



Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners

Issue No. 3
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Have a Gardening Question? Ask a Lake Tahoe Master Gardener!

Visit our office: Saturdays Noon - 3:00 p.m.
870 Emerald Bay, Suite 108, South Lake Tahoe

Come to the **Farmers Market** in SLT on the first and third Tuesdays of each month

Call: (530) 543-1501 x101

Email: laketahoemg@ucanr.edu

Visit our **website:** <http://ucanr.edu/ltmastergardeners>

Attend a class or visit us at our booth at events---go to our website for a full schedule of workshops and events!



Green Thumb Gardening Classes

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at three locations around the lake each week!

Right Plant, Right Place - Trees and Shrubs in High Elevation Settings

- Monday, July 8; Tuesday, July 9;
Wednesday, July 10

Pest Management: What's Bugging You? Or Digging Up Your Garden?

- Monday, July 15; Tuesday, July 16; Wednesday, July 17

Composting: From Garbage to Garden

- Monday, July 22; Tuesday, July 23; Wednesday, July 24

Get Wild in Your Garden! Native Plants and Beneficial Insects

- Monday, July 29; Tuesday, July 30; Wednesday, July 31

Sprinkle or Shower? Efficient Irrigation

- Monday, August 5; Tuesday, August 6; Wednesday, August 7



Locations:

- Mondays - Lake Tahoe Community College Demonstration Garden, One College Drive, South Lake Tahoe
- Tuesdays - Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) Demonstration Garden, 2400 Lake Forest Road, Tahoe City
- Wednesdays - North Tahoe Demo Garden, Sierra Nevada College, 999 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village Classes continue through mid-August --- see the LTMG website for more classes at:

<http://ucanr.edu/ltmastergardeners>

A Recipe for Compost Mudpies

by Bonnie Turnbull - LTMG



As I pitched compost from one pile to another, I reflected on how I have always played with dirt. I cherish a memory of making "mudpies" in my backyard. We put "cherries" inside: tiny red flowers that floated down all around us, magically, as if just for my sister and me. But as a grown-up baker, I make my mudpies from scratch. I craft the dirt itself. Normally, forty-percent of household "waste" is permanently entombed in a sterile landfill. Mine enriches my garden instead. I mix "garbage", moisture, time and effort and create that wonderful, soft, moldable feel of compost, so much healthier for my small ecosystem than

the pure decomposed granite--sand--natural to my yard.

I feel like an alchemist making gold, and in a way, I am. I am on metered water now, and I save money because compost-enriched soil holds the water right where it's needed instead of letting it drain down past the roots. [Read More "A Recipe for Compost Mudpies"](#)

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Creating a Raised Garden Bed

By Alison Toy - LTMG

Building a raised garden bed has always been on my list of things to do. This year the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, and by extension me, received a grant from the Lake of the Sky Garden Club to put a raised bed into our Tahoe City Demonstration Garden. I finally had the resources and the opportunity to create my first-ever raised bed garden. The problem was that although I may have some knowledge about gardening, I have no experience with building a raised bed. Through trowel and error I've learned a great deal about the process of installing a raised bed.

[Read more...](#)

Q and A Corner

by Lynne Brosch - LTMG



Q What should I do about a woodpecker that keeps returning to peck at the side of my house? There are already a lot of holes in my siding and the noise is extremely annoying.

A Woodpeckers are drumming in search of food, to establish their breeding territory or possibly to discover a nesting site. In the case of social drumming they are very interested in creating a loud noise which is why you often hear them drumming on metal spouts and gutters. The particular siding most affected will be redwood or cedar especially on older homes and where there are gaps that harbor insects that the birds are searching for. The birds are also most prevalent in areas near the edge of the forest or heavily wooded sites. Woodpeckers are protected so the only method of removal is to deter them in a number of ways. You can use plastic bird netting to cover susceptible areas which in many cases might be the whole side of your house. For a large area you may want to call a professional for help. Many people have used strips of mylar or other such colored strips of plastic hung from the eaves of the house or nearby trees. This method has inconsistent results. Better success has been reported with the application of Tanglefoot, a sticky bird repellent which could be spread over some plywood and attached to the damaged area. This repellent will not trap the birds but only drive them away. Keep in mind that once the woodpecker has established itself on your site it can be very persistent and hard to drive away. Good luck! For more information read and or download the Pest Notes on Woodpeckers at: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74124.html>

**Join us --- at the 6th Annual
Conservation Landscaping Tour
Sunday, August 11th, 1:00-5:00 pm
Featuring Turf Conversions and
Waterwise Landscapes in the Tahoe Keys**

