

Master Gardener News

Amador County

MARCH 2006



Your Co-Pres' Speak

We had almost attendance for Wilson Nursery WAY TO GO!!! In were lots of visitors 60 listeners. Wow! presentation. He even talked a bit about growing blueberries in containers. Ed is a great speaker and we appreciated his coming to visit.



perfect the Dave presentation! addition, there for a total of It was a great presentation. He even talked a bit about growing blueberries in containers. Ed is a great speaker and we appreciated his coming to visit.

Action is beginning to pick up with Dandelion Days and the Spring Expo in the works. Be sure to volunteer for one or both of these FUN activities.

We have a new green bookmark. Throw out any tan ones you run across. All of our classes through 5/25 are listed on the back.

Both the Rose Pruning and the Grafting classes held in February were a fantastic success. A big HUG and THANKS to BERNICE AND DENNIS as well as Dave Taylor and John Nolan for their help with these Public Education events.

The two public education classes in March both have a hands-on component. The grapevine pruning has already drawn a lot of calls about its location. It is important that we have a good showing of Master Gardeners to aid the attendees.

We will be setting up the requested computer classes shortly. If you have not signed up yet, call or e-mail Marie. Offerings will

include Basic Computer Skills, Power Point Beginners and Advanced and Publisher.

Home visits are an important part of the Master Gardener interface with the community. It is a good learning opportunity for newer people and a good teaching opportunity for Master Gardeners to share their knowledge. Chairperson Dave Andrews has an awful teaching schedule this semester and will not be able to help. Cathy Koos Brezeal has stepped forward to help for the next few months. Her fax number will be in the Home Visit folder. She has a list of people who volunteered for home visits, but she may call on other Master Gardeners to help out if the problem is in an area which you have knowledge and/or is in your geographical area in the County. We will try to have as many people as possible on Home Visits. Dave will be returning after the semester is completed.

Marie & Jerry

MARCH CALENDAR

3/4 – Sat. – **Grapevine Pruning**, 10 am-12 at Bernice Honeychurch's house, Plymouth..

3/18 – Sat. – **Square Foot Gardening**, 10am-12 at Ag Office and **Dandelion Days** in Jackson

3/21 – Tues. – **MG Monthly Meeting**, 1:00 pm at the Ag office, Board Meeting at noon.

Secretary's Notes

FEBRUARY 21, 2006

Minutes submitted by Leora Smith.

The February meeting was convened at 1:05 pm. The phone clinic, Plymouth Elementary Project Sheets, Dandelion Days (March 18th & 19th), and refreshment sign-up sheets were distributed. Jerry reminded everyone that Phone Clinic, and Project sign-ups are online. Scott will put the special projects online and would like a brief description of the project so people know what they are signing up for. Plymouth Garden dates are April 19th & 21st, and May 12th. Chris Taylor is in charge of this project and can be called for more information. Pest Notes are also on the MG computer desktop and can be sent on emails as attachments. Marie also distributed the class sign-up sheet for those MG interested in updating their computer skills.

Scott announced that Jackie Tarchala was overlooked at last month's meeting as a Lifetime Master Gardener. Thank you, Jackie for your years of dedicated service.

Jim Harrington (and Marie) would like to know if anyone's email address (or other important info) has changed so that they can be updated in the member address book.

The Grafting, and Rose Pruning Community Education classes have been well received. Bob Allen said that 25+ people showed up for rose pruning and over 80 rose bushes were pruned. A local landscaping company sent some of their employees to this program. Jim Switzer's talk on Oaks on local TV went well. The Plymouth Rose planting took place on February 25th.

Here are some important dates to remember. March 2nd is the Oak Conservation Seminar at the Civic center in Jackson. It begins at 8:30 am. The Grape Pruning class has been changed to March 4th at Bernice's house. The San Francisco Flower Show is March 16th-19th. Jack Lyall and Ann S. said that it is a worthwhile trip. If anyone is interested in going, carpooling could be an option. May 5th

is the annual Duarte Nursery field trip. The MG State Conference will be October 5th & 6th in San Jose. More information will be available next month.

The MG training to start in January of next year will be in San Andreas and Placerville. Hopefully, we can recruit some new MG due to the close proximity of these classes. There is a large class in Sonora right now with both morning and evening classes.

In the MG problem session, Dennis asked about a black area on the lower areas of primary branches of his pear tree. Ed Laivo (the guest speaker) diagnosed it as bacterial cankers – bacterial blast. He suggested cutting it out.

