



# Garden Notes

with the San Joaquin County  
Master Gardeners



JULY - SEPTEMBER 2014

## San Joaquin County Master Gardeners

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## What's new with the Master Gardeners?

Marcy Sousa Master Gardener Coordinator

Summer is in full force and we hope that this newsletter finds your gardens full of juicy tomatoes and sweet fragrant flowers buzzing with beneficial insects. This newsletter is full of some great water conservation tips that will help you save water while having one of the nicest yards on the block. Master Gardeners are busy attending the local farmers' markets in Stockton and Tracy. If you are there swing on by and say hello! Master gardeners are now on Twitter! [Follow us](#) so you can keep up to date with timely gardening tips and Master Gardener news.

We will soon be gearing up for a 2015 Master Gardener training. If you are interested you can fill out an [application](#) and turn it into our office at any time. We will contact all applicants to let them know details about interviews, dates, cost and the open house meeting. We only offer the trainings every other year so don't miss out!

Here are five fun ways you know you are addicted to gardening. If any of these apply to you we look forward to your application!

1. You have a stack of seed catalogs on the back of your toilet.
2. You buy three times as many seedlings than you have room for.
3. You name your pets 'Brandywine' or 'Cajun Delight'
4. You dig through the neighbor's trash to find anything you can compost.
5. You own more gardening gloves than you do socks.

To read the complete list, [click here](#).

Happy Gardening!



Master Gardener volunteers on the 2014 May Garden Tour.

## Spring Garden Tour Highlights

Susan Price Master Gardener

### *Water Conservation Ideas Top the List of Spring Garden Tour Attendees*

On May 18, some 300 gardening enthusiasts visited gardens in Stockton, Lodi and Morada in search of beauty, knowledge and inspiration. Hopefully, we delivered. Here is a recap of some of the major "takeaways" from the day.

Water conservation was on everyone's mind. This motivated us to offer examples of several lawn conversions, homes that replaced their wa-

ter guzzling grass with something more sustainable. Some homes on our Tour replaced all or part of their lawn with California natives and other water-thrifty plants. They included dry creek beds to add an attractive design element as well as to provide drainage. Other homeowners switched out their grass for a no-mow alternative—fescue blends that require less water, fertilizers and pesticides. These no-mow grasses withstand drought and shade better than traditional grasses. However, they do not handle extensive human traffic. They can reach 6-12 inches high at maturity so high-rise irrigation is

A few summer chores will keep your garden and landscape healthy and attractive while you enjoy warmer temperatures, children out of school, and the yield your garden brings.

### July Ideas

#### Plant -

Keep your vegetable plot healthy this summer by planting flowers nearby that attract beneficial insects. Good options include [coreopsis](#), [cosmos](#), [goldenrod](#), [marigolds](#), [sunflowers](#), and [yarrow](#). Dill, golden marguerite, coriander and Queen Anne's lace are especially attractive to lady bugs.



Shade loving coleus

Spruce up shady areas by experimenting with different types of coleus. They need regular watering through the warm months, and provided you pinch off flower spikes as they develop, coleus will add splashes of leaf color in both beds and pots. Coleus acts much like an annual in our area, so be prepared to plant again next year. Impatiens and begonias also brighten shady areas.

[Broccoli](#), [cauliflower](#), [cabbage](#), and [Brussels sprouts](#) should be seeded in flats around July 1<sup>st</sup>. They can be transplanted to the garden at the end of August or early September.

#### Maintenance -

Mulch if you haven't already done so. Spread a 2 - to 4-inch layer of organic matter (such as fine or shredded bark) over garden beds now to conserve moisture, cool plant roots, and discourage weeds. To prevent rot, don't pile it against stems and trunks.

[Apple](#), [peach](#), [pear](#), and [plum](#) trees may be laden with fruit this month. To prevent limb breakage, use wooden supports to brace sagging branches. Regularly clean up and discard fallen fruit, to discourage diseases and pests.

