



Advice to Grow by... Ask Us! Master Gardener Program

University of California Cooperative Extension



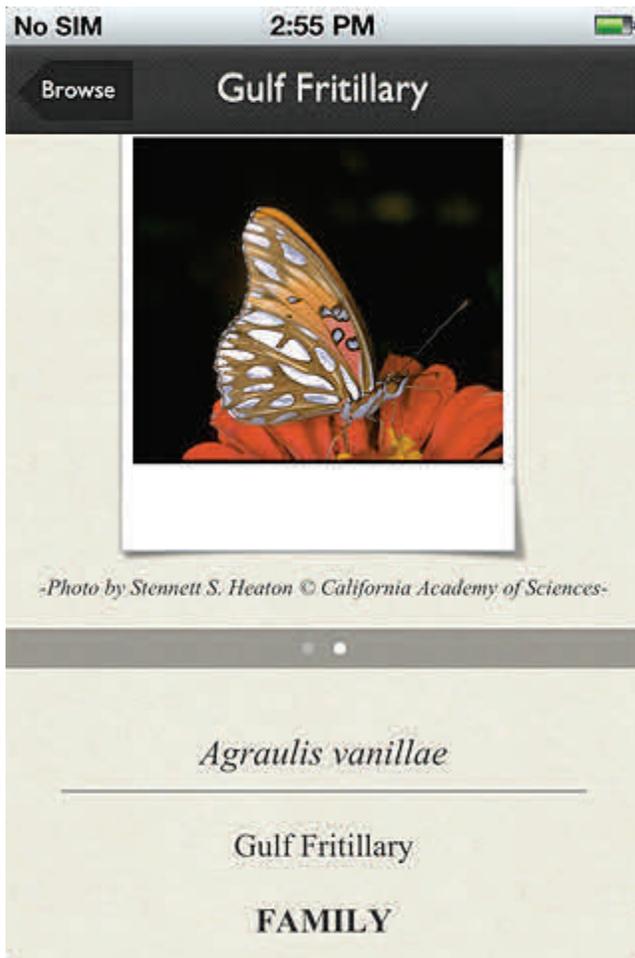
Issue #35

Amador/El Dorado County Master Gardener E-News

November 2012

New App Puts Butterflies On Your Phone

UC Davis Newsroom



-Photo by Stennett S. Heaton © California Academy of Sciences-

Sample screen shot from the Butterfly Guide app.

Fluttering onto a smartphone near you soon, a field guide to the butterflies of Northern California, created by UC Davis students. "I hope that teachers will be able to use it for classroom projects," said Melissa Whitaker, a UC Davis graduate student who developed the app with two computer science undergraduates, Joey Jiron and Bryan Maass.

Download the app for free. Search for "The Butterfly Guide, Melissa Whitaker."

The app includes photos and descriptions of adults and caterpillars of 117 species of butterflies found in the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento Valley. It draws on three decades of data compiled by Art Shapiro, professor of evolution and ecology at UC Davis.

The app can be used to look up butterflies by common name, scientific name, family and color. The app also allows users to enter their own notes and photos and record sightings. Whitaker hopes that the app will ultimately be able to collect users' observations

and photos into a publicly accessible "citizen science" database.

"It's been a great learning experience for me," said Whitaker, who had no prior iOS programming experience. The team is releasing the software

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Contact Your Local Master Gardener

Amador County
209-223-6838

Office hours: 10 am–Noon
Tuesday–Thursday
mgamador@ucdavis.edu

El Dorado County
530-621-5512

Office hours: 9 am–Noon
Tuesday–Friday
mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu



New App Puts Butterflies On Your Phone, *Continued from Page 1*



Requirements: Compatible with iPhone 3GS, iPhone 4, iPhone 4S, iPhone 5, iPod touch (3rd generation), iPod touch (4th generation), iPod touch (5th generation) and iPad. Requires iOS 5.0 or later.

as open source, so that it can be used by others as the basis for other natural history field guide applications. "It was a lot of fun," said Jiron. "It's given me a taste of the real world, working with a client who is coming from a different side of things."

