperson and has also participated in many important MG activities. Marie Loretta who headed the Public Education program did an outstanding job and took on many other projects during the year including helping with the 2006 MG Calendar project. Jackie Tarchala was the Speaker coordinator making sure that there were interesting speakers at the monthly meetings in addition to the many other activities she lent a hand to. Steve Collins and Hack Severson did a remarkable job with the Demonstration Garden at the Food Bank in addition to their many other contributions. Bernice Honeychurch jumped in at the last minute to create a prize winning garden at the County Fair and is always the first to volunteer whenever there is work to be done. Bob Allen, Jim Howard, and Janice Johnson worked together to assemble a varied group of field trips for 2005 in addition to all the other hours they contributed to the program. Emmi Felberg acted as program Historian and participated in many other activities during the year. Jackie Dahlberg did an admirable job as Librarian. Sue Harrington went above and beyond providing publicity for the various MG events in addition to heading up the team that created and sold the superb 2006 Amador County MG Calendar. Jim Switzer presented a variety of interesting subjects as the spokesperson for the MG program on TSPN cable TV station. Jim Harrington continued to entertain and inform with his monthly e-mail reminders of meetings and classes. Dave Andrews volunteered to take over as Home Visit Chairperson as well as teaching classes during his first year in the program. Leen Breesch was Nursery Clinic Coordinator as well as taking care of the MG carts at the various nurseries. Jill North is the Phone Tree Coordinator in addition to teaching and assisting at the various MG public education classes. Last, but by no means least, Lucy Martin was honored as Volunteer Recognition coordinator, for her well written biographies of individual Master Gardeners that appear in the monthly newsletter, as well as her participation in numerous other MG activities.

There was a brief refreshment break at 1:30 PM and Jerry Trottier resumed the meeting at 1:45 PM. He reminded everyone that the February meeting will be held at the Amador Senior Center at 1:00 PM. There will be a seed exchange as well as the regular program that will begin at 2:00 PM. The speaker will be Ed Laivo from Dave Wilson Nursery who will speak about his innovative ideas about planting and maintaining fruit trees. Local garden clubs have been invited to attend this interesting and entertaining presentation.

Jerry reviewed many of the points that were discussed at the Planning meeting in early January. These included some of the suggestions from MGs about how to improve the program. The topics ran the gamut from providing some "healthy" refreshments for the monthly meetings to how retain volunteers in the MG program. One suggestion that will be adopted is that there will be a "Plant of the Month" presented at each meeting. It was resolved that there will be a MG calendar for 2007 based on the success of the 2006 calendar and a committee will be formed that will elect a chairperson for the project.

Dennis Miller reported there were at least 43 participants at the Winter Pruning, bad weather notwithstanding. He attributed the success of the class to the power of publicity and the genuine desire of people to learn. Dennis experimented with an apple tree near the home of the property owners and cut 8 feet off the top of one half of the tree while he head pruned and thinned the other half. He'll report the results of this experiment later in the year. He also said that he had problems finding the 50% copper solution recommended for spraying apricot trees but finally located it at Ridge Road Nursery. Dennis modified a ladder for working on fruit trees that involves wall hangers bolted to a wooden ladder. Contact Dennis directly for further details of this innovative project.

Larry Jones shared a current invasion problem he's dealing with. He found that a relay interface for his well was completely filled with Argentine ants. He is experimenting with various methods of eradicating this pest and has special ordered an ant control product from Lowes that will supposedly take care of these invaders. He will also employ some of the suggested methods of ant control from the UC Extension program that Jerry Trottier presented

some months ago. Larry will let us know how the situation develops. He also passed along suggestions about making a "cage" of aviary cloth to cage newly planted trees to protect them from pests. He forms the enclosure around a large pot then puts the cage in a hole slightly bigger than the pot size to provide a safe zone for the young tree. Larry also inserts a PVC watering tube into the ground to provide moisture deep in the root zone for newly planted bare root trees.

The date of the planned grape pruning class given by Donna Hirschfeld at the Honeychurch vineyard in Plymouth has been changed to the first Saturday in March. The date for grape grafting training for Master Gardeners at Penny Smith's home in Plymouth will be announced. The Rose Pruning class will be held on February 18 at the Grace Fellowship Church. All classes, dates and locations will be announced in upcoming newsletters.