Deeply irrigate mature fruiting and most ornamental trees every other week if you have clay-loam soil, more often if you are in an area with sandy or sandy-loam soil. Mature drought-tolerant trees need deep watering only once a month or so. Check container plants daily.

Summer watering can kill mature native California oaks. If you can't keep the entire area under the tree dry, be sure no water gets within 10 feet of the trunk. The danger of root rot is greatest

when water is close to the trunk.

Prune flowering vines such as wisteria, passion vine, or Hardenbergia. Summer pruning of new growth keeps [vines](#) under control and increases flowering next spring. To extend the height or length of the vine, select some of the new streamer-like stems and tie them to a support in the direction you wish to train the plant. Then cut back the rest to within 6 inches of the main branches.

[A quick irrigation audit](#) may be worthwhile to determine if your sprinklers are matched and working properly. There have been numerous more efficient sprinklers introduced in the last few years. Some of them only require a change of the nozzle, not the entire sprinkler head. Check with your local water provider to see if they give partial or complete rebates for changes to efficient sprinklers.

[Lawn disease](#) or [pest problems](#) will usually appear as spots that have a more defined edge to the damaged area. If you suspect a pest is the problem, they are most likely found along green grass just outside of the damage. Evidence of caterpillars, caterpillar scat, or grubs can be found just under the surface of the green grass right outside of the damaged area. If the damaged area is not spreading, treatment to destroy the pests is unnecessary. It won't bring back dead spots and the pest is probably gone by the time you treat the lawn. If pest problems persist, look into what cultural changes you could make to reduce susceptibility in the future.

[Fertilize](#) only if needed with either a slow release or organic fertilizer. Shocking your lawn at this time of the year with a sudden input of high nitrogen can cause all sorts of negative results.

### In August

#### Plant -

Choice perennials for late-season color in our area include [aster](#), [chrysanthemum](#), [coreopsis](#), [daylily](#), [gaillardia](#), sage (such as [Salvia guaranitica](#)), [summer phlox](#), and [verbena](#).

Plant saffron. This pricey spice comes from easy-to-grow saffron crocus ([Crocus sativus](#)). Plant corms late this month or next and then harvest the saffron about five weeks later by plucking the three orangey red stigmas from each lilac-purple flower.

Sow root vegetable seeds for fall and winter

You can click on any of the blue underlined words in any of the articles to go to a webpage and learn more about that topic!



[Cont. pg 13](#)

## The Changeable Arrangement: Change Up Your Potted Plant Look



Great for your own enjoyment and marvelous for gifts, creating a changeable potted plant arrangement allows you to vary looks with the seasons, make plantings for different holidays, or just make something that pleases you. Essentially, to make a changeable arrangement you'll choose small border or base plants to plant around the outside edge of planters or in some other interesting pattern. Then choose a central or focus plant which, **in its pot**, will fit into the larger planter into the design you've created with the border or base plants. This plant can be either in contrast to or harmonious in color and/or texture. All plants should be attractive in combination and generally have the same water and light requirements. Then this central feature can be easily changed out whenever desired with another plant by simply lifting out the pot and replacing it with another plant in the same size nursery pot. Changeable arrangements can work indoors or out, again choosing appropriate plants for the growing conditions. The other feature that allows you more flexibility is that instead of a plant as central feature, you can use the "changeable arrangement" for many other artistic inspirations. Use the center space for fresh cut flowers, a candle, a unique and compatible piece of art work or sculpture, something representative of the season...a bowl of Easter eggs? Christmas ornaments? The limit is only your imagination!

Changeable arrangements allow you to keep a long-term border or base plant which provides a full lush

look for your new focus plant as opposed to just planting it in a pot surrounded by potting soil. When you are tired of the look, the plant gets straggly, or the seasons change, you can change the central plant and get a new fresh look. You can also try this technique in the garden itself by planting the border or base plants and leaving a hole in the center the size of the focus plant's pot. Then either cut out the bottom of the pot to be inserted or widen the drain holes for adequate drainage. If the plant looks to be full of roots, transplant to a slightly larger nursery pot and proceed. Also be sure to choose a focus plant that has the look you want. In any of these plantings, it is a good idea to add a bit of fertilizer to the soil as you plant. Then, as your plants grow, trim, water, and fertilize as appropriate.