Dave Andrews, the Home Visit chairperson is swamped with work until June and has requested that someone take his spot until he can give it the time it deserves. Marie agreed to talk to Cathy and/or Jill and see if they would be interested in the position.

A seed exchange followed the meeting. Another exchange will take at next month's meeting because some of the seeds did not come in. After the meeting several MGs accompanied Scott to the AG office to do some pruning.

After a refreshment break, Jackie Tarchala introduced the exciting and energetic Ed Laivo from Dave Wilson Nurseries. He has been in the industry for 30 years and at Dave Wilson for 15 years. Dave Wilson is the largest fruit tree grower in the US -producing 5 million trees. They sell commercial as well as to the home gardener and offer 760 varieties of fruit trees.

He explained that the average 18-foot apple tree can yield 350 pounds of fruit. That is 700 ½ pound apples, which can make 116 apple pies.

Rootstocks are used for soil adaptation (#1 consideration) and disease resistance. Dwarf

varieties of trees are grafted onto regular rootstock. He further explained that you can prune down your “normal” sized trees to manageable heights. He says you control size with high-density pruning. When planting a bareroot fruit tree, cut it off at the knee. After the spring flush cut the tree back 1/2 to 2/3rd depending on the vigor of the tree. Cut back the same amount after the summer flush. After the second year when your tree is producing, thin out 75% of the fruit. Thin 3 times. After the spring flush cut back 1/2 to 2/3rd. After harvesting the fruit, cut back again. The third year is when you establish the final height of the tree and maintain that height throughout its lifespan.

Space saving high density planning enables you to plant 4 trees in one hole at 18” on center. When choosing the varieties for these plantings you want to: 1) choose like spraying requirements and 2) never let one variety dominate. An example of this type of planting is using a peach, nectarine and apricot in the same hole.

Tips that Ed passed along were, “Don’t winter prune unless you have a multiple budding fruit tree. Prune to an open center. Plant the weakest bud facing south. Gardening has a lot to do with our egos. Be creative.”

Raised beds are a good way to solve many drainage problems by creating a buffer zone for oxygen. Your raised bed can be from 12” – 18” high. Mounding is another way to help with drainage.

Ed briefly described covering techniques, bird netting and deer fencing. He suggested rolling the bird netting onto a piece of PVC pipe that is cut just longer than the netting. Unroll the netting as you take it over the tree. To remove the netting he said he prunes the tree and then removes the cut branches as he lifts off the bird netting. He was going to wrap up his talk after showing pictures of different types of trees but the crowd enthusiastically cheered him on to container gardening with blueberries.

Blueberries are ideal for container growers utilizing his recipe for soil mix. 1/3 – 1/4”

pathway bark, 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 forest-by-product based potting soil (such as azalea mix or acid plant mix), and 1 handful of soil sulfur per plant. Blueberries require a soil pH of 4.5 to 5.5. The pH of the water can also be a problem, and he suggests using large bark as a top cover to filter the water. He suggests purchasing a pH meter to take the guesswork out of growing blueberries. Also, do not use nitrogen in nitrate form as a fertilizer. 4” to one-gallon plants can be kept in a 5-gallon pot for two seasons. After the second season plant it in a 16” – 18” container and it can remain there for 6-8 years. He prefers wood and plastic planters. Blueberries love sun, need water and should be fertilized with an acid based fertilizer once a month during the growing season. He gave everyone two excellent handouts that go into more detail. Ed’s talk and the meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

ARTICHOKE & PROSCIUTTO SALAD

By Jack Lyall

9-1/2 oz. can artichoke hearts in oil, drained
4 small tomatoes
½ cup sun-dried tomatoes in oil
1-1/2 ounces prosciutto
½ cup pitted black olives, halved
few basil leaves

DRESSING:

3 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon white wine vinegar
1 clove garlic, crushed
½ teaspoon mild mustard
1 teaspoon clear honey
salt and pepper

Drain artichoke hearts thoroughly then cut them into quarters, place in a bowl. Cut each fresh tomato into wedges. Slice sun-dried tomatoes into thin strips. Cut prosciutto into thin strips, add to bowl with tomatoes and olive halves. Keeping a few basil leaves whole for garnish, tear the remainder of leaves into small pieces, add to bowl containing the other salad ingredients.