Also on the team is David Waetjen, a Web developer with the UC Davis Information Center for the Environment. Waetjen will work on the second phase of the app, in which users will be able to upload photos and notes to the public database.

The project was funded by the National Science Foundation-sponsored Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship in Rapid Environmental Change, or REACH-IGERT, at UC Davis.

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Edible Landscaping Workshop - January 26, 2013



The University of California's goal, through the Master Gardener Volunteers, is to encourage backyard gardeners to create healthier gardens and yards.

Master Gardeners do this by extending to the public UC research-based information, moving them towards more sustainable gardening practices to improve urban water quality and conservation, using safe pest management practices, improving fertilizer efficiency, increasing recycling and composting, reducing energy and water use, and encouraging wildlife.

Of late, for a number of reasons, there has been a tremendous increase in vegetable gardening among those living in both rural and urban areas. Many people want to grow their own food and not just in a 'vegetable garden.' The Edible Landscape emphasizes growing fruits, vegetables, and herbs in the context of the ornamental home landscape. The process of creating an Edible Landscape is the same as one with purely ornamental features, but much more functional and sustainable substituting edible plants, where appropriate, for lawn, shrubs and trees.

Mark your calendars for a new 7-hour Master Gardener Edible Landscaping workshop happening on Saturday, January 26, in El Dorado Hills. Topics include an Introduction to Edible Landscaping; Design and Planning; Planting and Maintenance; and Harvesting, Storage and Food Safety. A box lunch will be provided. The early bird registration fee is \$35 before January 2, 2012, when it changes to \$40. Registration will be available online soon - watch your email for more details!

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What About End Of Season Tomatoes?

Various Master Gardeners



Master Gardeners were asked how they deal with tomatoes at the end of the season. Here are some of the answers:

Donna England, Amador County Master Gardener

I've tried so many methods and for me, just cutting the plants off works the best. During the years when I thought we wouldn't have any more warm weather and then we did, I kicked myself as I could have had more ripe cherry tomatoes. From my observations it also depends on the type of tomatoes that I've planted. Some seem to produce fewer tomatoes and even when it's still warm out they may put out

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What About End Of Season Tomatoes?, Continued from Page 3

new flowers but the fruit already on the vines don't ripen any further. I haven't had a lot of luck with ripening things inside and don't want to cook fried green tomatoes. We're also not the kind of people who use relish on things so making green tomato relish is not going to happen at my house.

I did go out the day before our predicted cold weather and rain and cut the vines and left the roots in the ground as suggested by Sean Kritlitch, our former UCCE Master Gardener Program Representative. I also cut some of the green Sun Gold tomatoes from the vine and hung them upside down in my greenhouse shed, which was also something that Sean does. Just bringing in unripe tomatoes and trying to let them ripen in the house doesn't work for me. They just rot and don't ripen.



Green Sun Gold Tomatoes



Gail Schifsky, Amador County Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver

Make green tomato salsa!

Editor's note: Check out page 4 of the [November issue of the Master Food Preserver's monthly eNewsletter](#) for a recipe for an old fashioned green tomato pie filling (aka mincemeat).

Dennis Miller, Amador County Master Gardener

The night before the first frost, I pull the tomato plants out by the roots then hang them, root side up, in a cool storage shed. The green fruit will ripen over the next week or two. I clear out my summer garden in mid-October. I also cut my strawberries back to three inches from the ground then replace the black plastic ground cover.

The next day I plant my fall garden: cabbage, kale, raab (broccoli raab), beets, lettuce, spinach, and radishes. Two weeks later I see green popping up from the beets and radishes. The strawberries will also sprout new green leaves. With the weather cooling down and the recent rain, my gardening chores will become a lot easier. Most of the vegetables will be ready to pick in late November through December.

Jackie Tarchala, Amador County Master Gardener

I've covered my tomatoes for now. I picked all that I could before the October rain. If it looks like it will stay too cold I will pick the whole branch with green tomatoes and bring them inside. I hang them on my screen porch (it has windows in the winter) and they ripen right up. In the Midwest I was told to pull the entire plant from the ground and hang upside down in the garage. Kinda big to do that if you ask me!