Things to think about are: 1) growing conditions for inside (light/dark) or out (sun/shade), 2) water needs (some flexibility may be allowed if inserted plant and border plants need slightly different conditions), 3) growth habit and rate, and 4) attractiveness in combination.

Remember to use your artist's eye and creativity since so many things are possible. A few choices for attractive border plants are alyssum, ivy, lobelia, grasses that are low growing or that you can keep trimmed down, succulents, and especially ground covers. The latter have great characteristics for using in these border areas since they are low-growing, spreading, come in a wide variety of colors and textures and can be easily kept freshened by regular trimming. Picture the mosses, dichondra, baby tears--just a small sample of the many varieties to choose from. If you are using your changeable planter for a variety of items and the border you want requires a certain amount of light, you can keep the pot in a compatible light location and then put it in place with your desired center object and place it where you want to show it for up to several weeks.

The process:

1. Choose a planter, bowl, or pot at least as deep as the nursery pot of the focus plant; a bit deeper is helpful.
2. Set the focus plant or design object in the center (or its chosen location in the design) and fill in potting soil around it to just under the lip of the pot.
3. Plant your border starts or plants fairly close together in the surrounding circle or area. \*If your focus plant is not in the center of its nursery pot, or is uneven, repot gently and/or trim as needed. If desired you can get your arrangement started with your border plants, using an empty nursery pot, container or vase, or art object or candle the size of your desired centerpiece. You can then add your focus plant after the border fills in.

With a bit of effort and creative thought you can set yourself up for some easy changes of scenery in the future. Don't forget to plan ahead by making one of the more unique gifts your recipients will ever receive.



## Photinia leaf spot & Yellow Salsify

Steve Sanguinetti Master Gardener

### Pests and Plants of the Season

#### UC IPM website

Integrated pest management, or "IPM," is a process you can use to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment. IPM can be used to manage all kinds of pests anywhere.

You can click on any of the blue underlined words in any of the articles to go to a web-page and learn more about that topic!



The fungal disease, Photinia leaf spot *Entomosporium mespili*, is common to Photinia and many related plants of the Pome (apple) family such as Pear, Raphiolepis and Pyracantha. As is typical for overused and overcrowded plants, this disease has become a common malady in local gardens. While it is unlikely to kill host plants, it can lead to an undesirable appearance due to thinning leaf canopy and to unattractive growth at plant centers. Photinia is often planted as a barrier hedge and can't fulfill this purpose without thick foliage. It is a bit late to do much about this disease now, but its symptoms are still present and should lead to your attention early next spring. As with almost all fungal diseases, prevention is more productive than cure. Rake up and dispose of infected leaves, provide a thick layer of clean mulch under plants and timely apply preventive fungicides at first growth of new leaves during late winter or early spring as soon as new leaves sprout. I have found what looks to be an excellent resource, "[Gardening Know How](#)" by Jackie Rhoades:

Also see, [UC IPM](#) & [Mississippi State](#)



A weed to be aware of from late spring through summer is Yellow Salsify, *Tragopogon dubius*. It starts out life looking like a desirable plant, either grassy or garlicky, and has an attractive flower. However, its Dandelion like seed head allows it to spread rapidly if allowed to mature. One resident in a neighborhood in Lodi has ignored its

growth and it has now spread downwind 4 to 6 blocks away and is starting to branch out to adjoining streets. Many of the residents I have contacted regarding its growth have said they wondered what it was, and thought it might be potentially desirable. While it is edible, and a related form is cultivated, the risk of undesirable invasion to adjoining landscapes makes it problematic. Once notified of its identity most residents have proven to be responsible neighbors and have controlled it. Note that the UC-IPM page referenced below refers only to the purple flowered relative, *Tragopogon porrifolius*, but otherwise plant appearance is very similar.