Dressing: put the oil, wine vinegar, garlic, mustard, honey, salt and pepper in screw-top jar, shake vigorously until well blended. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss together. Serve the salad garnished with a few whole basil leaves.

Announcements

GRAPE VINE PRUNING CLASS

The Amador County Master Gardeners will be conducting a free grape vine pruning class on Saturday, March 4th from 10 AM to 12 noon in Plymouth. This hands-on clinic is for home grape growers. Bring hand by-pass pruners, small loppers or another favorite pruning tool.

The class will be offered at Bernice Honeychurch's house, located at 10730 Valley Drive, Plymouth. For directions and more information about the class, call the Master Gardener office Tuesday through Friday, from 10 AM to 12 noon, at 223-6838 or email at mgamador@ucdavis.edu.

SQUARE FOOT GARDENING CLASS

If you haven't tried square foot gardening then join me on March 18th at 10 am at the Ag office for an hour class. We will then go across the street to the Food Bank to help John Otto plant the spring garden in the square foot garden method.

So, what is Square Foot Gardening? One definition of square foot gardening is; "an intensive planting method where the plants are placed in squares instead of rows". Well, there is more to it than that, so if you are interested come join us. The bonus is you can get some of those MG activity hours for helping.

Email me at pinetown@volcano.net if you are interested in helping.

Happy Gardening, Janice

HOME & GARDEN SHOW

The Sacramento Home & Garden Show at Cal Expo is March 3-5. It opens Friday at noon-6PM, 10am to 6pm on Saturday and 10am to 5pm on Sunday

AMADOR COUNTY FAIR

The Amador County Fair Publicity folks have requested some MG demonstrations on the days the jam and jelly people are not judging in the space not immediately adjacent to ours. This would probably be Saturday and Sunday morning and afternoon. Be thinking about what you might demonstrate! It need not be elaborate--a short demo is just fine. This is a good way to get hours.
Bernice

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CORNER

February 2006 By: Lucy Martin

Thank you:
Dennis Miller for teaching a class on Pruning Fruit Trees and a class on Grafting.

Hack Severson for teaching a class on Grafting

Bob Allen for organizing a Rose Pruning demonstration and hands-on participation at the Grace Fellowship Church gardens. And, for teaching a class on Planting and Maintaining an Orchard.

Marie Loretta for assisting Bob with the hands-on Rose Pruning and for teaching a class on Planting and Maintaining Berries.

Bernice Honeychurch for assisting Bob and Marie with the hands-on Rose Pruning. And for organizing a "How to Plant Roses" project at the Gene Beck Memorial Rose Garden in Plymouth. This will be a perpetual project.

Leora Smith for a talk on "California Native Oaks" at the Sierra Madre Garden Club.

Patti Stalder for writing a 2-page handout on "Vermiculture".

*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.

PLYMOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN

Plymouth Elementary has planted, and will be expanding in the spring, a butterfly garden. The principal, Mr. Peccianti, wants us to teach a group of students how to prune and trim the plants and to do the on going maintenance that will keep the garden beautiful for all the students, present and future, to enjoy. We will be teaching a group of students to become lead gardeners. These students will become the teachers of gardeners for future years. Mr. Peccianti's goal is to have new students become part of the gardening team each year so there will be a perpetual group of gardeners to make their garden grow.

Thank you to all of the MGs who signed up to work with a group of 2 - 4 students showing them what to do and then working with them as they do the work; also to those who signed up to accompany the students on a plant buying trip to the Amador Flower Farm and to assist on the planting day where we will show them how to plant what they have purchased.

We have already had 2 work days with the students. Everyone who has been there has had a lot of fun while getting the work done.

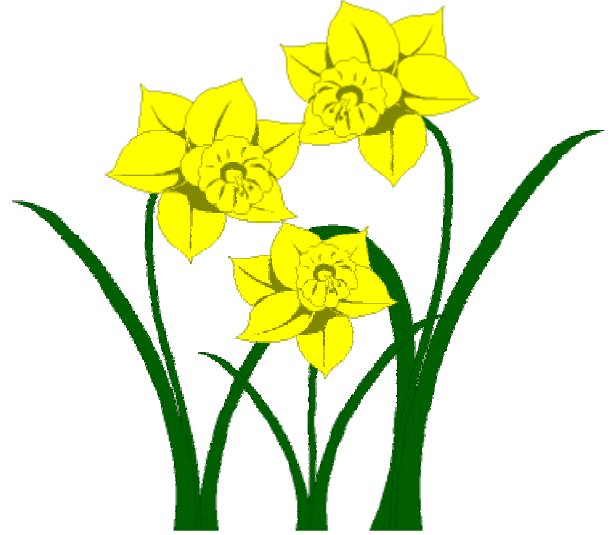
The goal is to make this a self sustaining student project. To help meet this goal we would like to identify and place markers on all the plants and help put together a notebook of information on the plants in the garden. Some of this work is already being started. It can all be completed if several more people would take a piece of this projects to work on.

