



Issue #21

September 2011



My Garden – September Tasks

Glen Johnson, Amador County Master Gardener

This is normally one of the best times of the year for food gardeners as it seems that everything is there for the picking. The task of the day is to determine what fresh vegetables we will have for dinner. Next it is what fruit or melon will be our dessert or late evening snack. Life is good.

Of course with this bounty comes some problems; my garden is not pest free, disease free, and for that matter not free in any respect. Some things I have figured out and some I am still working on. Each year presents different challenges. The cold spring delayed crops but the cooler than normal summer has been a blessing for many crops that normally shut down production when it gets above 95°. My zucchini and crookneck were going gangbusters but recently the zucchini has produced only a few squash. I am trying to figure out if it is too much or too little water, fertilizer, pollination, or something else. The crookneck gets the same treatment so it's somewhat of a puzzle. That's the thing we need to do with many of our garden problems, think and analyze what we are doing that is affecting how the plant is doing. Even Master Gardeners don't have all the answers.

Remember, each garden is different and microclimates vary widely in our counties so the actual time for tasks will vary 2-4 weeks depending on where you live. My garden is at 2700' elevation on a south facing ridge that is warmer than lower protected areas just a few miles away.

Grapes: I will spray with sulfur one more time in September to prevent powdery mildew before harvesting my three table grape varieties: Perlette, Red Flame, and Black Monukka.

For complete details of managing powdery mildew on fruits and berries, download the UC Pest Note at:

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7494.html>.

Fruit Trees: The early peaches have been harvested and the bird netting moved to later ripening varieties. Pruning the trees right after harvest is the best practice.



Find great references about backyard orchards and summer pruning, go to the UC Davis Backyard Orchard website at <http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/>. The apples and pears will start to come on soon.

Remember, we will have a pruning clinic at Avio Vineyards on September 17th at 10 am. See the class schedule on page 9 for details.

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Master Gardeners

Advice to grow by ...

Amador County

209-223-6838

Office hours: 10 am–Noon

Tuesday–Thursday

mgamador@ucdavis.edu

El Dorado County

530-621-5512

Office hours: 9 am–Noon

Tuesday–Friday

mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu

My Garden Tasks

Continued from page 1

Irrigation: In September plant water needs are lower. I slightly increase the interval between irrigations but continue to apply the same amount of water as the weather starts to cool. Deep and infrequent irrigation is the best practice. Monitor your plants for signs of stress and adjust watering accordingly. Many, if not most, plant and garden problems are related to irrigation; too much, too little, or irregular applications. If your garden irrigation isn't automated in some form, your problems will be greater. Even an inexpensive wind-up timer on a hose bib can accurately apply a given amount of water. Hand watering almost always just wets the surface and it is dry an inch or so down. Dig down and check.



A great tool to determine soil moisture is a 1/4" steel rod 18-24" long with a wooden handle (piece of broom handle). When the soil is moist the rod can be pushed easily into the ground 12, 18, or even 24" deep. If it is dry you will only be able to push it in a few inches or to the depth of moist soil. *To make it, purchase a rod from the hardware store and cut a piece of broom handle or similar dowel about 6" long. Drill a 7/32" hole in one end of the handle about 3-4" deep and then drive the handle onto the rod. A screwdriver with a long shaft also works pretty well.*

Deep and infrequent watering is the best for all plants and reduces the chance of pests and diseases. Remember to keep watering those fruit trees as what you do now will affect next year's crop.

Fall and Winter Vegetables: My broccoli plants (nice plants from the nursery) are in and I'll plant spinach and chard about the middle of the month. It's not too late to plant broccoli, cauliflower, and cabbage in most lower areas of the county.

Favorite September Task: Eating **MORE** ripe tomatoes!!!!

Unwanted Floral Visitor

Kathy Keatley Garvey, UC Communications Specialist

What's that little green bug on the head of the Gaillardia? It's soft-bodied. It's miniscule. It's sucking plant juices.