Jerry announced that there will be more computer training scheduled, sign up sheets will be available at future meetings. The April meeting will be held at Larry Jones' home and will be a problem solving exercise. It will be a BYOC (bring your own chair) event and will be held in the early evening. There will be a Pot Luck dinner and spouses are invited to attend.

Sierra Madre Garden Club will hold its annual Flower Show on May 6th and 7th. If you'd like to sign up to do some type of MG demonstration on Saturday or Sunday, just contact Jill North.

Marie needs more pots for the Spring Expo. She would like mid-sized pots that are deep.

Peggy Sullivan will be traveling the next few months. If you have any questions regarding the phone clinic remember to contact Ann Schieding. Keep in mind you can now sign up for Phone Clinics via the new MG website. If you have to cancel at the last minute contact Ann or Peggy know so they can find a suitable replacement and ensure the phone clinic has adequate coverage.

Jerry Trottier asked that all the Master Gardeners go to the new MG website to review and update their information in the Directory.

Marie Loretta discussed having Power Point and database training some time in the coming

months. Evening meetings and home meetings will also be scheduled. She said that the evening classes would be held when we can acquire speakers.

Judy Marks, who is one of the newer Master Gardeners, gave a Power Point presentation about the little known albino redwoods. Judy stated that these white redwoods were referred to in Indian legends. The Pomo Indians used the plants in various rituals and cleansing ceremonies. The Esselen (Big Sur) legend spoke of Monacca who got lost while picking berries and found her way out of the forest by following the albino redwoods.

The first scientific references to albino redwoods was found in 1867. Professor G. Peirce did a study of the plants and hypothesized that the sprouts with white leaves were caused by cold weather. The albino trees grow to only one third to one half the size of a normal redwood tree. Another theory about these aberrations was that the abnormalities were caused by a lack of sufficient light.

The ghost trees are really caused by a genetic mutation and most don't survive for very long. They cannot photosynthesize due to the lack of chlorophyll in their leaves. They actually are parasites of the root system of the parent plant. They are shrubby plants, usually under 5 feet tall. There are no giant (80 feet tall) ghost trees though some have reached 20 to 30 feet tall. Loggers and botanists have unofficially protected the plants by not disclosing the locations where they have been found. The albino trees are not very healthy but when one dies another may sprout up in the same location. Prolonged spells of heat or cold often kill these ghost plants. They reproduce vegetatively, are thought to be sterile and are not known to set seeds. Dale Holderman collected pollen from albino redwoods and pollinated seeds with it. The albino seedlings died within a few days.

There have been reports of the ghost trees near Fernwood Campground in Big Sur and various other locations.

Jerry Trottier adjourned the meeting at 3:10 PM.

FRITTATA WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS, GOAT CHEESE, AND SAGE

By Jerry Trottier

2 tablespoons light olive oil
3 large onions, about 2 lbs., quartered and thinly sliced
Salt and pepper
3 garlic cloves, finely chopped
8 eggs
1 ounce Parmesan cheese, grated, about 1/3 cup
1 tablespoon chopped fresh sage
3 ounces mild, creamy goat cheese, crumbled
3 Tablespoons Reduced Balsamic Vinegar

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Heat 1 tablespoon of the olive oil in large skillet, add the onions, 1/2 tsp. salt, and 1/8 tsp. pepper. Saute the onions over medium heat for about 10 minutes to release their juices. Add the garlic; continue to cook over medium heat for about 40 minutes, gently scraping the pan with a wood spoon to keep the onions from sticking as they caramelize. (Add a little water if needed to loosen the sugars from the pan). Transfer the onions to a bowl and set aside to cool.

Beat the eggs in a medium-size bowl. Stir in onions along with Parmesan and sage. In a 9-inch sauté pan with an ovenproof handle, heat the remaining tablespoon of oil to just below the smoking point. Swirl the oil around the sides of the pan to coat. Turn heat down to low, then immediately pour the frittata mixture into the pan. The eggs will sizzle from the heat. Crumble in the goat cheese and cook over low heat for 5 minutes, until the sides begin to set; transfer to the oven and bake, uncovered, for 20 to 25 minutes, until the frittata is golden and firm.