For more information or to volunteer to help please contact Chris Taylor at, 267-0847, or crt1107@sbcglobal.net.

Chris Taylor

WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW?

Forsythia
Daffodils
Narcissus
Viburnum (Some varieties)
Clematis armandii (Evergreen Clematis)
Chaenomeles (Quince)
Corylopsis (Witch Hazel)
Flowering Trees (Apricot, Cherry)
JackieT.



CORNFLOWER FARMS PLANT SALES

March 4th, 9am –4pm, “Bloomin’ Crazy a Plant Fair”, at the Sacramento Zoo, Sutterville Rd. and Landpark Dr., Sacramento.
March 11th, “Nursery Day”, 7:30am-2pm.
Place your order by March 8th for will call.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Beneath these fruit tree boughs that shed
Their snow-white blossoms on my head,
With brightest sunshine round me spread
Of spring's unclouded weather,
In this sequestered nook how sweet
To sit upon my orchard-seat!
And birds and flowers once more to greet,
My last year's friends together.

WILIAM WORDSWORTH

Good-by, Dear Friend – we were fortunate to know you and we shall miss you

Don Singer, our longest active member died February 10, 2006 after a prolonged illness. We had not seen Don very much the past three years but he would manage a couple of meetings a year. He remained a loyal and dedicated member as long as his health allowed. He was a quiet, gracious gentleman, interesting and quick to enjoy a bit of humor. I made a few changes to this interview of Don that I wrote in 2003; but left most of it in it's present tense as we cannot think of the history and the camaraderie of Master Gardeners without remembering this gentle and caring person. For those of us who knew Don it will rekindle some pleasant memories - for those of you who did not have the pleasure of knowing him, please allow me to introduce him to you.

He became a Master Gardener in 1985. He loved to tell the story of ... when he became a MG. He bought the MG t-shirt and wore it proudly to the county fair and every gardening event so that he could attract questions that up-till-then were directed to Sacramento. The community would learn that they could call him or other local Master Gardeners regarding their plant and yard problems. There are no other active MGs remaining from his early days. Dave Taylor, a member of the Sierra Madre Garden Club who most of us know was a member of his class. Dave has made pruning and grafting demonstrations for MGs and Don would assist him by providing the necessary scions and branches.

Don lives on Preston Avenue in Lone. He loves to garden and feels fortunate to have an entire acre to do with as he pleases. One of his long-time friends, rancher Carl Joses said to him one day, "... take that acre and do what you want with it". It had a few old fruit trees on it. Don's primary interest in gardening is pruning and grafting – and so he went to work. He brought those trees back to productivity and he also, "planted – well – it seemed like just about everything, sun chokes, beans, peppers, and at one time so many tomatoes that they had to be plowed

into the ground". He most enjoys working with trees and shrubs. His favorite tree is the pear tree, for it's beauty and because it bears delicious fruit. He leaves the flowers for his wife to plant and care for.

Don was born and raised in Kellogg, Idaho. He graduated from the same high school as his mother – however, she was Valedictorian of her class and Don was not! (This with a chuckle) After graduation he moved to Moscow to attend the University of Idaho where he majored in music. World War II interrupted his sophomore year of college. He spent the years of 1943-1946 in the Army Air Corp in Spokane, Washington. He was a member of the Army Band and the Marching Band and a major part of radio entertainment for the troops. After he was discharged he returned to Kellogg to resume his education at the University of Idaho where he graduated with a B.S. in music. It was here that he met and married his beautiful wife, Marge. They moved to Evanston, Illinois where he continued his studies at Northwestern University. He graduated in 1949 with a Masters Degree in Music.

He and Marge have just celebrated their 56th. Wedding anniversary. They have two daughters, Valarie Roddy who is a forth-grade teacher in Lone and Denise who is a counselor with the El Dorado School District. They also have twin sons. Mark is an emergency room doctor in Fairfield and Vacaville Hospitals and Scott is CEO with Hanna Boys School. Their children have blessed them with ten grandchildren.