An aphid!

We captured an image of this little green buggie shortly after we purchased several plants from an area nursery. It's a good idea to check your plants for aphids and other critters before you buy them or transplant them in your garden.

Gaillardia is a hearty plant, but it's troubled by aster yellows, a virus-like disease transmitted by those nasty aphids and leafhoppers.

A green aphid may look pretty on a reddish flower, but it is not your friend. It sucks plant juices, transmits diseases, and produces as many as 80 offspring within a week. Then there's that sticky, unsightly honeydew it secretes--and which ants tend.

California alone has more than 450 species of aphids, and they come in some of your favorite colors, including green, yellow, red, brown and black.

Favorite colors, but that's it. Nobody likes 'em... 'cept for ladybugs, lacewings and syrphid flies...



From 'Backyard to Belly'

Pam Geisel, CA Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator
UC Food Blog, August 22, 2011

So you may have heard of "farm to fork" or "farm to table"? Well, I like to think even more locally than that. I think in terms of "backyard to belly" . . . food so fresh you can eat it while standing in the garden without cooking it or with a little more effort, carrying a basket of fresh tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, eggplants, peaches, corn and beans into the kitchen to create wonderful meals for your family.

I have a few tips on getting quality food from your harvest. So often we lose a lot of our homegrown produce because we don't harvest at the right time. It is important to harvest at the peak of perfection - not before and not after. My worst food experiences from my garden have come from waiting too long to harvest. The corn gets starchy (and the corn earworms get more of the kernels than I do), the beans get tough, the melons, when overripe, are not even worth cutting open and peaches will not hold up well when they are cooked or canned. To be a good gardener and a good chef of "backyard to belly" foods, you really have to stay on top of the harvest and not let it get ahead of you. I know that if you work full time, you just may not have the time to harvest when you need to, but if you don't take the time, then you have pretty much wasted your time and garden resources.



One thing that can help is to invest in a separate cold storage system, I call it my "fruit fridge" (just a used refrigerator in the garage), in which I store my harvested produce until I can process it either by cooking, or for longer term storage canning, freezing or drying. Your regular household refrigerator will work just fine but often there is too much produce and you won't have enough room. Refrigeration will help to keep the produce fresh longer and allow you a little more time to process. For example, I have too much corn ready at one time. Corn is best eaten within a few hours after harvest since the conversion to starch occurs quickly. While it would be fun to have a corn feed or share with all my neighbors, I really would like to store some for the winter. I harvest my corn so that it is just mature but not too mature. Typically, the ears will be filled with kernels and the tips of the silks will begin to dry out. The "milk" from the kernels should be clear and not white. After harvest, I quickly move the ears to the refrigerator since that slows the conversion rate of sugar to starch. When I have time within the next day or so, I will prep them for freezing. The sooner you can process the corn, the better the quality will be.



Peaches are another crop that tends to be ready at one time. One thing I do is write the approximate harvest date in my calendar for the next year so I won't schedule a vacation during the harvest period. Second, peaches are best harvested for longer term storage (canning, freezing and drying), when they are fully ripe but still firm. You can then leave them on the counter until they are at the stage you prefer them at for fresh eating. If you intend to can, freeze or dry the fruit, it is best to process them shortly after harvest. If you have to wait to process, then store them in your fruit fridge until you are ready, but you should do it within a few days.



If you want more information on proper harvesting and storage of home garden vegetables and fruits, visit The California Garden Web (<http://ucanr.org/sites/gardenweb/Vegetables>) and The California Backyard Orchard (http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/The_Big_Picture/Harvest_&_Postharvest). You may also want to visit the Postharvest Technology Center webpage (<http://postharvest.ucdavis.edu>) for more information on storing fresh fruits and vegetables for better taste.

If you are new to preserving foods, The National Center on Food Preservation (<http://www.uga.edu/nchfp>) has free guidelines for you. You can also attend on of the many free Master Food Preserver classes listed on page 10.

