

September 2018

UC Cooperative Extension
Central Sierra News

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado & Tuolumne counties

Your monthly news & event announcements

[4-H Enrollment began July 1, 2018](#)

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Greetings,

Summer is almost over and we are ready for Fall. There is a lot going on... from California Naturalist Training in various locations around the state to our UCCE Master Gardeners ramping up for training orientation meetings in October to 4-H hosting Volunteer Development Day. Folsom Lake College has announced the offering of viticulture courses, and, don't forget to read Scott's article about Pokeweed... who knew the seeds could remain viable for up to 50 years.

Please check our website for classes and events as our programs are in the beginning process of working out their class schedules for 2019. Its never too early to get started. And remember, sometimes what you want to do next summer will have needed to be started in the fall or winter before.

JoLynn Miller

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Zaccaria's International Team Showcase Irrigation Whiz During Foothill Field Day

by Lynn Wunderlich, UCCE Central Sierra Farm Advisor - Published on: August 16, 2018

With mounting pressure on growers to account for their precious water use, irrigation tools are relevant now more than ever. [Daniele Zaccaria](#), UC Irrigation Specialist, brought his impressive International team of student researchers and scientists to the foothills August 10 to discuss their study findings and grower friendly irrigation tools at a UCCE field day. About twenty growers made the trip over to meet with us at Safari vineyards in Pilot Hill, where we have been gathering data for 4 years on the effect of aspect and slope on vine water use.



Tools for scheduling irrigation fall into three categories: we can monitor the weather, the soil or the plant. Monitoring weather includes the classic estimation of crop evapotranspiration (ET) using reference ET data (ET₀), based on the amount of water an area of well-watered grass uses, and multiplying that number by a suitable crop coefficient (K_c) to determine how much water a crop has used during any given time period. The idea being, if you can estimate what a crop has used, you will know how much water to replace with irrigation. The reference ET₀ depends on temperature and other local weather factors and is available online (for free, you only need to create a login) from

[Continue reading and see more of the Foothill Fodder blog entries.](#)

Grapes Of the United States Book Available

20-Aug-18 - Nancy Sweet

Today Foundation Plant Services, UC Davis, released four chapters of a book entitled Grapes of the United States written by FPS staff historian Nancy Sweet. These and future chapters will profile the history of the clean plant program at FPS, the growth of the wholesale grapevine nursery industry in California, and profiles of the cultivars and selections in the FPS foundation vineyards in Davis.

The four chapters that were made available today feature the Black Grapes of Bordeaux, Sauvignon blanc and the Sauternes, the Pinot group of cultivars, and Chardonnay and other white grapes of Burgundy. One of the chapters, the Pinots, is all new material that has not previously appeared in FPS publications. The remaining three chapters were developed and expanded from articles in editions of the former *FPS Grape Program Newsletter*.

The content of the book will be derived in large part from documents and photographs in the FPS archives and files of the Department of Special Collections, Shields Library, UC Davis. The scope of the topics for the intended 20 chapters is extensive and ambitious. The book will be “a work in progress” for some time. New chapters will be posted periodically as they become available and will be announced on this page. The book may be accessed at <http://fps.ucdavis.edu/grapebook>.

Opportunity knocks for aspiring naturalists in California

The California Naturalist program will be offered in an eight-day immersion course in Cambria this month, and in a slower-paced eight-week program that starts in September in San Luis Obispo, reported Michele Roest in the San Luis Obispo Tribune. California Naturalist sessions begin in September in a wide range of California locations, including Pasadena, Santa Barbara, Sacramento and Yosemite National Park.

In all cases, fulfilling the course requirements will allow participants to join the growing ranks of California Naturalists in the Golden State, which number nearly 2,000.

[Continue reading](#) for more information.



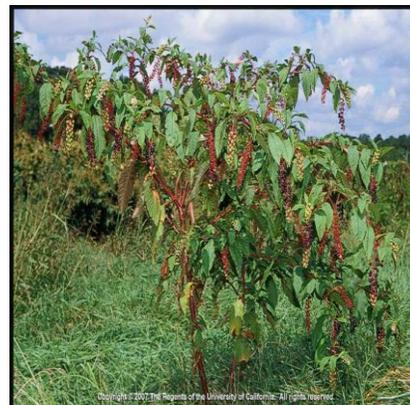
Common Pokeweed

By Scott Oneto, Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension

This time of year, I often get asked, “what is that huge weed growing in my yard with dark black berries and big green leaves.” Pokeweed!

I personally find this plant quite interesting. As a native to portions of the United States, it turns out this plant has a diverse history and in recent years it is being studied in cutting edge medical research and energy technology. Have I perked your interest? If so read on.

American pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) is a robust, non-woody shrub that is weedy throughout much of California. Native to the eastern United States from Maine to Wisconsin, south to Texas,



Mexico and Florida, pokeweed now occurs throughout much of North America. It is sometimes cultivated as an ornamental or garden vegetable, however more often it's considered an undesirable weed. Pokeweed is found in riparian areas, oak woodlands, forest edges, fence rows, forest openings, pastures, under power lines, disturbed areas, vineyards, orchards, cultivated fields, parks, and ornamental landscapes.

Also called poke salad, poke sallet, pokeberry, inkberry, American nightshade, American spinach, scoke, and pigeonberry, the plant's uses are as diverse as its names. Pokeweed has an extensive history for being used as a food, medicine, herb, dye for clothing, ink for writing, colorant for wines, and much more. Although used for food, extreme caution should be used, as the entire plant is poisonous causing a variety of symptoms, including death in rare cases.

IDENTIFICATION

Pokeweed is an erect herbaceous perennial shrub, 4 to 10 feet tall and 3 to 5 feet wide, with large leaves and showy purple-black berries. It has a smooth, stout, purplish stem that branches extensively and can reach up to 2 inches in diameter. The bright green, elliptic leaves are smooth, tapered, and alternate on the stem. Leaves can be large, reaching up to a foot in length and 4 to 7 inches wide and have a strong unpleasant scent when crushed. The purple berries hanging from the bright green leaves and red stems in late summer are the most distinguishing characteristic of pokeweed.

[Continue reading...](#)

Come Grow with Us! UCCE Master Gardener Program Offers Two Training Opportunities Starting in January 2019

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) invites adults interested in helping others learn about gardening and landscaping to apply to train as a Master Gardener volunteer. UCCE Master Gardener volunteers learn University-based scientific information and then share that knowledge with the gardening community. Master Gardener volunteers are people of all ages and from all walks of life with a common desire to help others learn about gardening and landscaping.

The 15 week training covers topics including: botany, soil, plant pathology, home orchards, entomology, water, pests, landscape trees, composting, plant identification, propagation and so much more! Trainings will be offered in Placerville and Sonora.

Who Can Apply?

- Adult residents of Amador or El Dorado County should apply for the Amador County training. Residents of El Dorado County will train in Amador County but will be Master Gardeners in El Dorado County. The Amador County Training will be held in Jackson on Tuesdays from 9 am to 4 pm beginning January 15 and ending April 9, 2019. The cost of the training is \$200 and covers all class fees, books and materials.

The poster features the UCCE Master Gardener logo at the top left, which includes a stylized plant and the text 'Master Gardener Cooperative Extension'. The main title 'Come Grow with Us!' is in large, bold, orange letters. Below the title, it states 'UCCE Master Gardener Training Starts: January 15- Amador County' and 'January 24- Calaveras County'. A small note says '(Click on county for more information)'. The poster is divided into three sections: 'Learn It!' (15-week training series), 'Grow It!' (volunteering in the community), and 'Teach It!' (teaching others). A photograph of a person in red boots using a shovel is on the right. The bottom section, in a yellow box, details the '15 Week Master Gardener Volunteer Training' topics and provides specific dates and times for Amador County (Jackson, Tuesdays) and Calaveras County (San Andreas, Thursdays). It also includes a note about the cost and application process.

- Adult residents of Calaveras or Tuolumne County should apply for the Calaveras County training. Residents of Tuolumne County will train in Calaveras County but will be Master Gardeners in Tuolumne County. The Calaveras Training will be held in San Andreas on Thursdays from 3 to 7:30 pm beginning January 24 and ending May 2, 2019. The cost of the training is \$195 and covers all class fees, books and materials.
- Applicants need internet access; most communication will be through email and websites.

How to Apply

- Sign up on our MG Training interest list at http://ucanr.edu/be_mg.
- Attend training orientation to learn about the UCCE Master Gardener Program, our community involvement, your participation requirements, and the training requirements. Two orientations are scheduled in Amador County, October 16, 2018 at 5 pm or October 30, 2018 at 11 am at the Amador County GSA Building, 12200-B Airport Road in Jackson. In Tuolumne County, the orientation meeting is October 11, 2018, at 3 pm at the Calaveras County Library, 1299 Gold Hunter Road, San Andreas. All applicants must attend one of the orientation meetings in their county. RSVP online at http://ucanr.edu/rsvp_information_mtg or to Robin Cleveland at 530-621-5528 or rkleveland@ucanr.edu
- For Amador & El Dorado residents, the link to the online application will be available at the orientation meetings and is due by November 9, 2018.
- For Calaveras and Tuolumne residents, applications will be available at the orientation on Oct 11 and are due TBD.

For more information contact:

Amador & El Dorado Counties: Tracy Celio (530) 621-5532 tbcelio@ucanr.edu

Calaveras & Tuolumne Counties: Debbie Powell (209) 533-5695 dlpowell@ucanr.edu

Get Inspired!