He and his family moved to Lone in 1964. Don spent some time teaching music with the Lone School District and with Preston School. He retired in 1984. For many years he was accompanist on the piano for the Amador Choraliers.

Don plays the accordion, the piano and he has been the organist for the Preston Chapel since 1968. Don and Marge enjoy traveling. They have a fifth-wheel and are members of the Delta Lighthouse, a quality RV Resort. They go there fairly frequently with friends. Don was the recipient of a "small" inheritance

that he said he does not plan to leave to his kids – so they are busy spending it! He took the entire family, all the children and grandchildren on a cruise to Alaska and also to Las Vegas. While each trip has provided it's special memory – the stay in Las Vegas with the entire family was among the most special. Don also enjoys cooking. His specialty is sweet and sour spareribs that he cooks for Marge's New Year's Eve bridge party.

His message to current Master Gardeners – He says, "It has really changed for the better. Keep on doing what you are doing, the election of officers, the involvement, the activities ...". He recalls when there were so few members that this was not possible.

Don was proud to be a Master Gardener. He has left us with an insightful legacy – that is to appreciate the development and the growth of this wonderful organization. We volunteer so many hours to its success but each of us who volunteer receive so much more in return.

Don's life is gone now but not forgotten.

Lucy Martin

CONTACT SHEETS PROBLEMS AND RESOLUTIONS

By: Lucy Martin

Problem: Scraping from one year old apple tree found on trunk, one-foot off the ground facing the sun. Sunburn? (Brought sample of scrapings in).

Resolution: When called he had already painted the trunk with 50% white latex paint. Tree appears to be fine after pruning.

Problem: Brought in sample of oak leaves and acorn – large, evergreen tree. What kind of oak is it?

Resolution: Most likely interior live oak or possibly a hybrid.

Problem: Wants to know when to plant leeks and when to harvest them.

Resolution: Per "All About Vegetables" leeks take 80 days from transplant or 140 days from seed. Plant transplants in mid-August

for late October harvest. Seeds should be planted in early spring.

Problem: Regarding Wisteria crown gall. She is looking for a product called Gallex.

Resolution: ... gave numbers for distributors of Gallex – left message. Gallex is made by Agbiochem, Inc.. It is (*M---cresal) a (bactericide). It has acute toxicity to legs and hands. *unable to read writing

Problem: Greenhouses ... Because of deer – wants to grow tomatoes and vegetables to harvest in greenhouse – flowers, too.

Resolution: ...discussed pros and cons of growing in a greenhouse. Suggested greenhouse for extending seasons but thought he'd be happier with a small fenced garden area for growing vegetables in summer. Suggested the Square Foot Garden class in March.

Problem: Brought in insect to identify.

Resolution: ... "Leaf Cutting Bee" – see page 359 of "Peterson Field Guide – Insects". Also see page 184 of "Master Gardener Handbook"

Problem: Needs ideas for trees (street) for planting in new development. Wants varieties of native oaks and other trees (ornamental).

Resolution: Forwarded copy of "Drought Tolerant Landscape Trees for Amador Co."

Problem: Requested information about MG classes.

Resolution: Emailed ... provided her with as much information available in office.

Problem: Found dark purple mushrooms growing in yard. Concerned that they may be growing on something toxic. They are size of grapefruit - get lighter color as they get larger. Growing in dirt near driveway ... come out after rain.

Resolution: emailed ... several species of mushrooms in CA that are purple. The fungi grow on organic matter when conditions are right (wet) and can survive many years in soil and originate from great distress. They are beneficial as they decompose organic material. ... not be concerned that there is something toxic in the yard.

Problem: Rabbits ... 4 or more - asked about sending someone to trap them.

Resolution: We do not send out trappers unless it is a skunk, raccoon, or coyote. Sent Pest Note on Rabbits.

MASTER GARDENERS HONOR TWO

By: Lucy Martin and Scott Oneto

The Amador County Master Gardeners honored Jackie Tarchala and Janice Johnson, two very productive members this past month with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Each of these ladies has volunteered more than 1000 hours of service to the community through the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener organization.