[UC IPM website](#)

[US Wildflowers](#)

## Lace Bugs (family Tingidae)

Steve Sanguinetti Master Gardener

While on the subject of Photinia problems, I remembered a fairly common pest frequently attacking this shrub and other plants. Symptoms of this pest are probably most easily found due to the stippling and bleaching effect on leaves. It can be differentiated from mite stippling by presence of dark specs of excrement on leaves and under shrubs. While this pest doesn't often kill plants, it does weaken their growth and cause very unsightly foliage. Nymphs of this pest feed on undersides of leaves, sucking out host plant's photosynthetic tissues.

Pictures of nymphs and signs of their presence can be [found here](#).



UC Statewide IPM Project  
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**PERENNIAL:** *Rehmannia elata* (Chinese foxglove), Family: Scrophulariaceae

**PLANT IDENTIFICATION:** An herbaceous perennial that forms basal rosettes of scalloped, fuzzy, glossy green leaves and spikes of hanging bell-shaped, rose-pink blossoms from mid-summer to early fall. Grows to 24 - 36" high, 18 - 24" wide. It attracts beneficial insects, bees and butterflies.



**OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:** Prefers light shade and dryer soil, but can handle more sun with more regular watering. It requires neutral soil pH (6.6 to 7.5). Protect from desiccating winter winds. Drought tolerant once established. Spreads by underground rhizomes and can become invasive in rich soil, but stunning when allowed to colonize and stand on its own. *Rehmannia* also grow happily in containers, if given regular feedings to encourage bloom, and can be propagated by division.

**NOTE:** All parts of plant are poisonous if ingested.



**SHRUB:** *Grevillea*, Family: Proteaceae

**PLANT IDENTIFICATION:** *Grevilleas* are a woody evergreen shrub primarily native to Australia, with over 200 named species, although only a few are in cultivation. Variability between species is typical of the *Protea* family of which they belong; the name—sake of the family, the god *Proteus* was noted for his ability to change his appearance and form at will. They can be ground covers, shrubs or trees. They generally have fine textured foliage and long slender curved flowers borne in clusters. They provide months of color with exotic flowers that are attractive to hummingbirds and other nectar-feeding birds.



**'Robyn Gordon'**

**'Superb'**



**OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:** *Grevilleas* flower best in sunny, dry locations, with poor soil. Plant in well-draining soil and do not over water. Most varieties are drought and heat tolerant, as well as frost hardy down to 20 ° F. Avoid use of fertilizers, especially phosphorus which can be fatal to these plants. Prune after flowering to rejuvenate flowering and plant growth.



**'Bonfire'**

**'Little Honey'**



**TREE:** *x Chitalpa tashkentensis*, Family- Bignoniaceae

**PLANT IDENTIFICATION:** The 'x' in the name indicates that this is a hybrid of two different trees: *Catalpa bignonioides* and *Chilopsis linearis*. It is a fast-growing deciduous tree with lanceolate leaves, growing 20 to 30 feet high & wide. Can be a multi-trunked tree, and branches tend to slightly cascade. Clusters of trumpet-shaped fragrant flowers in mid-spring to summer, with no seed pods as the flowers are sterile. Two named cultivars are 'Pink Dawn', with pink blooms (shown), and 'Morning Cloud', with white ones. The flowers are attractive to bees, butterflies and birds



**OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:** It prefers full sun and good draining soil and thrives in more alkaline soils. Frost hardy, but may suffer some die back from severe frosts. Shape young trees for optimal growth, mature trees benefit from annual thinning. Although drought tol-



erant once established, performs best with regular watering. Powdery mildew can be an issue, especially if planted in too much shade.