Reprinted from the UC Food Blog at <http://ucanr.org/blogs/food>. Explore and subscribe to a wide variety of UC blogs at <http://ucanr.org/blogs>.



Master Gardeners 18th Annual Tomato Tasting September 3rd

If you are like most gardeners, tomatoes are number one in your heart. Most of us eagerly anticipate the first delicious fruit of the season. We are all looking for the perfect tomato. Saturday, September 3rd, is your chance to put your tomatoes to the ultimate test! Amador County Master Gardeners are sponsoring a tomato judging and tasting at the Sutter Creek Farmers Market, located at the Eureka Street parking lot (Eureka Street & Highway 49).

To be judged, bring at least one washed tomato of each variety (at least five cherry tomatoes) to the Sutter Creek Farmers Market by 9am on Saturday, September 3. The judges will announce their favorites at 10:30am. The largest tomato will also receive a special award.

Join us for the public tasting and you will have the fun of tasting all kinds of tomatoes, from tiny grape-sized tomatoes to giants the size of grapefruits, and a variety of colors, including yellow, orange, pink, tiger striped, and of course, ruby red. We are sure to have a tomato you've never tasted before and one that will become your new favorite.

What's Wrong with my Butterfly Bush?

This butterfly bush looks like it's drying up. The owner thought she had a clogged sprinkler and the plant wasn't getting water. She checked the soil and it was moist. She checked the sprinkler and it was working. But the leaves were just shriveling up. Was it dying?



She brought in a sample of the dried leaves to the El Dorado Master Gardener office and we pulled out our hand lens to get a closer look. Something was moving ... it looked like a mass of tiny moving dots on a web that covered the underside of the leaf. We found spider mites; we found an infestation of spider mites!

The plant looked like it was drying up because the spider mites had essentially sucked the leaves dry.

The easiest solution to remove the mites is to simply use water and spray the underside of the leaves and surrounding bushes. This also keeps the ground moist. Damage from spider mites is usually the most severe in hot, dusty conditions and on water-stressed plants.

March of the Cone Sawfly

We've received several calls to the Master Gardener office in both counties about green larva falling out of the cones of incense cedar trees and burrowing into the ground. An Amador County Master Gardener saw it happen first hand. The larva fell out of the incense cedar tree in the evening, coming from the end of the cones.



In this instance they fell onto cement. She said it was the strangest thing to watch as they all wiggled their way off in the same direction down the road until it curved. The larva kept going straight into the dirt, and were finally able to burrow.

We identified the larva as the Cone Sawfly or *Augomonotenus libocedrii*. As seen in the above picture, they sometimes infest cones, resulting in damage resembling that of cone-feeding caterpillars. They are seasonal pests and obviously damage the cones, but do not pose a serious threat to the health of the incense cedar tree.



Pepper Puzzler: What animal is not affected by the heat of chili peppers? Gophers, dogs, or birds?
(Answer on page 8).



Master Gardeners at the Farmers' Markets

Master Gardeners continue to be at multiple farmers' markets this summer in Amador and El Dorado Counties. In Amador County, look for us at the Sutter Creek Farmers' Market on Saturdays from 8am to 11am; Jackson Farmers' Market on Sundays from 10am to 1pm; and the Pine Grove Farmers' Market Wednesday afternoons from 3pm to 6pm. In El Dorado County, look for us in El Dorado Hills on Sunday mornings, South Lake Tahoe on Tuesday mornings, Cameron Park on Wednesday mornings, and Placerville on Saturday mornings.

We have lots of information available at the booth: Quick Tip pest management cards, Laminated Planting Guides (\$5), Starthistle removal information, Master Food Preservers Class Schedule, and much more. In El Dorado County you can purchase a variety of UC Ag and Natural Resources gardening books at our booths. And at all locations, you can talk with a Master Gardener to get free gardening advice for a planned project, existing project, or a pest that you don't want in your project! For specific locations, go to <http://www.cafarmersmarkets.com>. See you there!