Last year I pulled out my tomato plants about this time but wished that I had waited as other Master Gardeners were picking into December. For some reason mine never start producing until September. Last week I picked two Brandywine (grafted). One was a pound and five ounces and the other was 15 ounces. I'm not a fan of big tomatoes, but they seemed to love the cooling trend.



Brandywine Tomato

Linda Hagye, Amador County Master Gardener

About this time last year I started picking green tomatoes to ripen inside the house. I noticed that the tomatoes that had started to turn a light green ripened but not the tomatoes that were dark green. I did read several articles that suggested pulling the whole plant out or just cut off the branches with fruit and hang them in a cool dark place to finish ripening. I didn't have a suitable place for hanging so I just placed them on tables and counters and set a couple of apples in the groups to encourage faster ripening.

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UC ANR Catalog: Just Published And In Time For Your Holiday Wish List!

IPM in Practice, Second Edition

Mary Louise Flint

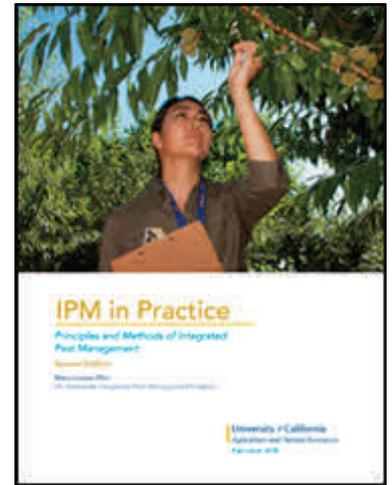
This manual from the UC Statewide IPM Program is the most comprehensive, practical field guide ever developed for setting up and carrying out an IPM program in any type of crop or landscape.

This new edition of IPM in Practice features monitoring and management technology updates, new methods for protecting the environment, new information on invasive pests and pesticide resistance, and over 160 color photos and 100 hand-drawn illustrations.

\$35.00

[ANR Publication #3418](#)

ISBN 978-1-60107-785-1



Vineyard Pest ID Cards in Spanish

Lucia Varela, Walt Bentley

The Spanish-language version of our Vineyard Pest Identification and Monitoring cards is now here! These cards are also [sold separately in English](#) or in bundles of [1 English/1 Spanish](#) and [1 English/5 Spanish](#). Perfect for vineyard managers and their crews.

Covers 41 common insects and mites, 11 diseases, 23 beneficial insects, and a variety of other disorders, weeds, and invertebrate pests. Each pest is identified by a description and excellent close-up color photographs-244 photos in all. On the reverse of each card is a description of the various life stages and monitoring tips.



\$25.00

[ANR Publication #3538](#)

ISBN 978-1-60107-819-3

New Free Publications

[Establishing and Managing Irrigated Pasture for Horses](#)

[Managing Smutgrass in Irrigated Pasture](#)



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Automatic Master Gardener Class Reminder

Life can get pretty hectic sometimes and before you know it, you've missed one of the Master Gardener classes you really wanted to attend. What's a busy person to do? Request an automatic email reminder about any of our classes!

All of the Master Gardener classes (and all UCCE events) are listed in our online calendar on our [public website](#). On the right corner of our public website is a list of all upcoming UCCE events.

Click on any event's name to bring up the specifics on time, location, content, and more. At the top of the screen are links to share this class information with others via seven different social media outlets: Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, Reddit, Delicious, LinkedIn, and StumbleUpon. You can help spread the word about these free, informative classes.

Upcoming Events	
Event Name	Date
Raising Heritage Poultry for Profit & Pleasure	11/3/2012
MG Class: Shade Gardening	11/3/2012
Tuolumne Master Gardener Open Garden Day	11/3/2012

[View More Events](#) 

You can also email information about the class to yourself and others.

Look at the bottom of the event listing.

You can download an iCalendar file, or schedule a reminder email to yourself that will arrive between 0-7 days in advance of the class - you choose when.

Don't miss another Master Gardener class again; take advantage of the automatic reminders.

We'll see you at the next class!

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What's Happening At The Master Gardener Office Gardens?

Stop by to see what the Master Gardeners have done to their gardens outside of [their offices](#); you might get some ideas of your own. The gardens may cause you to ask questions about your own garden. And you may just enjoy looking at the plants!