One of the Gardens on the recent Master Gardener Garden Tour provided a wonderful example of an established stand of fine leaf fescues (Molate Blue, Idaho, and Mokelumne Fescue) as well as a fallow site being prepared for installation. Many homeowners in California are realizing that a no-mow lawn provides long-term savings in resources and labor. However, as these are still rather uncommon, installation and maintenance protocols are unknown.



### Establishment/Weed Control

After removal of your traditional lawn grass, it is important to also remove weeds remaining on the site. The soil will remain bare for several months, allowing any grass and weed roots and seeds that germinate to be removed. This is a painstaking, but thorough, approach to remove any undesirable plants still in the soil. This way ensures that there will not be competition with the new lawn and it will be allowed to establish and thrive.

When the site is ready for installation, topsoil, organic matter, and fertilizer are raked into the soil. After several irrigation cycles to determine and maintain proper grading, the no-mow lawn is installed. This can be done with seed, plugs, or sod. Seed is the cheapest, but takes the longest to establish. Conversely, sod is most expensive, but establishes itself more quickly. Sod also crowds out weeds that would otherwise compete with seed. Regardless, no-mow lawns take longer to establish, so be sure to maintain a moist soil layer throughout this period in order to attain proper vigor and fastest coverage.

Seeding should be done in early fall or early spring to avoid any winter storm washouts or stress from summer heat. Sod should similarly be installed at these times. It could be installed during winter or summer, but may experience increased stress. Moist soil conditions are ideal as the lawn is established.

### Irrigation

Though no-mow lawns require less water than normal lawns, California summers necessitate proper irrigation in order to maintain satisfactory green color. Irrigating at 85% of the rate for a normal lawn will maintain color, though less is needed in shady areas. Less water could induce dormancy. No-mow lawns have deeper and more extensive root systems compared with normal lawns and can withstand drought better. With cooler weather and precipitation, the grass will return to its normal green color. Because no-mow lawns can achieve heights of 6-12" or more, pay close attention to the equipment used to irrigate. It is essential to plan your irrigation over the course of several years so that as your stand gets taller, it doesn't interfere with the sprinkler heads.

### Mowing

To maintain a grass at a shorter height, mowing can be done 1 to 4 times a year with the mower at its tallest setting. Fall and early spring are best for this. Clippings should be removed. After mowing, a pre-emergent herbicide can be applied to fight any weeds that appear. Keep lawn at least 2 feet from the root crown of woody plants as it could keep them moist, promoting fungus and crown rot.

### Fertilization

A no-mow lawn has lower fertilizer needs. If planted in rich soil, it may never need fertilizer. Even in average soils, the stand only needs 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. In poor, infertile, or sandy soils, more may be needed. Phosphorous and Potassium are unnecessary except in sandy soils, and then only at the same rate as nitrogen. Use a fertilizer that combines slow-release and fast-acting forms of nitrogen in the fall before rain arrives. Extra fertilizer is unnecessary, and even counterproductive. Excessive growth will encourage thatch, making the lawn appear puffy in spots, making it prone to disease and harder to irrigate.

### Diseases/Pests

No-mow lawns are susceptible to the same diseases as normal lawns when mowed. However, less frequent mowing means they show greater resilience. If disease infects a stand, it is usually localized. Spot application of an appropriate turf grass fungicide may be required, but it would be prudent to wait and see before chemical treatment. If a spot is in serious decline, removing is wise, followed by preparing the site for new sod or seed. Pests and rodents do not appear to be problems.

### Conclusion

No-mow lawns are NOT a substitute for busy lawns with foot traffic, but are a low-maintenance complement to natural landscapes that reduce long-term labor and resource inputs. It is a versatile, user-friendly, and unique ground cover that can take full sun and shade alike. For a more comprehensive look at no-mow lawns, check with these resources:

[UC No Mow](#) [Sunset No Mow](#) [No Mow](#)—Wisconsin (keep in mind this resource is from an author in Wisconsin, so timing will be aligned with the Midwest rather than California)



The 2014 annual Sunset Magazine Celebration Weekend open house was held May 31 – June 1 at its headquarters in Menlo Park. The Celebration weekend offers presentations and activities that reflect the scope of Sunset magazine's California living interests – food and cooking, home, travel, wine, and, of course, gardening and landscaping. The Sunset publications on gardening and landscaping are highly regarded references headlined by the *New Sunset Western Garden Book*. The new companion reference - *Sunset Western Garden Book of Landscaping: The Complete Guide to Designing Beautiful Paths, Patios, Plantings and More* – was published earlier this year.