Volunteer Development Day

October 27, 2018 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

12200-B Airport Road, Jackson CA 95642

You're Invited! Join us for a fun and interactive day of professional development. We will be going over everything from planning successful projects and club management to building resilient youth and keeping kids in 4-H. This free event is open to volunteers, teen leaders, and those interested in learning more! Lunch included.



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For more information, please call Nancy at 530-621-5503 or email njstarr@ucanr.edu.

UCCE 4-H Youth Development



Enrollment is open for 2018-19 program year.

[Join Now](#)

Open to all Central Sierra 4-H

9-8: [Zoom-assisted 4-H Returning Volunteer Training](#)

9-8: [Zoom-assisted 4-H New Volunteer Training](#)

9-15: [UC 4-H Mindfulness Retreat Registration](#)

9-22: [Ironstone Concours d'Elegance](#)

10-1: [Entry deadline for California 4-H team for the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship](#)

10-3: [4-H National Youth Science Day](#)

Volunteer Training

9-10: [New Adult Volunteer Orientation](#) - Tuolumne County

9-18: [New Adult Volunteer Orientation](#) - Amador County

10-5: [New Adult Volunteer Orientation](#) - Calaveras County

10-15: [New Adult Volunteer Orientation](#) - El Dorado County

Amador

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).

Calaveras

9-19: [County Council Meeting](#)

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).

El Dorado

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).

Tuolumne

Check their [Calendar of Events webpage](#).



University of California
Cooperative Extension

Master Food Preserver

Classes & Events Offered by UCCE Master Food Preservers

Amador/Calaveras

9-15: [Venison: Field Prep, Aging, Preserving](#) - Calaveras County

9-19: [Freezing & Dehydrating Basics](#) - Calaveras County

9-29: [Oktoberfest Workshop](#) - **Registration required.** Amador County

El Dorado

9-15: [Make & Take Workshop: Herb Salts & Dried Herbs](#)

Mariposa

9-26: [Fruit: Preserve It; Serve It](#)

Tuolumne

9-25: [Fruit: Preserve It; Serve It](#)

Calaveras County

Proclamation Recognizing the Beautification Project of the Calaveras County Government Center Campus

On September 11, 2018 there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at 12 noon for the beautification project at the Calaveras County Government Center campus. The Board of Supervisors and Calaveras County staff has invited the UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County as special guests for acknowledgment of their contributions to this project. The Master Gardeners contributed their expertise in the selection and placement of plants. Please stop by to see it!

The UCCE Master Gardener of Calaveras County's Demonstration Garden will be open Saturday, September 22 from 10AM – 1PM. **FALL PLANT SALE THIS MONTH!** The Demonstration Garden is located at the County Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249.

Over the summer season we have been growing an assortment of tomatoes from Heirlooms to Hybrids. Some are old favorites and some we never tried before. This month's discussion will include a tasting of all the varieties we have grown and a discussion of the pros and cons in taste, texture and ease of cultivation.

Tuolumne County

Since Fall is the best time to add to your garden, the Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County are having a **Plant Sale** on Saturday, September 8th from 10am – 1pm at the Demonstration Garden, located at 251 S. Barretta Street in Sonora, (Cassina High School Campus.) All our plants are raised here by our Master Gardeners so they will grow well here.

You will also want to **Save the Date** for the October Plant Sale, which will feature selected plant varieties that you will see on the Fall Garden Tour. The Tour and October Plant Sale will be held on Sunday, October 14th.

Classes & Workshops Offered by UCCE Master Gardeners

Monthly Gardening Tips

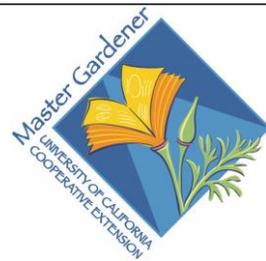
Amador

9-8: [Summer Fruit Tree Pruning](#) - Call for site location: 209-223-6838

Calaveras

9-13: [CalaverasGrown Farmers Market](#)

9-22: [Open Garden & Plant Sale](#)



El Dorado

9-8: [2nd Saturdays with Barry - Open Garden Day - Emphasis on planting onions, garlic & cover crops](#)

9-22: [Starthistle](#)

9-29: [Native Gardens Class/Tour](#)

Lake Tahoe

Check their [Classes & Events webpage](#).

Tuolumne

9-8: [Open Garden: Winter Vegetable Gardening & Plant Sale](#)



Classes & Events Offered by UC CalFresh

Amador

Please check back for events

Calaveras

Please check back for events

El Dorado

Please check back for events

Lake Tahoe

Tuolumne

Please check back for events

UC IPM and more...

[Plant problem diagnostic tool](#)

[Natural Enemies Gallery](#)

[Weed Identification and Photo Gallery](#)

[Seasonal IPM](#)

[Recent Updates at IPM](#)

[UCIPM Weather Models & Degree Days webpage](#)

Thank you for your continued interest in the UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra's news, workshops, and events.

Sincerely,

JoLynn Miller
University of California Cooperative Extension Central Sierra



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