In Amador County

Jackie Tarchala, Amador County Master Gardener

I cut all the Buddleia to the ground except the one I pruned in the summer. I will let it stay until the others come back, then I'll cut it down. I couldn't believe the fragrance - come by the office and smell it!

The weeds were not too bad and we got what we saw. The next task is to turn off the water for the winter. I think next year we probably won't run the irrigation unless we have an unusually hot summer. A little sprinkle now and then from the hose should be enough. All of the plants are drought tolerant and are now well established. We will replace the Blue Oat Grass with more Pennisetum because it was way too wet for the native. I'm going to call upon one of our master pruners to take some of the lower branches off the Redbud and thin it a bit. I'm going to add a few more Chrysanthemums to the back of the bed and then I think we could use a refresher of mulch. We will leave all the fallen Redbud leaves to use as mulch as well. We will add signs to our plants next month, too.



Pennisetum Oriental



In El Dorado County

Joan Jenkins, El Dorado County Master Gardener

It's been all about the deer this month at the Master Gardener Office in Placerville. For the first time ever, deer have decided to munch on some of the plants, primarily the newly planted violas. Violas seem to be especially tempting. Apparently, the deer are very hungry throughout the county this season as there have been several reports of greater than normal browsing. Most of the other plants (creeping jenny, aster, clematis) are currently safe as they are not as appealing as the violas. I've recently applied a commercial deer repellent to see if that will dissuade them. So far, so good, but we'll wait for the quiet weekends to see for sure.

We've done some dead-heading and clearing of fallen leaves but that's about all in the garden this month. Next month, leaves can be left in place and there should be fewer flowers to remove. Also, an application of some additional mulch may be needed for winter protection.

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Have You Seen A Rain Beetle?



They Only Fly During Rainstorms, just before sunrise and just after sunset.

They are seldom collected, even though common in areas. Females (the larger) are completely flightless. You might have seen males under your porch-lights in the fall and early winter.

Master Gardeners are helping conduct a state-wide survey for this beetle. You can help with this research! They are NOT rare, threatened or endangered, and they don't bite!

Please help us collect specimens. Check underneath outdoor lights just after the sun goes down, and first thing in the morning during fall and early winter rainstorms (high-elevation species fly in spring when snow melts). They also can be found floating in rain puddles during storm periods. "Traps" (bowls, trays or buckets of **water**) can be placed beneath outdoor lights to aid in capture. They only live a few hours as adults. If you find them, please put a few in a yogurt cup or other **air-tight container**, along with tissue paper, then label the container with the **date and location**, and put the container in the **freezer**.

Later this winter we will put out a call to bring the frozen specimens to either the Amador or El Dorado UCCE office during normal business hours.

What is a Rain Beetle?

Rain Beetles belong to the enigmatic genus *Pleocoma* (Greek=abundant hair), so named for their hairy undersides. They are a peculiar beetle, with a secretive life history. They live underground as larvae, eating tree and shrub roots, fungi and other organic matter (they help "create" soil). Incredibly, they spend between 9 and 13 years in this life stage ("C-shaped grub"). As they mature, they make a tubular larval burrow and pupation chamber. Once reaching their maximum size, they pupate and

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Have You Seen A Rain Beetle?, Continued from Page 8

metamorphose into adult beetles in the late summer to early fall months.

As adults, they have one thing to accomplish: REPRODUCE. In fact, adult beetles do not have functional mouthparts or digestive tracts. Rather, they have energy stored in the form of fat. Males have about 2-hours worth of flight energy that can be used to find a female to mate with, before dying.

Females are larger than males, and are completely flightless. With only a few hours of energy, males have to be quick in finding their mate. Somehow, adult beetles synchronize their reproductive union by weather and light. The adult beetle, never having been above-ground to see the sky, can sense the coming of early-season rain-storms. Scientists are not certain how this happens; perhaps a combination of dropping barometric pressure, vibration of raindrops and increasing soil moisture.

