

Hello, Lindsey!

It's June already! Summer is knocking on our door--and with that comes gardening galore, [firesafe landscaping](#), fruit trees producing, and so much more.

UC Agriculture and Natural Resources strives to improve the lives of Californians. Through research and extension in agriculture, natural resource management, and community development, we are your trusted source of information and a partner serving your communities. We believe in practical solutions for major challenges in the Central Sierra.

Now more than ever we know the value of community, research, and science-based information. In times of crisis—and beyond, we are here. Please contact me if you have any questions and take care and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

*JoLynn Miller*

*UCCE Central Sierra Director &  
4-H Youth Development Advisor*

Follow us on social media!



### Fire-Smart Landscaping For Enhanced Wildfire Safety | CAL FIRE

Discover CAL FIRE's guide on fire-smart landscaping to protect your property from wildfires. Learn about fire-resistant plants, placement, maintenance & more.

[Read More](#)



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

### Harvest of the Month: Cherries

The best way to eat cherries is right off the stem. The sweet, tart, crisp and plump juiciness of cherries is a summer delight.

Cherries are a good source of Vitamin C, Potassium, and Fiber. They contain phytochemicals that have been shown to improve memory, heart, and urinary tract



health, and reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease.

Nothing is better than homemade cherry compote, and with only three ingredients—pitted cherries, sugar, and lemon juice, it's also easy to make.

Everything goes into the saucepan and gets cooked over medium heat for about 10 minutes. The cherries first liquefy, then the liquid reduces to a thick syrup.

Compote can be used as a topping on ice cream or cheesecake or served on top of waffles or pancakes.



## Cherry Salsa - Art From My Table

Cherry Salsa is a blend of amazing sweet cherries, tangy lime, and kickin' jalapeños! This sweet and spicy blend tastes incredible!

[Read More](#)



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

■ UC Master Food Preserver Program

**Food Preservation Basics: Canning Pickles**  
6/6/2024 | Online via ZOOM | [Register](#)

**Ask a UC Master Food Preserver**  
6/12/2024 | Online via ZOOM | [Register](#)

**Dehydration 101: Sweets, Treats & Healthy Snacks from Summer Fruits**  
6/13/202 | Online via ZOOM | [Register](#)

**We Can Pickle That!**  
6/15/2024 | In-Person, San Andreas | [Register](#)

**Cherries and Berries**  
6/19/2024 | Online via ZOOM | [Register](#)

**Create Your Own Salsa Bar**  
6/29/2024 | In-Person, Placerville | [Register](#)



### Free Pressure Gauge Testing

UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado, Amador and Tuolumne Counties have devices to test Presto Brand pressure canner gauges and offer **free pressure gauge testing at our offices**. Call the office nearest you to set up a drop-off of your canner and you will receive a phone call when it has been tested and is ready for pickup. Usually testing can be done within a week. [Read More](#)



## Gardeners Can Give Birds A Helping Hand

Can you imagine the Mother Lode without our numerous and diverse birds?

[Read More](#)



# Pollinator WEEK

June 17-23, 2024



[pollinator.org](http://pollinator.org)

## Think Like a Pollinator

By Nancy Bliss

National pollinator week is June 17-23, a time to notice the little things at work around us. Everywhere I see new life popping up. In amongst most of the flowers, if you look closely enough, you see little industrious creatures, bustling about, collecting nectar and pollen, seemingly enjoying themselves immensely. And what a benefit we receive from them. So much of our food comes from plants pollinated by bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, wasps and many others.

Pollinators need our help (so that they can keep doing what they do so well). We need to think like a pollinator while we're planning our gardens. Many of these different groups are in trouble these days and need our intervention.

Bees, prefer flowers in the yellow, blue, violet and white tones! Hmm, not color blind! There are so many types of bees in addition to honey bees; bumblebees, carpenter bees, sweat bees, miner bees.

Hummingbirds prefer the color red and long tubular flowers. Butterflies have their preferences for nectar as well as for the host plants where they lay their eggs and that provide food for the hatchling caterpillars. For a successful garden, we need to lay out the welcome mat for all of them.

First "Go Native." Pollinators are best adapted to native plants that have co-evolved in our regions. These could include salvias, sages, bee balm, Bee's Bliss (a hybrid salvia), echinacea, ceanothus, yarrow, Western redbud. Some non-natives but Mediterranean-adapted plants like lavenders also nourish pollinators. There are local nurseries that can help you find plants suited for your area. Be patient, it takes time for natives to become well established. But they are low maintenance once established.

Second, plant big patches of each plant. That makes foraging more efficient and bountiful.

Third, be chemical free. Pesticides do so much damage to our beneficial insects and other creatures, such as birds and aquatic life. There are many [Master Gardener articles on pest control](#) that do not harm others.

Then, mix it up. Instead of nice neat rows of vegetables, mix in some attractors like zinnias, marigolds (a great pest deterrent), or borage which is loved by bees. Your gardens will look like centerpieces and the vegetables will benefit as well. An interesting fact: borage is a source of nectar, its nectaries refill every 2 minutes, making it very popular.

Plant for all seasons. Be showy by having something blooming all the time (not a hardship if you love flowers).

