

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

University of California Cooperative Extension 

## UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe Lake Tahoe Horticulture News

July 2017

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### Coordinator's Corner:

Greetings!

Summer is finally here and planting is in full swing. UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe had a very busy spring! Please see the article below on our *Growing Food in Lake Tahoe* Series. In the July edition of our newsletter we have a few articles on plant selection and garden pests. If you have a garden pest and/or plant question we encourage you to visit UC's Integrated Pest Management website at: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/>. It is a phenomenal resource!

As always stop by and see us at the American Legion Farmers Market in South Lake Tahoe. On Tuesday, July 11th we will focus on *Growing Food*. We are excited to announce a new gardening program. Tahoe Friendly Garden Program encouraging gardening that practices "right plant in the right place." Gardens that use less water, fertilizer and pesticides, and include a diversity of plants and landscape options.

The [Tahoe Friendly Garden Certification Program](#) is easy! You are probably already doing many of the techniques. Take the voluntary survey to see if your current gardening practices qualify your yard. Finally, we hope that you consider joining us in becoming a UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe. We are currently accepting applications for new volunteers. The training session will start this fall and will go once a month until June. at the Lake Tahoe Community College. Read below for further details. *Come grow with us...*

Sincerely,  
Megan Suarez-Brand

**Learn it, Grow It, Teach it!**

**Join us! Become a UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe**

**Join the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe to encourage Tahoe Friendly Gardening!** You will be trained by the University of California Cooperative Extension in science-based horticulture and then volunteer to teach others on science based gardening practices. We will be holding this session starting this fall. The training will be a mix of in-class sessions,

webinars that can be viewed at your leisure, hands-on opportunities and regular Master Gardener meetings for a total of 50 training hours. This session will be held once a month from September 1st, 2017 to June 8th, 2018 (Graduation). Each training session will be held on the first Friday of the month from 10 am to 1 pm at the Lake Tahoe Community College.

### Who Can Apply?

- Any resident of the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- Applicants need internet access.

### How to Apply:

- Apply: <http://ucanr.edu/uccemglt-training>
- Application period closes on Friday, August 11, 2016 at 6:00 pm.
- Interviews will be scheduled as applications are turned in.
- \$85 training fee (includes all sessions)

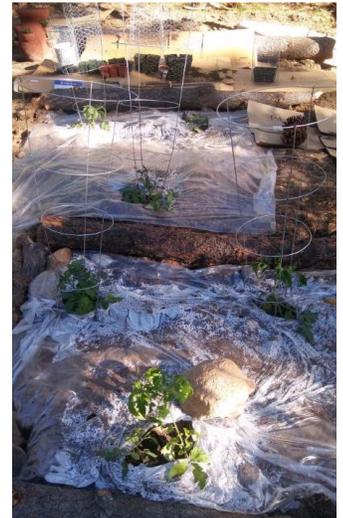


## Growing Food in Lake Tahoe Series...

This past May, UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe held a series on Growing Food in Lake Tahoe. Workshops were held in Incline Village, Truckee, Tahoe City and South Lake Tahoe. These workshops were a lot of fun and we had great participation from Tahoe residents. We'd like to say THANK YOU! to all of our partners and participants. With a great big thank you to: Jennifer Ott at UNR Desert Farming Initiative, Alison Toy at UC Davis TERC, Katie Townsend-Merino with Slow Food Lake Tahoe, Denise Haer and the Friends of the South Lake Tahoe Library, Kahle Community Center, North Lake Tahoe Demo Garden Board of Directors and also Cassandra Walker at the Sierra Sun for the [great article](#).

UCCE Master Gardener Dave Long was the organizer and presenter of these workshops. Here are a few fun numbers we'd like to share from the series:

- 16 workshops in total
- Held in 5 counties and 2 states
- 5 different food crops highlighted (onions, potatoes, strawberries, asparagus and tomatoes)
- Crops came from 6 different suppliers
- 3 Universities involved: UC Davis, UNR and Guelph University (in Canada)
- 1200+ onions distributed and planted in Lake Tahoe

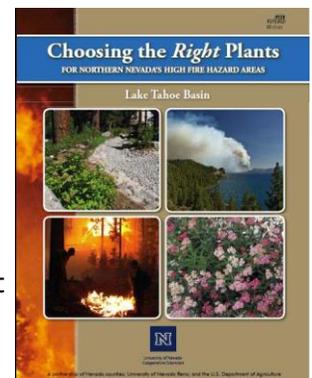


- 150 pounds of potatoes distributed and planted in Lake Tahoe
- 900 strawberry plants distributed and planted in Lake Tahoe
- 700 asparagus plants distributed and planted in Lake Tahoe
- 630 tomato plants distributed and planted in Lake Tahoe



## ***New Plant Guide available: Choosing the Right Plants***

A revised version of Choosing the Right Plants for Northern Nevada's High Fire Hazard Areas. This beautiful and easy to use guide can help you select which plants are right for your home landscape. This newly revised guide includes "TRPA recommended Native and Adapted Plant List" and "Accent Plant Guide List for Lake Tahoe." You can be sure that you will get the right plant in the right place! Pick up your free copy at our Master Gardener office or you can access it online at [Choosing the Right Plants](#).