After the first “soaking rains” of the season, males and females burrow upward during rainy weather, using strong spines on their legs and shovel-like “scoops” on their heads to make exit tunnels. Females can burrow through weak asphalt! Once at the surface, the big females emit a lemony-scented perfume (pheromone). Males detect the attractant-molecules with their antennae, flying clumsily about, low over the ground in search of a hopeful encounter. Males will drop to the ground, detecting females even a foot or so below the soil. Often, they will scramble and wrestle among themselves for the opportunity to “be the lucky one”. Incredibly, this only happens during a brief 20-40 minute window, just before the sun comes up, and just after it goes down....and only in the rain (or for a day or so after). Some species fly in the spring with melting snow.



How Can You Help?

Owing to this strange, secretive life history, scientists still have much to learn about Rain Beetles. There remain significant gaps in our understanding of the number of species, their distribution, variation and biology. Anyone trying to understand the “BIG PICTURE” has to be “EVERYWHERE AT ONCE”, in the rain, in the dark...within a ~30-minute window, during early storms.

This project provides an opportunity for you to participate in basic scientific research. Significant discoveries will contribute to completion of a longer-term study currently in preparation. Specifically, data will be used to fill-in geographic gaps in species distributions, document morphologic variability, and discover/describe new species and population segments. You can provide important data contributing to research collections and eventual publication of a Monograph of Pleocomma Rain Beetles.

Participation is straightforward, and requires limited investment in time, and little (if any) financial cost.

We are asking for people to be on the lookout, particularly where cultivated lands are next to natural

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Have You Seen A Rain Beetle?, Continued from Page 9

woodland/shrublands. Reporting already-known observations is appreciated. Check underneath outdoor lights just after the sun goes down, and as early as possible in the morning. Consider placing a bucket, large, bowl, tray or trashcan lid of water beneath outdoor lights. Do this through fall and early to mid-winter storms. If Rain Beetles are found, please place specimens in an airtight plastic container (e.g., yogurt or margarine cup), along with a wad of tissue paper, and put in a freezer for humane dispatch. Write the date and location on the container with a Sharpie.

After storms pass, we'll send out the word to take your frozen specimens to the Amador or El Dorado County UCCE office. The researchers will collect our potentially large selection of Rain Beetles. If you cannot come to the UCCE office, the researchers will come to you to collect specimens, or provide mailing materials and postage for you to send to them. There is no expense required on your behalf, other than containers and a few minutes of your time.



Do not be overly concerned about depleting populations or sacrificing a few individuals. Rain Beetles are generally abundant where found. There are 9-13 generations living underground in larvae form at any point in time. In addition, once males have emerged and are found on the ground, they have most likely mated, or have missed the opportunity. At room temperature, males only live a few hours after emergence. (Remember, they don't have functional mouthparts or functional digestive tracts!!)

Negative Results, if accurately recorded.... ARE ALSO VERY IMPORTANT !

For more information about the research project, please feel free to call or send an e-mail to John Dittes, P.O. Box 6, Los Molinos, CA 96055 - (530) 384-1774 - rainbeetles@sbcglobal.net.

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Master Food Preservers Classes In November

Amador/Calaveras County:

Condiments, Vinegars & Pickled Peppers

Date: Saturday, November 10, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Calaveras County Senior Center, 956 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas

The holidays are on our doorstep and vinegars, condiments and pickled foods are wonderful on our holiday tables. They also make great gifts! Learn to make flavored vinegars, mustards and pickled peppers as well as many other fun recipes.



Sacramento County:

All Dried Up

Date: Saturday, November 10, 2012

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: UC Cooperative Extension Auditorium, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, Ca 95827

A basic introduction to safe dehydration techniques. This is a free demonstration.

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Public Education Classes & Events for Amador and El Dorado Counties – Free!!



Most classes are from 9 a.m. – Noon. Please call ahead to confirm locations.

Amador County

Unless otherwise noted, location for all Amador classes: GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson.

November

17: Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic

Location: Behind the Amador County Senior Center, 229 New York Ranch Road, Jackson. Time: 10-Noon.

Based on extensive research, the UCCE recommends fruit tree pruning in the late summer and fall to allow you to train young trees, maintain tree height, and improve the availability of light for lower fruiting wood. Receive instruction, hands-on experience, and answers to your questions about pruning a fruit tree. If you have them, bring pruning shears and loppers.