Jackie Tarchala, a Master Gardener since 1990 was initiated into the program in Sonoma County. In 1992 when she and her attorney husband, Bill moved to Pine Grove she joined the local organization. Jackie has had a lifelong interest in gardening and plants. It was impressed upon her by her grandmother when as a young child she would tag along holding onto grandma's skirt to see what was happening with the vegetables and the flowers. Classes at Santa Rosa Junior College, experience at other venues and her driving curiosity provided her with a vast knowledge about growing and caring for plants. Jackie, a vivacious extrovert, is well known in the community by her many associations. She is active in the Sierra Madre Garden Club; she has given talks, held classes, and gathered wildflowers for the May Flower Show, wildflower display. This year she is in charge of the classification of entries. She is an active member of the Garden Writers Association. She was associated with the Amador Flower Farm since it's opening in 1996 where she later advanced to management. In December of 2004 she left the flower farm in order to pursue personal endeavors. Her new freedom allows her to spend more time volunteering with many Master Gardener public programs and presentations. She has launched her own garden design business that includes consulting and seminars. Her shingle reads "What Grows Where". She is expanding her knowledge of garden design and plant culture by participating in tours of well-established – well-known gardens and nurseries and by attending horticulture seminars. She is also learning garden photography. She grows cut flowers for pleasure and to share.

Janice Johnson and her husband, Dennis moved to Amador County in 1994. Janice became a Master Gardener in 1996. Her interest in gardening began when she was a young adult. Not being a vegetable lover – she became a convert when she tasted the intense rich taste of "home grown". Gardening upcountry presented a different challenge. Her quest is to find what she considers, "the perfect upcountry" tomato. Janice has unfailing determination and she has experimented with as many as two hundred tomato varieties. Most seasons she plants as many as 25 – 40 different tomatoes. She consults daily via email with gardeners throughout the country and researches extensively. She records and charts the progress and production of her garden. The "Vegetable Planting Guide" that is incorporated in the 2006 Master Gardener Calendar is a culmination of her meticulous research and record keeping. It is a comprehensive, easy to understand, guide to seed planting. Janice teaches many public classes. The classes that she has taught are, Growing Tomatoes and Peppers, Square Foot Gardening, Cottage Gardening, Greenhouses, Seed Starting, Vermiculture and Living in the Forest. She deserves tremendous credit for spearheading the Sutter Creek Farmer's Market Tomato Tasting. It has become an annual event that is very popular with locals and tourists. Janice was also instrumental in starting the annual spring and fall plant expos. This is a one-day event held twice a year at which Master Gardeners give a variety of presentations and demonstrations to the public on a variety of topics. In addition to the free classes the Master Gardeners sell plants and seeds at bargain prices. Janice helps organize this event and she grows many of the plants that are sold. She designed the beautiful seed packets and also the original bookmarks that are distributed at all MG events. For her it is a labor of love. Although she says that she is a casual gardener - it is her deep love of gardening that makes it all appear so easy.

A Master Gardener is a non-paid staff member of the University of California Cooperative Extension who is trained in the areas of horticulture, gardening and general related areas. They have acquired the knowledge to answer questions, diagnose plant problems and give horticulture assistance to the public. As a continuing Master Gardener, one is required to volunteer 25 hours to various projects and acquire 12 hours of continuing education per year. The minimal hourly requirements accentuate the magnitude of the contributions that these two ladies have made to the program. It is with great pride and appreciation that we congratulate these two outstanding members.

Vegetable/Orchard Calendar - MARCH (REMINDER: WINTER ISN'T OVER)

Plant Seed:

Add phosphorous to cold soil when you plant seed. It is essential to root development.

Outside: *Plant every 2 weeks for a continuous crop.*

Above 2500': asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Swiss chard, leaf lettuce, dry onions, parsley, peas, radish, rhubarb, spinach, turnips. Use cold frames if you are at higher elevations (4000'+).

Below 2500': asparagus, beans (snap), beets, carrots, Swiss chard, leaf lettuce, dry onions, potatoes tubers, radishes, rhubarb, turnips.

Greenhouse or Coldframe:

Above 2000': lettuce & cabbage family.

Below 2000': eggplant, peppers, melons, & squash family.

Set Out Plants:

Remember, warm season crops need warm soil – 60+.

Last month to buy bare root and deciduous fruit trees, vines and berries. When planting bare root strawberries, cut the roots back halfway, improve the soil, place crown level with surface, mulch, weed and water regularly.

Grow tubes for grapes have advantages and disadvantages – talk to your Farm Advisor.

Above 2000': Wall O' Water can allow you to set plants out earlier, lengthen growing season. The phosphorous deficiency in our soils and low night time temps can keep the soil cold this time of the year. Be sure they are used on level areas only as they can fall over and destroy your young plants.