## ***(NATIVE) Tahoe Trees & Plants: The Cones that Almost Never Fall***

by Lynne Brosch, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe



Look up to the top of your fir trees and see all those beautiful pine cones pointing up to the sky. It looks like an excellent crop this year. Have you ever seen them fall to the ground? Not likely. Fir cones usually disintegrate on the trees in late September into October. Cones produce from 185 to 295 seeds apiece. The seeds are then distributed by the wind. Seed production varies by the age and size of the tree. Many fir diseases and insect damage begin in the tops of trees and can cause loss of cone production. Fair to good crops of cones are produced every 2 to 5 years with an exceptional crop maybe only every 5 to 9 years.

Older trees are especially prone to damage from wind and snow and lose their tops. However, these trees are capable of redevelopment and a resumption of the ability to bear cones. Fir seeds that drop before permanent snow cover have the best chance of germination. Seedlings do best in shaded areas where the soil is not as hot and dry. They often succumb to fungi, cutworms, trampling and

browsing by animals if not the drought and heat. White fir trees begin bearing cones at about 40 years of age and can continue for some 300 years. Look hard to find a fir cone on the ground. If you do it's a lucky find!

For more information:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/abicon/all.html>

[http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species\\_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=3](http://www.calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=3) Red fir

<http://www.plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=ABMA>

[http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics\\_manual/Volume\\_1/abies/magnifica.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics_manual/Volume_1/abies/magnifica.htm)

White fir fact sheet and plant guide

[http://www.plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs\\_abco.pdf](http://www.plants.usda.gov/factsheet/pdf/fs_abco.pdf)

[http://www.plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg\\_abco.pdf](http://www.plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_abco.pdf)

## ***Right Plant, Right Place***

by Carolyn Meiers, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe

A few years ago, at a Green Thumb workshop on this theme, myself and a partner Master Gardener, talked about plant placement in the garden. Obvious considerations are the awareness of "shade" plants and "sun" plants and knowing where in the garden to put them. Nursery plant tags are a good guide, as well as a general plan for the garden. Garden books and a diagram of the property are the beginning tools along with the gardener's dream and plant preferences. Take your diagram and a list to the garden center in order to avoid the "kid in the candy store" approach to buying plants.

In that plan, adequate water and erosion considerations are very important. Always be thinking about how much water will be needed/consumed. Drought tolerant plants are a good way to help our thirsty earth. Drip systems are most appropriate when possible to conserve water.

Microclimates also play a major role in that temperature, wind and exposure will dramatically affect planting success. Knowing the flow of air currents and temperature is a key factor for plants in the "right place".

[Continue reading...](#)



## ***Who is Your Pest?***

### ***Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel or Chipmunk?***

by Lynne Brosch, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe

Recently as I went around the lake doing talks on pest management, I had several complaints about chipmunks. People describe a lot of digging and eating of plants by these chipmunks. As I began thinking about putting out some information on how to handle the situation I thought about the golden-mantled ground squirrel, I watched eating garden plants voraciously on the

Baldwin Estate grounds just yesterday. Perhaps gardeners need to know who they are dealing with.

The golden-mantled ground squirrel looks a lot like a chipmunk. It has a large white stripe bordered by black on each side. The main difference between this squirrel and a chipmunk is that its stripes don't go all the way to the face and it is a slightly larger animal. It lives along the west coast in coniferous forests and mountainous areas. It likes to eat plants, seeds, nuts, fruit and some insects. It lives in an underground burrow usually near trees or logs. Chipmunks have very similar burrows. Most common in the Tahoe basin is the Lodgepole chipmunk. [Continue reading...](#)



Lodgepole Chipmunk



Golden-Mantled  
Ground Squirrel

Sincerely,

*Megan Suarez-Brand, Program Coordinator & UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe Contributors: Dave Long, Lynne Brosch and Carolyn Meiers*

The UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe strive to meet the horticulture needs of the Lake Tahoe Basin Community, we are pleased to extend research-based information to fellow gardeners on home horticulture. Our Master Gardener volunteers receive training and certification from the University of California Cooperative Extension and provide practical scientific gardening information.

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

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