El Dorado County MG Plant Sale

Mark your calendars for September 24th for another super plant sale brought to you by the El Dorado County Master Gardeners. The plant sale will be at the Veterans Memorial Building parking lot in Placerville.

Gardeners will have over 2000 plants to choose from, including fall and winter vegetables, fall annuals, shrubs, some native plants, and lots of perennials. Fall is the ideal time for planting shrubs and perennials as it has cooled down enough to lessen transplant shock but is still warm enough to provide some time for the plants to get acclimated to their new setting before winter.

We will again highlight special gardening corners such as "butterfly lovers" and have demos several times during the sale. This fall we are featuring succulent bowls which are easily overwintered inside. Watch for some unique planters for the succulents; they will surprise you.

Master Gardeners will be available throughout the sale to answer questions about any of the plants and help you choose the best plants for your growing conditions. We will have a special information booth so that you can discuss other gardening challenges such as sneaky pests (voles, moles, squirrels, and other four-legged destroyers).



Pesticide Poisoning in Pets

Heidi Napier, DVM, El Dorado County Master Gardener

In our Master Gardener training, we are taught to minimize the use of pesticides because they kill beneficial insects and wildlife. Pesticides also kill pets.



Because of their indiscriminate eating and chewing habits, dogs are much more likely to be poisoned than cats. The most common poisonings that I've seen in dogs in this area are rodent baits and snail baits. The most common cause of poisoning in cats is misuse of flea and tick control products meant only for dogs. Cats react to many chemicals differently than dogs do. In general, they are MORE sensitive to pesticides than dogs are.

ALWAYS read the label, especially the fine print. Pesticides can cause serious problems when they aren't used as directed; sometimes even when they are used as directed. Take the time to know how to properly apply a pesticide, or decide upon an alternative, less toxic solution. The important part of the label is the fine print: the ingredients, the warnings on the back, and the 800 number. Save the label; your vet can call that 800 number and get valuable information on toxicity and treatment.

The internet is a wonderful source of information. If you "google" the ingredients, you can get useful information on toxicity. You can even get the MSDS (material safety data sheet) on line.

Herbicides are rarely, if ever, toxic to pets; however many other pesticides are. Never mix any pesticide with any organic fertilizer because most dogs like the taste of organic fertilizers.

Organophosphates

These chemicals are designed to disrupt the nervous system of insects and they do the same to mammals. The symptoms are salivation, vomiting, diarrhea, slow heart rate and muscle tremors. There is a good antidote, but it must be given by injection every 2-3 hours for one to three days.

Never use organophosphates, such as disulfoton, malathion, diazinon or chlorpyrifos if there is any chance your pet can be exposed. Organophosphates are very well absorbed through the skin, so ingestion is not necessary for poisoning to occur. Misusing the pesticide in an environment for which it was not intended can be fatal to your pet. See the table below for more information on organophosphate toxicity.

Organophosphate mammalian toxicities (mg/kg of body weight)

Common name	Rat oral LD ₅₀	Rabbit dermal LD ₅₀	Common name	Rat oral LD ₅₀	Rabbit dermal LD ₅₀
Acephate	1,030 – 1,447	>10,250	Methamidophos	13 (female only)	122
Azinphos-methyl	4	150 – 200 (rat)	Methidathion	25 – 44	200
Chlorpyrifos	96 – 270	2,000	Methyl parathion	6	45
Diazinon	1,250	2,020	Naled	191	360
Dimethoate	235	400	Oxydemeton-methyl	50	1,350
Disulfoton	2 -12	3.6 – 15.9	Phorate	2 - 4	20 – 30 (guinea pig)
Ethoprop	61.5	2.4	Phosmet	147 – 316	>4,640
Fenamiphos	10.6 – 24.8	71.5 – 75.7	Profenofos	358	472
Malathion	5,500	>2,000			

Courtesy University of Florida Extension, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pi087>. "LD₅₀" means the amount that will kill 50% of the animals that are given that amount. Hence, the smaller the number, the more toxic the poison. The column labeled "Rabbit dermal LD₅₀" refers to the amount that it takes to kill 50% of rabbits when applied to the skin.