Spring: Grape hyacinths with their popular, fragrant early blooms; crocus; chives; poppies

Summer: Lambs ear sends up spikes of purple flowers late spring and early summer. Lavender; echinacea, a native that blooms late summer to fall; black-eyed Susans; sunflowers; cosmos; asclepias (milkweed) for butterflies

Fall: Sedum; asters; Gaura (although at my elevation, they don't survive the cold).

Be messy and wild with your garden. Seventy percent of our native bees live underground. Leaving bare places without weed cloth or heavy mulches will give them space to create homes. A few places of sunny, bare, well-draining soil are also beneficial. Then add a few diverse features like a random log, or a large rock or two. Hollow twigs offer habitats for nesting bees and other insects. You can also add a mason bee home, easy to find online.

If I could choose, I would be a bumblebee. Forget about being graceful. They bomb into flowering plants such as tomatoes, vibrating the flower, getting pollen all over their fuzzy bodies. Then on they go to the next, sharing all that pollen, generously.

For ideas, the UC Davis Arboretum offers downloadable plans for gardens. Click on [Arboretum All-Stars or Gardening for Pollinators](#) to learn more.

*Nancy Bliss is a University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardener of Tuolumne County. University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra Master Gardeners can answer home gardening questions. Call 209-533-5912 in Tuolumne County, 209-754-2880 in Calaveras County or fill out our easy-to-use problem questionnaire (<https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=7269>). Check out our UCCE Master Gardener webpage ([https://ucanr.edu/sites/MG\\_of\\_CS/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/MG_of_CS/)). You can find us on Facebook, and on the radio at [kaad-lp.org](http://kaad-lp.org) or 103.5 FM on Motherlode Community Radio.*

## MASTER GARDENERS in all of our Central Sierra programs!

Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, South Lake Tahoe and Tuolumne County training program graduates have completed training and are ready to head out into the community as volunteers helping residents with their home gardening questions. Find them at any of these events to ask questions or chat about gardening!

### Calaveras County Open Garden

Every Thursday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Demonstration Garden  
891 Mountain Ranch Rd  
San Andreas, CA 95249  
Contact: calaverasmg@ucanr.edu

### Firewise and Waterwise

June 22, 2024 9:00 AM - Noon  
Location TBD  
Sponsor: UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County

### Safe & Sane Gardening

June 12, 2024 9:00 AM - Noon  
Cameron Park Community Center  
2502 Country Club Dr  
Cameron Park, CA 95682  
Contact: mgeldorado@ucanr.edu

Gardening can be an excellent way to stay fit, both physically and mentally, providing you don't injure yourself. In this class we will discuss safety tips to help you enjoy your day of gardening without sore muscles or injuries. We'll cover pre-gardening stretches, head to toe protection, the safe use of gas, electric and battery-operated gardening equipment, the safe use of chemicals, as well as props and ergonomic tools that can be used to make gardening tasks more comfortable. Registration is requested, but not required. [Register Here](#)

June 15, 2024 8:00 AM - Noon  
Regal Cinema Parking Lot  
337 Placerville Drive  
Placerville, CA 95667  
For more information about the Farmers Market visit [eldoradofarmersmarket.com/](http://eldoradofarmersmarket.com/)

### El Dorado Hills Farmer's Market

June 16, 2024 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
El Dorado Hills Town Center  
4364 Town Center Blvd  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

### El Dorado County Open Garden Day

Every Friday & Saturday, 9:00 AM - Noon  
Sherwood Demonstration Garden  
6699 Campus Dr. Placerville, CA 95667

### Nature's Whole Food Depot Info Table

Thursday mornings, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Downtown Sonora

### Peaceful Valley Farmers' Market

June 14, 21 & 28 2024 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
East Sonora



### Grow For It! Rosemary - 'dew of the sea'

Susan Wallace UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County Would you like an attractive, easy to grow, low care plant in your garden? Look no further than Rosemary, *Rosmarinus officinalis*.

[Read More](#)

## It's Fair Season!



[El Dorado County Fair](#)  
Placerville, CA  
June 13-16, 2024



[Mother Lode Fair](#)  
Sonora, CA  
June 27-30, 2024

[California State Fair](#)  
Sacramento, CA  
July 12-28, 2024



[Amador County Fair](#)  
Plymouth, CA  
July 25-28, 2024

### Local youth excel with animals at county fair

With the recent completion of the Calaveras County Fair, among the significant takeaways were the high-mark achievements of youth who showed both large and small animals. While there are many related stories that are worthy of presenting in this article, several of those achievements were selected to be included in this report.



[California State Fair](#)  
Sacramento, CA  
July 12-28, 2024




[Read More](#)

#### Jump to..

- [4-H Youth Development](#)
- [Agriculture & Livestock](#)
- [Community Health & Nutrition](#)
- [Forestry & Natural Resources](#)
- [Master Food Preservers](#)
- [Master Gardeners](#)
- [Employment Opportunities](#)

 [Share This Email](#)

 [Share This Email](#)

 [Share This Email](#)

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE UCCE  
CENTRAL SIERRA NEWSLETTER**

**UC  
CE** UC Cooperative Extension  
Central Sierra on Facebook  




Accessibility: 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.**

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities. (Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/390107.pdf>). Inquiries regarding ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to UCANR, Affirmative Action Compliance & Title IX Officer, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618, (530) 750-1397.

**Quick Links...**

[Our Website](#)

[Events & Workshops](#)

[Archived Newsletters](#)

UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra | 311 Fair Lane | Placerville, CA 95667 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!