Plastic fabric like Fast Start can warm the soil also. Any protection you can provide from winds will be beneficial to young seedlings.

Fertilize:

Fruit trees need ½ their annual N.

Cane berries, strawberries, deciduous fruit and young shade trees, young conifers, cool season grass, roses, kiwis, citrus.

Foliar feed garden crops for strong spring growth.

Spray:

DORMANT SPRAY MUST BE DONE BEFORE BUD SWELL.

All fruit, citrus, and nuts with 50 % wettable copper powder. Stone fruits: copper powder must be used when buds are fully dormant to control peach leaf curl.

Apple: For apple scab, use lime sulphur, captan or bentrane when apple buds first show green and repeat spray every 10 days until bloom where scab is a problem. In many cases, this treatment may be combined with previous insect control.

Garden Maintenance:

Hang codling moth traps to help monitor activity in apple trees. Hang 2/tree before flowers appear.

Prune grapes (wait until buds swell in cold areas).

Remove and destroy mummy fruit blighted limbs on stone fruit to reduce brown rot, and fallen leaves to reduce peach leaf curl, if not done in the fall.

Mulch cane berries.

Paint tree trunks (white latex indoor paint diluted with water - prevents sunburn and borer attacks).

General:

Till garden and add organic matter.

Monitor spring rains – if long dry spell, test to see if you need to water.

Hand pick, bait or trap earwigs, slugs, and snails.

To repel birds, cats, squirrels: cover newly planted beds with netting, floating row covers or temporary wire screens. Some row covers are designed for specific applications (wind, frost, etc).

Set up a composting area if you haven't got one.

Yard Calendar - MARCH (REMINDER: WINTER ISN'T OVER)

Plant Seed:

Outside:

Wildflowers. *Frost tolerant perennials.* (veronica, columbine, heuchera, delphinium)

Plant summer bulbs: Dahlias, Cannas, Gladiolas (2 week intervals), etc. Mix in a balanced fertilizer before planting. Upcountry – don't be in too big a hurry!

Sow seed for cool season grasses – tall fescue is a good choice.

Greenhouse or Indoors:

Spring/summer booming annuals & perennials.

Start tuberous begonias indoors.

Set Out Plants: Still too cold at 4000'.

Last month for bare root and deciduous trees & shrubs.

Container roses, azaleas, camellias, shrubs, trees.

Below 2000': cantebury bells, forget-me-nots, foxglove, pansies, primula, scented geraniums.

Ground Cover: juniper, rosemary and manzanita are unthirsty.

Shady Area: Ajuga, campanula, hypericum, ivy, lamium, liriopoe, moneywort (golden), scented geraniums, viola

Sunny: Acorus gramineus 'Ogon', artemesia, baccharis, creeping phlox (sublata), dwarf dianthus, hypericum, rosemary, scabiosa caucasica, creeping thyme, veronica.

Dry shade: Euphorbia, lamium, Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris, Salal.

Fertilize:

MOST TREES, SHRUBS, AND VINES RESPOND BEST TO MIDSUMMER AND EARLY FALL FERTILIZATION WITH N. SPRING APPLICATIONS ARE LEAST EFFECTIVE BUT SHOULD BE USED IF YOU DID NOT FERTILIZE LAST FALL. ESTABLISHED TREES AND SHRUBS DON'T NEED FERTILIZER UNLESS LEAVES LOOK PALE OR LACK VIGOR.

Fall planted annuals and perennials, roses.

Use a complete, high N fertilizer for lawns showing new spring growth.

Young shade trees, young conifers, cool season grass, roses.

Daphne and camellia with NPK after bloom.

Bulbs during and after bloom with a low or no nitrogen fertilizer.

Spray:

Dormant oil on roses.

Watch for aphids on roses and other plants – blast with hose or use insecticidal soap.

Pre-emergent by 3/15 for crab grass.

Garden Maintenance:

Pruning encourages tender new growth. Wait for new growth to start and all threat of frost/snow to be gone before pruning storm damaged limbs. Complete pruning before plants flower. Exception* Prune roses.

*Prune (after flowering): lilacs, quince, plum, cherries, crab apples, snow ball bush, wisteria.

Divide summer and fall blooming perennials - discard older coarse center growth, replant outer sections. In colder areas, wait until they are just starting to sprout. Divide only if clumps are crowded or last years bloom was sparse. Lift clumps with spading fork. Water in low N fertilizer.