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Pesticide Poisoning in Pets

Continued from page 6

Synthetic Pyrethroids

These insecticides are based on **pyrethrum**, the natural insecticide found in Chrysanthemums and related plants. This is a very good insecticide, giving fast kill of many insects, but it degrades very quickly in sunlight, so it's gone within one day. In an effort to make a more commercially useful insecticide, chemists have changed the pyrethrum into longer lasting insecticides. The synthetic pyrethroids last longer but are much more toxic, especially to cats. None of them are safe to use on or around cats at all.

You can tell synthetic pyrethroids because they end in "-thrin." They include permethrin, phenothrin, tefluthrin, bioallethrin, bifenthrin, deltamethrin, gamma-cyhalothrin, and others. These products are often used in DOG flea and tick products and in foggers and yard sprays. They are the most common cause of insecticide poisoning in cats. Signs of toxicity in cats include muscle tremors and seizures. When applied to a dog, these chemicals can poison a cat who has contact with the dog. Be picky about what you use on your dog and assume it will be transferred to your cat.

Organic

Nicotine and rotenone are "organic," but they are toxic. Citrus extracts such as d-limonene are toxic to cats. Pennyroyal is toxic to dogs. Melaleuca oil is toxic.

Relatively Safe Insecticides

These include imidacloprid, acetamiprid, spinosad and carbaryl (Sevin). But these may still damage beneficial insects.

Snail Baits

Any bait of any kind is attractive to dogs. Some dogs like the taste of snail bait so much that they will eat dirt that has bait mixed into it. Metaldehyde is very toxic. It causes violent muscle tremors and seizures. A newer snail/slug bait containing iron phosphate is available, and it is safe for pets. You must read the ingredient list to determine whether a bait has metaldehyde or iron phosphate. Beer is a popular snail bait that is also attractive to many dogs. It doesn't poison them, but it seems a shame to waste beer on dogs.

Rodent Bait

There are three types of rodent baits available: anticoagulants, bromethalin and cholecalciferol (vitamin D3). Save the label because all three are treated very differently. They are all very attractive to dogs.

Anticoagulants are the most common; the antidote is large doses of vitamin K. These anticoagulants take days or weeks to cause bleeding, and they last 2-5 weeks. They include brodifacoum, bromodiolone, diphacinone, indandione and warfarin. Warfarin is also known by the trade name Coumadin and is used in humans as a "blood thinner" for patients who are susceptible to blood clots, so it is a useful drug in the correct dose.

Bromethalin has no antidote. Brands include Jaguar, Rampage, Hawk, Gladiator, Hot Shot, Sudden Death, Mouse Killer, Vengeance, Assault and Trounce. The label may say "kills rats and mice with one dose."

Cholecalciferol (vit D3) has no antidote. Some brands are Quintox, Rampage, Ortho Rat or Mouse B-Gone, True Grit and Hyperkil. Cholecalciferol (vit D3) is a necessary vitamin, but very toxic in large doses.

Plastic "Bait Boxes" will not keep any self-respecting dog with teeth from getting the bait.

Even when used as directed, there are no guarantees that your dog will not find a way to get to this tasty treat. Use the same kind of safeguards you would for a toddler; assume that their curiosity and natural determination will circumvent the best of your logic and pre-planning.

In summary, PLEASE read the labels carefully before using ANY pesticide on or near your pets. UC IPM practices provide non-toxic alternatives for your home garden that will keep your pets alive. Refer to the IPM Pest note on pesticides at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74126.html>. Talk to your vet for recommendations.