Loosen the frittata gently with a rubber spatula; the bottom will tend to stick to the bottom of pan. Place a plate over the pan, flip it over, and turn the frittata out. Brush the bottom and top with the vinegar and cut into wedges. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Makes one 9-inch frittata, serves eight.

Announcements

MEETING PLACE CHANGED

Our February 21st meeting will be held at the Senior Center in Jackson. Board meeting at noon, MG meeting and seed exchange at 1:00 pm and speaker Ed Laivo from Dave Wilson Nursery speaking about Backyard Orchards at 2:00 pm. INVITE ALL YOUR FRIENDS/NEIGHBORS/GARDEN CLUB FOLKS.

Marie

MG OFFICE DATABASE

The Master Gardener database is on the computer in the MG office, there are 5-6 months of client activity records that need to be input in the database. Need help! all you have to do is "open" the database, select mode.."browse", go to records and select "new record", when you get a blank form, give it the next sequential number and input the data . When finished working; the computer will ask if you want to "save", press "yes". That's it.!

Jim Wilson

WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW?



This month it is Primrose, pansies, violas, flowering kale, cyclamen (with protection)

Jackie T.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please call or e-mail Jerry if you wish to volunteer to:

Volunteer Home for MG Meeting (tour of yard telling of successes and failures):
Volunteer Home for MG Meeting (program presented by a scheduled speaker):
Basic Computer Skills Class:
Power Point Workshop (beginner):
Power Point Workshop (advanced):
Microsoft Publisher Class: (beginner)
Microsoft Publisher Class: (advanced)
Present a Plant of the Month
Need a Hands-on Phone Clinic Workshop
Volunteers to Present a Plant of the Month for Amador County:
Volunteers to Teach a MG Education Topic.
Please list name and topic.
Ideas to retain MGs in program. (Always welcome)

Positions taken:

Volunteers to Research Other MG Programs/Report to Newsletter or Board.
PENNY
Volunteers to Summarize Contact Sheets and Report (Meeting or Newsletter)? LUCY

MEMBERS WITH CONCERNS ARE ALWAYS INVITED TO ATTEND THE BOARD MEETING. Just call Jerry to be one the agenda.

For the results of the other suggestions made by members at the December meeting, please see the posted list (front and back) in the MG office. There are extra copies for those who want one.

Marie

TEND THOSE PLANTS

Don't forget those little plants you are propagating for the Spring Expo, 4/8. We want this event to be a big success again.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Gardening has compensations out of all proportion to its goals. It is creation in the pure sense." Phyllis McGinley

Jackie T.

GRAFTING AND PRUNING CLASSES PLANNED

On Saturday, February 4, from 10 AM to 12 noon, Master Gardeners will teach the proper techniques for grafting different varieties of home gardeners' fruit trees. The class will be held at the Ag Office, 12200-B Airport Road in Martell. This hands-on clinic will provide demonstration and practice of whip, tongue and cleft grafts, as well as pit-to-pit and seed-to-seed grafts. There will be discussion of bud grafts; the collection of scions and the role grafting plays in cross-pollination.

A rose pruning class is scheduled for Saturday, February 18, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Grace Fellowship Church, 8040 South Hwy 49 (1.5 miles south of Jackson). Master Gardeners will provide instruction and demonstration and participants will have the opportunity to practice under the guidance of a Master Gardener. Please bring your own hand by-pass pruners.

A hands-on grape vine pruning class for home grape growers will be held on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at a location near Plymouth (For directions to the class location, please contact the Master Gardener office at 223-6838 between 10AM and noon Tuesday through Friday, or by email at mgamador@ucdavis.edu.) Pruning equipment and techniques for both wine and table grapes will be explained and demonstrated. Participants will learn the difference between head pruned and trellised vines and will be guided in the practice of each type of pruning. Bring your hand by-pass pruners, small loppers or another favorite tool.

PLYMOUTH ROSE GARDEN

Thank you to the Master Gardeners who came out recently to participate with community volunteers in the building of the field stone retaining wall at the prospective rose garden at the Begovich Park in Plymouth.

