



**UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe**  
**Lake Tahoe Horticulture News**  
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**Coordinator's Corner:**

Bring on Fall! The nights are definitely getting colder and the daylight getting shorter. We hope that you are getting a chance to get out and enjoy the fall colors. We hope that you were able to attend one of our fall garlic workshops!

In this newsletter we have some tips on how to put your garden to bed for the winter and some other informative articles. Enjoy!

*Sincerely,  
Megan Suarez-Brand*

**Become a BB's Garden Volunteer -- Support the SLT Branch of El Dorado Library**

Consider supporting your local library by becoming a BB's garden volunteer! Help us keep BB's garden, in front of the South Lake Tahoe Library, as lovely as it is now. UCCE Master Gardeners in partnership with South Tahoe PUD and Friends of the Library have recently revived BB's garden with Tahoe friendly plants. Remembering BB's love of purple, you'll find purple flowers in bloom throughout the garden. [Continue reading...](#)



**Putting the Garden to Bed**

By: Jen Cressy, South Tahoe PUD and UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe



Fall is the time to prep your garden for healthy and vigorous spring growth. Winter in Tahoe can sometimes severely damage our landscape plants, snow or no snow. Winter sun, wind and cold temperatures can dry and turn evergreen foliage brown, damage bark, injure or kill branches, flower buds, and roots. Winter drought can kill entire trees, shrubs and plants. Snow and ice can break branches and topple entire trees while repeated freeze and thaw cycles can heave our new perennials right out of the ground. [Continue reading...](#)

## Growing Food in Tahoe-- A Christmas Valley Family Garden

By: Dave Long, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe

On a sunny lot that surrounds their house in Christmas Valley, Marissa and Matt have an extensive vegetable garden that uses a variety of planting options, from pots and grow bags to raised beds with drip irrigation systems.

After 5 years of growing only indoor potted plants and the occasional herb, Marissa and Matt decided to expand to the great outdoors utilizing the front, side and rear portions of their yard to grow a variety of vegetables and herbs. The first year's success with the first couple raised beds led this year's expansion of several more raised beds and use of grow bags, and containers. Squash, potatoes, garlic, onions, beans, tomatoes, tomatillos and basil are only some of the crops successfully grown in the garden. Marissa has attended a couple of the Master Gardener workshops on growing vegetables. [Continue reading...](#)



## Tahoe Plants & Trees -- White Bark Pine

By: Dave Long, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe



The White Bark Pine is found at high elevations in the Tahoe basin, often near the timber line. The tree is often stunted, with multiple trunks or found in clumps of several trees in very close proximity. The tree is encountered on exposed slopes having generally poor soils. In favored areas the tree can grow to over 60 feet, though most are less than half that height, and when found at the tree line are more prostrate than erect, giving the tree one of its common names, creeping pine. [Continue reading...](#)

## Vail's EpicPromise Gives Back to Tahoe City Demo Garden

By: Nicole Alison Toy, UC Davis TERC & UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe



Dark clouds overhead and cool temperatures were ominous indicators of rough weathers ahead at the Tahoe City Field Station and Demonstration Garden. Not that rough weathers could stop the TERC education crew and Vail's EpicPromise volunteers. The TERC education crew consisted of Program Coordinator Alison Toy, AmeriCorps members Liz Bronson and Bre Harris, and TERC docents Dave Long and Steve Klukkert. The Vail EpicPromise group was a mix of Vail employees and their families and is part of Vail Corporation's dedication to supporting their local community. There was quite the mix of Vail employees present, from personnel from accounting to ski instructors with decades of experience. [Continue reading...](#)

## Winterizing Your Garden Tools

By: Flori Curran, UCCE Master Gardener of Lake Tahoe



Fall is here and it's that time of year when we start winterizing our garden. Mulching, tying up trees and shrubs, but we then forget we have other things to winterize like our garden tools and don't forget power tools as well. Now is the time to take one day to just concentrate on cleaning, sharpening and oiling these timesavers. Your tools will not only work better but will last longer and be more enjoyable to use.

Nothing is worse when you go out in the spring and start pruning and shoveling and your tools just don't cut like a butter knife! Make sure you scrap all the dirt off your shovels, rakes, hoes, pruners and your hand tools. Use a wire brush or one of those heavy-duty scrub sponges, rinse and dry. Sharpen yours blades with a good sharpening stone and then oil the blades. Don't neglect wood handles either! Use sand paper to smooth out any

nicks or splinters then get a rag and dip it into a good wood oil. Store in a dry shed or garage. Some people will fill a bucket or garbage can with enough sand to cover the blades to store and prevent rust. [Continue reading...](#)

*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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