Controlling Whiteflies

Kit Smith, Master Gardener, El Dorado County

Have you brushed the foliage of a plant or moved it, only to have a storm of tiny little winged creatures flit about? Sounds like you may have tiny sap sucking insects called whiteflies. Their damage causes leaves to turn yellow, appear dry, or fall off the plant. Whiteflies are often seen in greenhouses or on houseplants, but you can also find them outdoors in the garden on vegetables, citrus and ornamentals. Although whiteflies have wings, technically, they are not flies. Whiteflies look like tiny moths and get their name from the white wax that covers the body of the adult. Whiteflies are members of the same insect order (Homoptera) as aphids, scales, leafhoppers and mealybugs. Like aphids and scales, whiteflies secrete honeydew, a sugar-rich substance produced by the insect as it feeds on plant sap.



Whiteflies are most notable in their nymphal stages when they mass in groups and hide and feed on the undersides of leaves. They produce honeydew and

cause yellowing of leaves and ultimately the death of the plant. All stages of the nymphs feed by sucking plant juices from leaves and secreting honeydew. The honeydew secreted by nymphs collects dust and leads to sooty mold growth, which is a dark fungal mycelia. When you see sooty mold on any of your plants, wash it off; the mold covers the plant and inhibits photosynthesis.

The honeydew created by whiteflies attracts ants, which disrupt the whitefly natural predators. It is important to control the ants by banding the tree trunk with a sticky substance. Be sure to check it every one to two weeks to see if it needs to be reapplied. Some types of mulch also repel ants. Aromatic pencil cedar mulch repels Argentine ants, but pine mulch provides an ideal nesting site for ants and should be avoided if whiteflies are a problem.

Natural enemies of the whitefly include lacewings, bigeyed bugs, minute pirate bugs, and small lady beetles. Bigeyed bugs are brownish or yellowish, have a wide head with prominent bulging eyes that are spaced widely apart and give them a good view of their prey. Minute pirate bugs are just that, very small - 1/12 to 1/5 of an inch. The minute pirate bug is the first and most predaceous insect to appear in the spring. It is black to purple-ish in color with white markings and has a triangular-shaped head. Another whitefly crawler predator is the parasitic wasp. It feeds on nymphs, especially ash whitefly nymphs.

Whiteflies can also be controlled by washing them off with a spray of water. You can also use a small, hand-held, battery operated vacuum to remove adult whiteflies from leaves. Use this approach in the early morning when whiteflies are sluggish. Freeze the vacuumed whiteflies overnight to destroy them. Aluminum foil and reflective mulch also work to repel whiteflies.

Insecticides have been found to have a limited effect on whiteflies. For severe infestations try insecticidal soap or insecticidal oil (such as neem). Only whitefly nymphs that are directly sprayed will be affected so the plant must be thoroughly covered with the spray solution, including the undersides of the leaves. Avoid pesticides as these substances will also kill whitefly predators.

For a more in depth discussion on controlling whiteflies, please see Pest Notes for Home and Landscape, # 7401. This publication and others like it can be downloaded at no charge from the University of California Integrated Pest Management website at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/menu.invertebrate.html.



Answer to our Pepper Puzzler question on page 5:

Birds are unaffected by the heat of chili peppers, which allows them to eat the spicy fruit and spread the seeds through their droppings. Only mammals are affected by the heat of chili peppers.





Public Education Classes & Events for Amador and El Dorado Counties – Free!!



Most classes are from 9 am – Noon. Please call ahead to confirm locations; they

Amador County

Unless otherwise noted, location for all Amador classes: GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson.

September

10: Three classes in a row:

- Square Foot Gardening
- Winter Gardening
- Straw Bale Raised Beds

17: Fruit Tree Pruning Clinic 9-11am

Location: Avio Vineyards, 14520 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek

What fruit trees do you prune in the summer/fall and how do you do it to keep the tree healthy and ready to produce next spring? Learn from experienced Master Gardeners with hands-on demonstrations on fruit trees at Avio Vineyards.