The instructor, Charles Field, did such a good job of demonstrating that when he left to get more supplies, the team just kept on building as if he was there. It looks professional! When completed, the rose garden will give us a good venue for teaching in the north county area.

The next step involving MGs will be planting the roses, which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday February 18 AFTERNOON after the rose pruning class in Jackson. If the soil preparation is not complete, it will be done the following weekend. I would like to have MGs there to assist/teach volunteers in the proper way to plant roses and installation of a drip line. Let me know AFTER my return from vacation. During the next 3 weeks emails may bounce.

honeybb@shenandoahvalleyca.com

Bernice Honeychurch

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CORNER JANUARY 2006 By Lucy Martin

Thank you:

Dennis Miller for teaching a fruit tree pruning class.

Larry Jones for teaching a class on ladder safety.

Leora Smith for the talk on "Different Kinds of Oak Trees" at the Foothill Garden Club.

*If you make an extra contribution of your time and knowledge to Master Gardeners please let me know so that it can be acknowledged. This article will appear monthly.

UC DAVIS EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 8th there is a lunchtime stroll with UC Davis Arboretum Supt. Warren Robert at noon, in the gazebo off Garrod Drive, UC Davis Campus.

Saturday Feb. 11th is open house at UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, 1:30-4 PM, Kleiber Hall Drive, UCD campus.

Sunday, Feb. 12th there is a guided tour at UC Davis Arboretum, 2PM, Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center.

HARVEST WILD RICE SALAD

By Patti Stalder

3 cups water
1-cup wild rice
2 ribs celery, chopped
1 red apple, diced
½ cup toasted walnuts
1/3 cup golden raisins
¼ cup minced red onion
2 tablespoons fresh basil

Dijon vinaigrette (below)
Fresh ground pepper to taste

Bring water and rice to a boil in a medium saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, for 45 minutes or until rice is tender and splitting open. Drain excess water and let the rice cool.

Place rice in large bowl with celery, apple, walnuts, raisins, onion and basil. Pour vinaigrette over, toss and refrigerate covered at least one hour. Stir once or twice before stirring.

Dijon vinaigrette: Whisk 1/3 cup olive oil, ¼ cup white wine vinegar, one tablespoon honey, ½ tablespoon Dijon mustard and ½ teaspoon salt.

PLANTING POTS NEEDED

Marie needs planting pots from 4" to ½ gallon. Big yogurt/cottage cheese containers are OK. No 1 gallon are needed.

ANT ATTACK

Article by Dan Vierria in Sacramento Bee
Jan. 28, 2006



Ants are swarming the counts. Resist the scorched-earth plant of attack with blasts of Raid. Common **household spray cleaners** such as Windex, 409 and Fantastik will destroy the invaders.

These products, especially ammonia cleaners, also will rub out the chemical trails that attract more ants. A squeeze of liquid dish detergent in a spray bottle of water can lay waste to ants too.

While cleaning up dead ants, backtrack their trail to find entry points. Fill the cracks or gaps with caulk or block the openings with these alleged ant-stoppers: a line of cream of tartar, powdered red chili pepper, paprika, dried peppermint, boric acid, talcum powder, damp coffee grounds, powdered cleanser, cinnamon and lemon juice and peel. If you have indoor pets, keep them away from the battle zone.

Remember, ants are seeking shelter and food. A clean kitchen and sealed pet food containers just might divert them to your neighbor's kitchen.

NEW SUNSET BOOK

Gardening for the 21st century is defined with the revised and updated edition of *Sunset Western Landscaping*, (Sunset Books, \$29.95, 416 pages). This edition has more color photographs and plant lists for specific garden areas than its predecessor. Topics such as "container gardening" and "pets" (including dogscaping) appear in this version.

JANUARY – CONTACT SHEETS:

Problem: How to treat tree wounds?
Resolution: Sent article on tree wounds

Problem: Planted 2 bare root grape vines – wanted information on fertilizing.
Resolution: Sent him information from MG Handbook – “Grape Nutrition” page 428.

Problem: White growth on oak tree – (email – sent picture). “...oak tree ... blew over ... growth inside ... major trunk portion ... almost marine looking”. Asked to bring sample into office.

