

Advice to Grow by...Ask Us!

Master Gardener Program

University of California Cooperative Extension 

UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe Horticulture News

September, 2019

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Coordinator's Corner:

Greetings Lake Tahoe Gardeners,

We hope that you are enjoying this crisp, cool weather. The precipitation is nice for our gardens but let's hope it warms back up again for a few weeks.

Fall is upon us and as you hear us say often it is a great time for planting! The warm soil and slow growth of the plants make fall an ideal time to spruce up your garden. As always we recommend Tahoe Friendly plants since they are more suited to our high alpine climate. For a list of Tahoe Friendly plants check out our [website](#).

Some of the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe were on site at the Great Gatsby Festival and had an awfully great time talking garlic with public and doing the wildflower seed dance. Check out this fun video we put together of the event: <https://youtu.be/dJo79TvDfog>.

UCCE Master Gardeners will also be on site at Fire Fest. Pick up a copy of our new Gardening for Defensible Space [brochure](#) this weekend at Fire Fest. The event is Saturday, September 21st from 10 am to 3 pm at the Hard Rock Casino and is free and open to the public.

Enjoy your gardens before we can't see them.

Sincerely,

Megan Suarez-Brand

Naturescaping

by: Lynne Brosch, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe

A Naturescape must provide: clean, accessible water; abundant and diverse food supply; habitat access to other ecosystems.

*Bird baths, creating shallow areas and fountains in ponds, water filled depressions in rocks and even overhead irrigation sprinklers can all provide drinking and bathing opportunities for wildlife.

Find out more about [naturescaping...](#)

[Plant lists for naturescaping...](#)



Tahoe Trees & Plants- Red osier dogwood

Red osier dogwood, also known as American dogwood, is widely distributed throughout the western states. It is commonly found along stream banks, shorelines of lakes and other moist areas in the montane coniferous forest. Within the Lake Tahoe Basin it is generally associated with alders and willows. Red osier dogwood is a deciduous widely spreading shrub which generally reaches heights between 5 and 15 feet.

It is a colorful shrub with its deep green foliage during the spring and summer months and brilliant red fall colors. The smooth purplish to reddish stems provide color throughout the winter months long after the leaves have dropped. The leaves, 2-4 inches long, are oval to elliptical in shape. In the late spring numerous white to cream colored flowers are borne in small round topped clusters. The clusters are generally 2 inches wide. The flowers give rise to clusters of white berry-like fruit in the mid to late summer. [Continue reading...](#)



Information provided by: Plants for the Lake Tahoe Basin by the Natural Resource Conservation Service

Consider seed saving this fall

Do you have flowers or vegetables in your garden that just outperform others? Then participate in the process of natural selection and gather those seeds! You will know you will be successful again! Or you can share or swap with a neighbor.

This past week Master Gardeners were at the South Lake Tahoe Farmers Market sharing tips on seed collection and storage. If you weren't able to stop by watch one of these quick videos for more information:

- Seed saving tips from this week's farmers market: https://www.youtube.com/edit?o=U&video_id=B1q9N5b4F04&ar=1568828017063
- Easy, squeezy sunflower seed collection: <https://youtu.be/ubATFL4aHLE>
- What not to do: <https://youtu.be/yQ1xXZEKSSI>



Additional seed saving information and tips: <https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2750e/>

Tahoe Friendly Gardening for Defensible Space



UCCE Master Gardeners are partnering up with the Tahoe Network for Fire Adapted Communities to offer advice on creating Tahoe Friendly gardens that are more prepared for the event of a wildfire.

Fall in Tahoe is a perfect moment to practice your defensible space gardening design and maintenance. Now is good time to evaluate your garden design and evaluate whether or not you have plants in the right place. Fall is also a perfect time to plant and/or transplant because the soil is still warm and plant growth has slowed down.

For example, evaluate whether or not you have any shrubby or woody plants within the 5 ft defensible space zone.

If you do have shrubby plants within that 5 ft zone it can increase your homes fire vulnerability. Consider transplanting - (digging up the plant from the roots) and moving to a more appropriate location within the 5-30 ft zone.

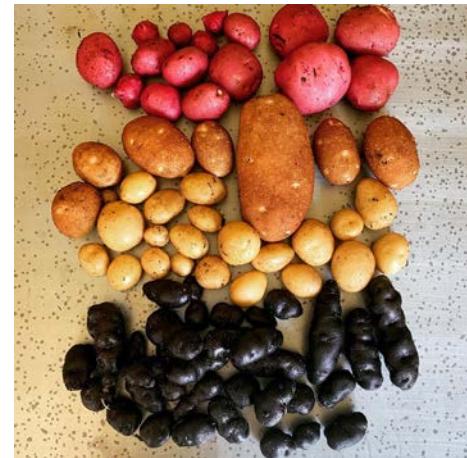
Check out our new brochure for some tips. http://ucanr.edu/tfg_defensiblespacebrochure

Over the winter Master Gardeners will continue to create additional resources, videos and presentations to help you garden for defensible space.

Check out our friends at the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities on how to get a defensible space inspection, become a neighborhood leader (or join a group) <https://tahoe.livingwithfire.info/get-involved/>

We want your input!

We are continuing to collect data on the spring Growing Food in Tahoe Workshops. We would love to hear from you and see pictures. If you have already filled out the quick surveys we very much appreciate it (and help us navigate a few technical problems too). If we haven't heard from you please take a few minutes to send your feedback. It is our goal to get a data report out to our participants over the winter.



Growing Food in Tahoe - Kale & Lettuce

Workshops: <http://ucanr.edu/tahoekalesurvey2019>

Growing Food in Tahoe - Raspberry

Workshops: <http://ucanr.edu/tahoeraspberrysurvey2019>

Growing Food in Tahoe - Tomato

Workshops: <http://ucanr.edu/tahoetomatosurvey2019>

Growing Food in Tahoe - Potato Workshops: <http://ucanr.edu/tahoepotatosurvey2019>

Save the date! UC Master Gardener Statewide Conference coming to Tahoe!



The triennial UC Master Gardener Statewide Conference is coming to North Lake Tahoe at the Granlibakken.

The Conference is scheduled for Sept 28- October 2nd in Tahoe City. We hope you will be able to attend since it is right in our backyard!

UCCE Master Gardeners are busy working on some fun events to showcase our beautiful lake tahoe gardens and environments.

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/2020MGConference/>

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.

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