24: Two classes in a row:

- Deer, Dogs & Drought Resistant Garden
- Turn Your Lawn into a Garden

October

22: Two classes in a row:

- Erosion Control
- Planting on a Slope

22: Care and Maintenance of Garden Tools and Equipment 10-11:30 am

Location: Ridge Road Garden Center, 18815 Ridge Road, Pine Grove

The right gardening tools can change the time you spend working in your garden to time spent playing in your garden. Learn how to keep your tools in good condition to make them last longer and work better for you.

November

12: Composting & Worm Composting

Learn how to use your kitchen, yard and garden scraps to make compost, one of the best organic fertilizers possible.

El Dorado County

Unless otherwise noted, location for all El Dorado classes: Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville.

September

10: Trash to Treasures

Location: Gov. Center Hearing Room, Building C
It's amazing the throw away items that Master Gardener Kristin Rankin turns into garden treasures. Join her as she tells about how to view someone else's junk as your garden focal point.

17: Native Plants

Location: Placerville Main Library, 345 Fair Lane
EDC's native plants support our colorful, beautiful and interesting native birds, bees, and butterflies. Naturally adapted to our Mediterranean climate with cold wet winters and hot dry summers, native plants survive when other plants give up and die. Come to this class to learn more about native plants and their interactions with our native fauna as only Master Gardener Virginia Feagans can cover.

24: Fall Plant Sale 8am—3pm

The 3rd annual fall plant sale, sponsored by the EDC Master Gardeners, has something for every garden in our vicinity. Included, but not limited to, are fall/winter vegetables, native plants, perennials and shrubs and a few surprises, too!

24: Starthistle Control

There is hope! Yellow Starthistle can be controlled. Come to this class to learn some new techniques and procedures for the control of Yellow Starthistle from Master Gardener Steve Savage. Be sure to shop at the plant sale before and after class.



Check out the El Dorado Master Gardener Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/El-Dorado-County-Master-Gardeners/164653119129>.



Free Master Food Preserver Classes

Learn the art and science of safely preserving food at home. Classes are on both Tuesdays and Saturdays from **10am to Noon**. There is no charge and no reservations are required. All classes are at the El Dorado County UCCE Office at 311 Fair Lane, Placerville. Call 530-621-5502 for more information. Get the full schedule at <http://ucanr.org/edmfpc>.

September

- 6:** Cheese Making
- 10:** Meat Preserving—Deli Meats
- 13:** Meat Preserving—Sausage
- 17 or 20:** Vinegars, Condiments & Chutneys
- 24 or 27:** Conserves, Butters & Marmalade

October

- 1 or 18:** Olives
- 4:** Apples, Pears & More
- 11:** Cranberries, Pumpkin & Turkey
- 25:** Persimmons, Kiwi & Nuts

2012 Master Gardener Volunteer Training



UCCE invites adults interested in helping others learn about home gardening and landscaping to apply to train as a Master Gardener volunteer.

Master Gardeners learn University-based scientific information and then share that knowledge with the gardening community. Volunteers complete a 4-month training program and commit to 50 hours of service hours during their first year and 25 hours each subsequent year.

Training begins on January 9, 2012 in El Dorado County. An overview meeting in October will explain the program and expectations.

For more information and to sign up to be contacted about the overview meeting, go to <http://ucanr.org/edmg2012>.

Pest Notes

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



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

Get Answers to Your Gardening Questions Online

http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.org/Master_Gardeners

- Information about Master Gardeners and even how to become one
- List of public classes
- Calendar of Master Gardener events
- Useful links to gardening websites
- Home gardening publications

Got a specific question? Just email us!

Amador: mgamador@ucdavis.edu

El Dorado: mgeldorado@ucdavis.edu

Amador & El Dorado Counties Master Gardener Newsletter
 Editor: Linda Hagye
 Assistant Editor: Janice Johnson

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