[More information and where to get tickets - click here!](#)

Edible Landscaping Part Two: Choosing Your Site and Best Choices for Edibles in Tahoe

by Lynne Brosch and Rebecca Bryson - LTMG

There are a few important things to keep in mind when planting edibles in Tahoe. Number one, you need a location that receives at least 6 hours of sun. Keep in mind the angle of sun as the summer progresses. An area in your yard that is sunny in June may be in the shade by mid-July. Know your site. Also keep in mind the protection from strong wind and colder nights if your growing area is protected by a fence, near the house for warmth, within a raised bed where you can cover from cold and pest, etc. Many homes in Tahoe have their sunniest locations in their front yard near the street. The front yard can be an excellent place to grow your edibles but close to the street is NOT. If you plant near the street, dirt and pollution from traffic and the roadway will be very unhealthy for your plants and for you if you

eat their product.

Number two on your list and just as important will be your soil condition. If you are planning to plant in your decomposed granite soil forget it. You will need to bring in compost with good organic matter to build up your soil. We often recommend raised beds and containers to grow edibles to account for your improved soil need which can be more easily maintained within a smaller area. Your established landscape plants will suffer with a lot of disturbance of their roots if you attempt to bring in soil and interplant edibles.

Number three is your water concern. Another reason you want a dedicated area for edibles is that you will need to water them much more than your natives and established shrubbery, trees and perennials. If you have a raised bed or containers near a separate watering system you will have much more success. Your edibles will not receive their moisture from Mother Nature, you will have to be the mother.

Specific Edibles for Tahoe

Despite the national local food movement, many people think that it is too difficult to grow vegetables up here. However, the good news is that more and more people here are doing it successfully. This article will give you some tips on what works for them and how they do it! [Read more... including a yummy recipe](#)

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING WORKSHOPS

July 16 & August 27, 6:00-8:00pm
at South Tahoe Public Utility District



What you will get out of the workshop:

- Water saving technology & practices that save money
- Water-wise landscaping techniques
- Turf removal techniques and re-landscaping ideas
- Yard fertility practices for healthier turf & cleaner water
- Turf Irrigation scheduling and seasonal maintenance



Sponsored by South Tahoe Public Utility District, Tahoe Resource Conservation District and the Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners. No pre-registration required.

Interested in becoming a Lake Tahoe Master Gardener?

Training for 2013 will begin on Friday, September 6th and continue through Friday,

November 22nd from 1:00 - 5:30 p.m. each week in South Lake Tahoe. For more information and to receive update emails go to: <http://ucanr.edu/becomeamastergardener>

Gardening with Children Is a Joy for the Gardener and the Child

by Carolyn Meiers

In late May, my five year old grandson called to say, "Grandma, guess what! The sunflowers we planted are coming up!" Since my grandchildren live some distance away I try to always visit in the fall and spring so we can do some seasonal planting together. We plant bulbs in the fall and sunflowers in the spring. To plant seeds or bulbs below ground and then anticipate them 'popping up' is a real joy.



Going back even further, when my children were young, we planted a vegetable garden. Each one had their own row and could choose what they wanted to grow. My daughter chose strawberries planted from nursery starts and my son chose carrots planted from seeds. The strawberries thrived and produced lovely fruit that the dog harvested and ate! When the carrot tops surfaced we watched them grow. The green was nice but there was not much else going on. Since it was early fall before they were mature, my son's interest waned a bit. After checking the plants for maturity I suggested he pull one out of the ground. The look on his face was utter amazement! "It's a carrot!" he shouted. We washed them and ate most of the crop on the spot. What a great way to get kids to eat their vegetables!

The garden is a wonderful classroom that helps children learn about nature, and the ecosystems that support life. Beyond planting and harvesting, children learn patience as they wait for the fruit or flower. They learn responsibility by nurturing and caring for what they've planted. They learn about the seasons, and what to expect. Seeds planted WILL come to fruition and then eventually die. It is such a wonderful introduction to the beauty and miracle of life.

Gardening with children takes time and patience but the rewards are great. It's important to keep it simple and plan short sessions. Small children are eager to help. They can really get into serious sprinkling. Our neighbor boys were helping me a couple of years ago and though the windows got most of the water they thoroughly enjoyed their task. We all had a good time. Time out for running through the sprinkler works too. If you don't have your own children or grandchildren available invite a friend's or neighbor's child, and plant something! You will be glad you did and so will they!

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