




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

University of California Cooperative Extension 

Issue #1

UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador/EI Dorado Counties eNews

April-May 2015

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## Drought Fighting Tools From UCCE Sonoma County

In this time of drought it's key to maximize the use of the water that you have. It is possible to provide your plants with adequate water AND practice water conservation. The key is to determine how moist your soil actually is, what the plants' needs are, and match the two. Sticking your finger 1/2" in the ground isn't going to give accurate results. But the right tools can help! With some simple diagnostic techniques, you can manage your water use more effectively. [Read More...](#)

## The Easy Way to Remove Small Trees and Large Shrubs

by: Janice Johnson

I always like it when a job that I expect to be hard surprises me and turns out to be easy. My goat pasture had a hundred Manzanita bushes up to five feet tall that I had left for my goats to eat. Instead of just eating the leaves as I had planned, they rubbed their horns on the trunks, scraping off the bark and killing every plant. Having a pasture full of dead Manzanita bushes is not a good thing. I knew I had to remove them, but having my husband cut them down with a chainsaw would leave a pasture full of stumps. I had seen a demonstration of the Weed Wrench, a tool to remove brush and small trees, and I gave it a try. There is a



## UCCE Master Gardener Plant Sales



**Amador County**  
Plant Sale - **April 26,**  
10:30-4pm.  
Hosted by Amador 360 in  
Plymouth  
[Event flyer](#)

**El Dorado County**  
Plant Sale - **May 2,**  
8am-3pm  
Veterans Memorial  
Building Parking Lot 130  
Placerville Dr., Placerville  
[Event flyer](#)

### **Get Answers to Your Gardening Questions Online**

#### [UCCE Master Gardeners](#)

[Information about Master  
Gardeners](#)

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[How to Become a Master  
Gardener](#)

[Monthly Gardening Tips](#)

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[Public Gardening Classes  
in El Dorado County](#)

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[Public Gardening Classes  
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[Useful Gardening  
Resources](#)

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**Got a specific question?**  
Just email us!

**Amador County**  
[mgamador@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgamador@ucdavis.edu)

**El Dorado County**  
[mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu)

**Contact Your Local  
Master Gardener**

grabbing end that locks around the trunk and a long handle that gives you leverage. With a little man power or in my case, woman power, and the benefit of the long handle, I pulled out all of the Manzanita in a couple of hours. There are no stumps to deal with and with a little raking you'd never know that there had been a tree or a shrub there.

I used the Weed Wrench, but similar brush pullers are made by other companies and are sold under fun names like Puller Bear, Uprooter, Extractigator, and Brush Grubber. They all work about the same way. The good news is that the Master Gardeners have one at the office that you can borrow. Give the Ag Department a call; in Amador County 209-223-6487 and ask for Carolyn, or in El Dorado County call 530-621-5520. At certain times of the year it's not available because the weed crews use them.

## Youth Programs by Eddie Basham

This year El Dorado Master Gardeners have offered youth workshops to cultivate the next generation of gardeners! The first event was, "Grow n' Show Your Plants at the Fair." It was a big success. The goal was not only to reach out to kids but to increase participation at the fair. There were 29 children in attendance along with 17 parents. The class was designed for children ages 5 to 17 and covered the basics of growing plants. Many of the attendees were 4H members.

After the budding young gardeners learned the fundamentals, they propagated jade plants from cuttings. The children were encouraged to demonstrate their new skills by entering their plants in peer competition at the El Dorado County fair in June. They all left with smiles on their faces and a calendar for watering their prized plants!

Looking for more youth opportunities? [Check calendar for class offerings.](#)

## Killdeer Nesting at Sherwood Demonstration Garden by Kathy Pearson

Killdeer are land-loving plovers in the family of shorebirds that choose to nest and take residence far from sand and water. In March of this year a mated pair nested in the SDG Butterfly Garden. Momma laid 4 eggs that were grayish in color with black and or



**Amador County**  
209-223-6838  
Office hours: 10 am-Noon  
Tuesday-Thursday  
[mgamador@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgamador@ucdavis.edu)

**El Dorado County**  
530-621-5512  
Office hours: 9 am-Noon  
Tuesday-Friday  
[mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu)

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Central Sierra**



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**Free Pest Notes**

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

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

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brown markings. Both parents participated in the 24-28 days of incubation. Momma sits on the nest during the day, Dad at night. If the nest is threatened the adults became masterful actors initiating a severely injured bird ('broken winged' act), crying as if in pain to lure intruders and predators away or just raise a loud, ear-piercing ruckus.

On Saturday morning April 11th 4 chicks came into the world with their 'running shoes' on. They are precocial which is defined as 'ripened beforehand, covered with down'. They are miniature, big-eyed, fluffy cute replicas of the adults. These babies didn't have the luxury of lying in a nest and being waited upon. From the time they hatch the young killdeer find their own food and feed themselves. They'll remain under the watchful eye and tutelage of their parents for another 25 days or so. We're enjoying them from a distance and letting them just be!

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## Public Gardening Classes

### AMADOR COUNTY

#### [2015 Class Schedule](#)

Unless otherwise noted, the location for all Amador County classes is the GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson. Questions?  
Call 209-223-6838

[UCCE Master Gardener of Amador County Facebook page](#)

### EL DORADO COUNTY

#### [2015 Class Schedule](#)

Classes are held in variety of locations throughout the county, see schedule for location. Questions?  
Call 530-621-5512

[UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County Facebook Page](#)

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### What To Plant In April

Plant Seed:

- Beets carrots, Chinese cabbage, lettuce, radish, turnips.
  - Below 2000 ft: corn, lima beans, melons, potatoes, pumpkins, snap beans, summer squash, winter squash (marginal - only if weather has warmed).
  - Marigold, zinnia, sunflower (if weather is warm), alyssum.
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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.

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UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador & El Dorado counties Newsletter  
Editor: Janice Johnson

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