December

1: Selection & Planting of Bare-root Fruit Trees

Master Gardener Dennis Miller will explain how to successfully select and plant bare root trees.

2013 Amador County MG Training

Do you want to teach others about home gardening? Apply to train as a Master Gardener volunteer! We are looking for up to 24 adults who are excited to educate our community with presentations, articles, farmers market booths, and through research to answer phone/email/in-person questions.

Who Can Apply?

- Any resident of Amador, El Dorado, or Calaveras County. (*First priority is for Amador residents.*)
- Non-Amador County residents will train in Amador County but will volunteer in their home county.

How to Apply?

- [Sign up on our MG Training interest list.](#)
- Attend **one** of our two MG orientation meetings to learn about the Master Gardener Program, our community involvement, and your participation requirements. These meetings will be **9-11 on Wednesday, Nov 28 and Friday November 30.** Call **530-621-5528** to RSVP.
- Applications will be distributed at the orientation meetings. Interviews will be in early January.

El Dorado County

All **November** and **December** MG classes in El Dorado County will be at the Government Center Hearing Room, Building C, in Placerville. Questions? Call 503-621-5512.

3: Shade Gardening

Shade gardens offer cool beauty to your landscape. They add texture, color and flowers to your garden. Join Master Gardeners Merry Campbell and Judy Thompson as they teach what plants thrive in all kinds of shade - from dappled to deep.

10: Raised Bed Gardening

Do you have soil that is impossible to grow anything in because of its clay or rock content? Do you have physical constraints that make traditional gardening difficult? If so, this is the class for you. Master Gardener Eve Keener will explain the benefits of raised bed gardening, how to build the beds, what materials to use, and how to maintain them for long-term bounty.

17: Rose Selection and Planting

Now is the time to plant bare root roses for the summer. Come to this class and Master Gardener Julianne Melchor will acquaint you with the types and varieties of roses that are available - and how to plant them.

December

1: Selection & Planting of Deciduous Fruit Trees

Master Gardener Walt Miller will present essential information on the selection and the proper planting of bare root trees. The focus of the class will be on planting techniques and tree selection. Fruit tree varieties best suited for our El Dorado county location will be discussed in depth.

[Check out the El Dorado County Master Gardener Facebook page.](#)



Master Food Preservers Classes In November, Continued from Page 10

Festive Fall Favorites

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2012

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: UC Cooperative Extension Auditorium, 4145 Branch Center Road, Sacramento, Ca 95827

Learn to preserve persimmons, pomegranates, pumpkins, and kiwifruit. There is a \$3.00 materials fee for this class.



Persimmon Favorites

El Dorado County

Although the free public education classes have come to a close for the year, the El Dorado County Master Food Preservers are still available to answer any questions you may have about home food preserving. In addition to the question/answer phone line, the Master Food Preservers would love to come and talk to your group or organization about safe home food preserving. This is a free service for the community. For questions about safe home food preservation, or to schedule a speaker for organizations or clubs on the topics of food safety or food preservation, call the Master Food Preservers at (530) 621-5506.

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Pest Notes



Free Pest Notes are available on a variety of topics. For more information, call or email your local Master Gardener office.

To explore the Pest Notes on the UC Integrated Pest Management (IPM) website, go to <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>.

Amador & El Dorado Counties Master Gardener Newsletter
 Editor: Linda Hagye
 Layout Editor: Kim Cohen

Not on our e-newsletter distribution list yet? Know someone who would like to receive our newsletters and notifications on classes and events? Sign up online at <http://ucanr.org/mgenews>.

Get Answers to Your Gardening Questions Online

http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.edu/Master_Gardeners

- Information about Master Gardeners and even how to become one
- List of public classes
- Calendar of Master Gardener events
- Useful links to gardening websites
- Home gardening publications

Got a specific question? Just email us!
 Amador: mgamador@ucdavis.edu
 El Dorado: mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu



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Should you need assistance or require special accommodations for any of our educational programs, please contact us at 530-621-5502.

The University of California, working in cooperation with County Government and the United States Department of Agriculture.