Resolution: “...result of *Armillaria mellea* or oak root fungus. While oak root fungus primarily attacks and enters the root zone it can infect into trunk of the tree and affect the core. Please see ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74109.html ... link to UC website.” “... another possibility is that the tree suffered from “heart rot” which is fungal infection that usually enters through a wound in the tree. It will produce fungal growth similar to your example”.

Problem: Duckweed ... growing in the ponds at golf course. Also – questions on mistletoe.
Resolution: Sent publication 7437 on mistletoe. Also send information from computer on Common Duckweed. feps.k12.va.us/StratfordLandingES/Ecology/mpages/duckweed/htm.

Problem: Cork Oak tree down – 3 or 4 feet around fell down from rain. What should she do with it?
Resolution: Cut up and burn for firewood.

Problem: Something is boring holes in her 7 flowering plum trees in a circle around the trunk (sapsuckers?)
Resolution: Could possibly be sapsuckers as they do drill evenly spaced rows of holes. However, check around trees for signs of oozing or sawdust for possible boring. Clean area around trees and be certain that they have good drainage. Paint the trunks with 50% latex to prevent sunburn and trunk damage that can attract borers. If problem

persists or concern continues – ... may require home visit.

Problem: Gophers – what to do? Dog gets some so cannot use baits that may be harmful.

Resolution: ... set traps ... ongoing vigilance and consistency as gophers burrow deeply and multiply rapidly.

Home Visits:

Problem: Can he spray roundup in orchard to remove grasses/weeds?
Resolution: Yes

Problem: Used mulch around trees on 2 almonds – mulch against trunk – while viscous blue ooze resulted. He cleared trunk area waiting

Problem: Has O’Henry peach 2 years old not doing anything. All other trees planted same way are growing fine.
Resolution: Home visit set up to check almond and peach and to advise on pruning and planting.

Problem: Has some die back and borers – wondering whether to cut down or can be saved?
Resolution: Home visit pending.

ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS

At the January meeting, Jackie Tarchala should have been recognized with Janice Johnson for achieving the Lifetime Master Gardener Award. My apologies to Jackie for this error. For a complete story of their contributions to the Amador Master Gardener program, see the upcoming article in the March newsletter by Lucy Martin.

Scott Oneto

YARD CALENDAR – FEBRUARY

PLANT SEED:

Greenhouse or Cold Frame:

Summer/fall blooming annuals/perennials.

Start tuberous begonias in moist peat moss indoors.

Wildflower seed. And cool loving flowers such as poppies and alyssum.

Consider starting seed and buying plants that attract good bugs and birds to your yard.

Heavy pollen and nectar producers are favored. Diverse planting is also beneficial.

SET OUT PLANTS:

Bare-root roses, shrubs (lilac, forsythia, etc), trees.

Early spring blooming shrubs and vines: azaleas, camellias, Carolina jessamine, daphne, flowering quince (white, pink, orange, deep red), forsythia.

Plant several kinds of flowering cherry trees. There are varieties for early, mid & late bloom.

Plant spring blooming annuals and perennials such as alstromeria, bergenia, bleeding heart, calendula, campanula, candytuft, catmint, columbine, coral bells, delphinium, dianthus, foxglove, pansy, poppy snapdragon, stock and violet.

Plant gladiolas in 20-day intervals. Other summer/fall flowering bulbs/corms include callas, cannas, dahlias, trigidias. Wait until March at higher elevations.

FERTILIZE:

Spring blooming plants after bloom. Fall planted annuals and perennials.

If gardenia or camellia has yellowing leaves, apply some chelated iron.

SPRAY:

Ash and sycamore trees need a fungicide at first flush of growth to help prevent anthracnose.

Later this month, lawns need pre-emergent for crab grass at lower elevations.

Use pre-emergents to prevent germination of annual weeds. Be sure to apply before the soil warms up. There are liquid forms as well as granular. Inquire as to the proper type to use for different planting areas.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

CAUTION: Do not till wet soil.

If rains have been light, deep water plants especially those newly planted and natives.

Divide over crowded perennials.

When camellias and azaleas are in flower, they are "sleeping". Transplant now.