General:

Feed the soil so it can feed the plants. When the ground dries, prepare beds for flowers and vegetables -amend soil as needed with compost/soil amendments. Check if you add wood products to the soil that the N has been stabilized. If not, add 2 ½-5 lbs. 20-10-10 or 16-9-12/ 500 sq. ft.

To repel birds, cats, squirrels: cover new beds with netting, floating row covers or temporary wire screens.

Set up a composting area if you haven't got one. Get material from your county Master Gardeners.

Weed, apply pre-emergents.



Press Release #1



CA Statewide Master Gardeners Conference

*Please pass this information along to:
all Master Gardeners, all MG Program Advisors and Coordinators, all County and Regional Directors,
appropriate Program Leaders, and all interested persons in UC Plant Sciences Departments.
Thank you.*



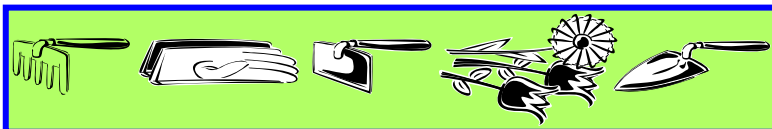
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Who:** ALL U.C. Master Gardeners
- What:** CA Statewide Master Gardeners Conference
- Where:** Dolce Hayes Mansion, San Jose, CA
- When:** October 5-6, 2006
- What Else:** Pre and Post Tours on October 4th and 7th

Conference Theme: The Master Gardener University: "Growing Your Garden of Knowledge"

Website: <http://camgconf06.ucdavis.edu> (bookmark this webpage and check it for updates)

- ❖ Start planning to attend a conference designed for Master Gardeners.
- ❖ A committee of enthusiastic Master Gardeners and UCCE staff are formulating a program to meet the diverse needs of Master Gardeners.
- ❖ Featured speakers, seminars, tours, idea exchange, and shopping are sure to satisfy the Master Gardener's appetite for higher gardening education.
- ❖ This conference will provide Master Gardeners with excellent, current information, the opportunity to network with each other, and a chance to celebrate 25 years of the MG Volunteer Program in California.
- ❖ The Dolce Hayes Mansion in San Jose is the perfect choice for this year's conference. Why? Because it is accessible to travelers; designed for conferences; offers exquisite cuisine, accommodations, and grounds; and it's beautiful and reasonably priced when you consider all meals are included with your lodging.
- ❖ Exciting keynote speakers have been confirmed. Pre and post event tours are being organized. Stay tuned for more details.
- ❖ Contact Pamela Geisel (559) 456-7554 (pmelam@ucdavis.edu) or Leslie Feathers (559) 456-7224 (lsfeathers@ucdavis.edu) for more information.
- ❖ Start saving your pennies now and plan to attend this year's Master Gardener University and Grow YOUR Garden of Knowledge with us!



February 1, 2006
Michelle Le Strange
mlestrange@ucdavis.edu
Statewide Conference Publicity



sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

			1 -Phone Clinic	2 -Phone Clinic J Harrington J Lyall	3 -Phone Clinic L Smith	4 -Amador MG Grape Pruning Class
5	6	7 -Phone Clinic S Harrington B Lloyd	8 -Phone Clinic	9 -Phone Clinic C Taylor S Collins A Schieding	10 -Phone Clinic J Marks A Schieding	11
12	13	14 -Phone Clinic J Tarchala	15 -Phone Clinic A Schieding P Stalder	16 -Phone Clinic L Breesch B Honeychurch	17 -Dandelion Day Setup S Collins J Ferrell D Ferrell -Phone Clinic	18 -Dandelion Days 11-2 pm Shift L Breesch M Loretta -Dandelion Days 2-5 pm Shift C Koos Breazeal -Dandelion Days 8-11am Shift J Lyall J North
19 -Dandelion Days 11-2p.m. Shift S Collins -Dandelion Days 2-5 pm Shift S Oneto C Oneto -Dandelion Days 8-11 am Shift A Schieding	20	21 -Phone Clinic H J Severson J E Otto	22 -Phone Clinic E Beals	23 -Phone Clinic J Trottier	24 -Phone Clinic R Allen	25
26	27	28 -Phone Clinic J North	29 -Phone Clinic	30 -Phone Clinic E Felberg A Schieding	31 -Phone Clinic L Martin J Marks	