



UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe Horticulture News - September 2018

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Coordinator's Corner:

Bring on Fall! The weather is changing and so should our gardening practices. It's time to move toward a fall watering plan. Please see our article below on "Fall into Fall Lawn Care" for some fall watering tips. Many of our perennial flowers are starting to lose their color and turn brown. If you can control your urge to deadhead these plants you will increase your seed stock and also help our Tahoe wildlife. Many of our spent flowers can provide nesting material and much needed food for birds and small mammals in winter when other food sources are scarce. Not only will leaving some of these help them out, but it's also fun to watch wildlife in their natural environment.

We hope you enjoy our September newsletter and can join us for one of our fall workshops.

*Sincerely,
Megan Suarez-Brand*

Lake Tahoe Wildfire Preparation Workshop, 9/13/18

The Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities invites you to:

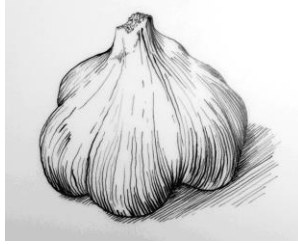
LAKE TAHOE WILDFIRE PREPARATION WORKSHOP

September 13th, 2018 | 5:30-7PM
Fairway Community Center
330 Fairway Dr, Tahoe City, CA 96145

<p>LEARN FROM LOCAL EXPERTS ABOUT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access: Increase the likelihood of emergency personnel accessing your home in an emergency • Built Environment: Address ember vulnerabilities on your home • Community Protection: Work with public land agency urban lot management programs • Defensible Space: Properly maintain the vegetation around your home • Evacuation: Prepare for evacuation 	<p>GUEST SPEAKERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Grant Skyland Fire Adapted Community Leader • Susie Kocher University of California Cooperative Extension • Chief Mike Schwartz North Tahoe Fire Protection District • Carlie Teague Tahoe Resource Conservation District • And More
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Workshop is free, open to the public, and all ages. Contact Carlie Teague with questions at 530-543-1501 ext. 114
Learn more about preparing for wildfire at tahoe.livingwithfire.info

Fall Garlic Workshops



By: Dave Long, UCCE Master Gardener

We are pleased to offer fall workshops on growing fall planted garlic, shallots and elephant garlic. Participants will have the opportunity to receive free bulbs and cloves for fall planting. The materials are provided for the grow-out trials to help identify successful varieties for the difficult Truckee/Tahoe climate.

Participants will be asked to provide basic information on how each variety does, based on what type growing technique is used to grow out provided plant materials. In addition to providing plant materials the workshop will cover planting techniques, discussion on the biology and history of this ancient group of food crops. We will also review the culinary differences, between the alliums and have a few recipes to hand out. Participants will receive regular updates and growing tips during the course of the growing season.

Tuesday, September 25 at 6 pm - South Lake Tahoe Library

Monday, October 1 at 5:30 pm- Tahoe City TERC Field Station-(Historic Hatchery), Tahoe City

Wednesday, October 3 at 5:30 pm- Truckee Demo Garden, Truckee

Thursday, October 4 at 5:30 pm- North Lake Tahoe Demo Garden, Incline Village, Sierra Nevada College

Fall Into Fall Lawn Care

By: Jen Cressy, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe

Fall is the best time of the year to work on your lawn. In Tahoe we grow cool season grass and with the return of cooler temperatures our lawns begins to thrive, healing the wounds of heavy use and summer heat. A fall maintenance plan of core aeration along with fertility and irrigation management will ensure that your lawn looks great come spring-time. [Continue reading...](#)



Spring Blooming Bulbs--Planting, Growing & Dividing

By: Becca Harper, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe

October and November are the months to plant spring blooming bulbs. In Tahoe, bulbs can be planted directly in the ground without pre-chilling as gardeners in warm climates often do. Our winters do the chilling for us. As long as the soil is not frozen, bulbs can be planted. [Continue reading...](#)



The Incredible Aphid Eating Machine

Author: Kathy Keatley Garvey

Just call them the "incredible aphid-eating machines." That would be the lady beetles, commonly known as ladybugs (although they are not bugs; they're beetles belonging to the family Coccinellidae, and they're not all "ladies"--some are male!).

How many aphids can a lady beetle eat? Scientists figure around 50 a day. A single lady beetle can eat 5000 aphids during its lifetime, according to the University of Kentucky Extension Service. That's why they're called beneficial insects!

And it's not just the adult lady beetles that dine on those plant-sucking aphids. So do the larvae. The UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program describes lady beetles as "round- or half-dome-shaped insects with hard wing covers. About 200 species occur in California and most are predators both as adults and larvae. Some species specialize on aphids or other groups; others have a broader diet." [Continue reading...](#)

Blue Elderberry, *Sambucus cerulea*

Have you been hiking around the lake lately and noticed this pretty deciduous plant's purple berries?

Blue Elderberry, is a deciduous shrub or small tree, growing up to as tall as 30 feet. It is native from Oregon to Baja all the way to western Texas. It has cream or yellow flowers in the spring and purple berries in the fall. It's berries are one of the most important source of food for birds in California.

It is hardy, easy to grow, and grows very rapidly. It can grow from a 1 gallon container to a 15 foot tree in 3 years if happy. It handles a variety of different soil moisture levels once established. For more information on how elderberry grows visit [Calflora](#). If you have an elderberry bush or tree here are some [tips](#) on how to manage them in your home landscape.



Elderberry can make a beautiful plant for the home landscape and is considered a [low fire risk plant](#).

Sincerely,

Megan Suarez-Brand, Program Coordinator

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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