Clean up dead/diseased leaves especially under azaleas and camellias and pick off faded flowers. This will cut down on the spread of petal blight.

Finish pruning jobs this month, except for roses and spring flowering shrubs (lilac, forsythia, etc.).

At lower elevations, roses can be pruned now. Upcountry wait until March. Strip all leaves off of roses to help prevent fungal development.

Prune deciduous trees during late dormancy, ornamental trees, roses and wisteria.

Cut back stems of woody plants close to the ground to prevent them from getting leggy (butterfly bush, artemesia, fuschia, etc).

Mulch 2 to 4" around shrubs and trees to discourage weeds. Keep mulch away from trunk.

Prune mistletoe.

Start on those weeds – hoe, hand pull and use pre-emergent.

VEGGIE/ORCHARD GARDEN CALENDAR - FEBRUARY

PLANT SEED:

2000' or lower: Sweet peas, cool weather veggies like beets, carrots, peas, spinach.
Greenhouse or Cold Frame:

Broccoli, cabbage, leaf lettuce and other cool season vegetables to set out in late February or March for higher elevations.

Lower elevations can sow seeds of cool weather veggies like beets, carrots, peas, spinach.

SET OUT PLANTS:

Artichokes, asparagus, chives, green onion, onion sets (Fiesta and Sweet Spanish are recommended at the lower elevations.), rhubarb.

Grapes and berries (blackberries, raspberries, strawberries).

Above 2500': peas

Below 2500': asparagus, shallots, leaf lettuce, parsley, cabbage family, rhubarb.

(Set out cool season crops while it is still cool to prevent bolting.)

FERTILIZE:

Cane berries - split yearly recommended amount into three applications: just before new growth, midspring, midsummer.

SPRAY:

Apply dormant oil sprays after completion of pruning. Complete coverage is essential for effective control of over-wintering scale, mealy bugs, whiteflies and mites. This month is your last chance to smother over-wintering insects and fungal disease.

Peaches and nectarines: if peach leaf curl has been a problem, spray for at first bud swell close to but before bud break. Use lime sulfur with a sticker spreader when no rain is due for 36 hours.

Stone fruit and almond growers who did not apply their dormant insecticides should now consider applying Bts during bloom (late Feb/early march) for control of peach twig borers. Usually 2 Bt applications are needed and can be combined with fungicide sprays.

Watch for cabbage worms – hand pick or use Bt immediately.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

CAUTION: Do not till wet soil!

Above 2000': prune deciduous fruit trees

Below 2000': prune grapes. In frost prone areas, delay pruning grapes.

Paint trunks of bare-root and young fruit trees to prevent borers & protect from sunburn.

Mix equal parts of water and white interior latex paint.

When cleaning up in the yard, don't forget those fruit mummies and dead leaves. Apple scab fungus loves neglected areas.

Sharpen pruners, hoes, etc. Sand rough spots on handles and apply linseed oil.

PLANNING:

When planning your vegetable garden, be sure to rotate your crop locations. Don't plant anything in the same area as the last 2 to 3 years.

Order seeds.

If you have lousy soil, consider construction raised beds. Use wire below to eliminate gophers.



Master Gardener Volunteers Events Calendar February 2006

[next month](#)
[home](#)
[previous month](#)

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
		1 -Phone Clinic A Schieding	2 -Phone Clinic J Harrington S Harrington	3 -Phone Clinic	4 -Amador MG Grafting Fruit Trees Class -El Dorado County MG Herbs Class
6	7 -Phone Clinic	8 -Phone Clinic	9 -Phone Clinic S Collins	10 -Phone Clinic J Whitmore	11
13	14 -Phone Clinic D Ferrell	15 -Phone Clinic C Taylor P Stalder	16 -Phone Clinic M Brown B Honeychurch	17 -Phone Clinic E Beals	18 -Amador MG Rose Pruning Class -El Dorado County MG Weather & Climate in the Foothills -plymouth memorial rose garden
20	21 -Master Gardener Monthly Meeting -Phone Clinic J Lyall H J Severson	22 -Phone Clinic V Bonkowski	23 -Phone Clinic J Trottier	24 -Phone Clinic	25 -El Dorado County MG - Cottage Gardens Class
27	28 -Phone Clinic				