Much more than an idea book, this book is designed to inspire homeowners by showcasing the West's best garden design, and, more practically, to give Do-It-Yourselfers enough information to tackle basic projects on their own, making their gardens look and function better. Useful for beginners and

expert landscapers alike, this book is ideal for those readers looking to install a new garden, renovate an existing one, or simply to make parts of their garden, whether a patio or flower border, more stylish.

The Celebration Weekend offers a full-day session devoted to **Garden and Outdoor Living**. Featured outside speakers, as well as Sunset staff members, addressed a range of topics related to gardening, plant selection, plant collections and floral presentation. Drought related concerns were reflected in at least three of the presentations.

**Lauren Dunec** and **Johanna Silver** from Sunset discussed what's next in the 3,000 square foot test garden, which features latest plants, devices, and projects that are being evaluated for coverage in Sunset. A test garden highlight is the [Sunset Western Garden Collection](#), introduced in spring 2012 - the first plant collection designed specifically for the Western gardener. These varieties are low-maintenance, water-wise, and selected especially for the reader's Western landscape. Sunset magazine and Plant Development Services have collaborated to bring these superior plant introductions to retail garden centers throughout the thirteen Western states. Sunset partnerships with local growers will allow them to customize the collection to best meet the climatic differences of the diverse gardening regions. The collection should be generally available next spring.

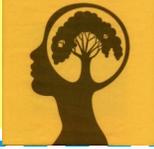
**Jodie Sheffield** came from Stockton to outline [Delta Bluegrass](#) Company's efforts to offer drought resistant turf for lawns and large grass areas. Delta has gone back more than 160 years to find native grasses that predate the arrival of Europeans and require 50 – 75% less water. They have adapted these native grasses for low water applications: Native Bentgrass for lawn areas, and Native Mow Free and Native Preservation Mix grasses with a meadow like appearance.

In giving advice on *Designing for Drought*, **Rebecca Sweet**, a garden designer and author from Los Altos ([Harmony in the Garden](#)) stressed the importance of color and appearance in the selection and arrangement of low water use plants. With a plant-color wheel that she has developed, she discussed the use of color combinations that work well to make drought resistant gardens and landscape very attractive.

Slow Flowers? What a strange term! However, **Debra Prinzing** explained that "Slow Flowers" is a movement to help people find the best U.S. floral designers who are committed to sourcing from American flower farms. The movement is intended to help American flowers flourish! As a garden writer and lecturer with bases in Seattle and Los Angeles, her [web site](#) and its resources are intended to do just that. Her presentation included tips on eco-friendly floral arranging at home.

With an eye to collections of specific plant varieties, **Robin Stockwell**, [Succulent Gardens: The Growing Grounds](#) in Castroville, and author, [Debra Lee Baldwin](#) from San Diego were billed as "The King and Queen of Succulents". They gave a great interactive summary of the world of succulents. In contrast, carnivorous plant grower/blogger, **Robert Co**, was a bit on the dark side with his presentation on "Carnivorous Plants". Unfortunately, no mention was made of using carnivorous plants for garden insect control, but Robert and "The [Pitcher Plant Project](#)" did generate an active discussion, especially with the youngsters present.





## Beautiful No-Mow Yards: 50 Amazing Lawn Alternatives

Lynne and Bill Gowdy Master Gardeners

Evelyn Hadden's **Beautiful No-Mow Yards: 50 Amazing Lawn Alternatives (2012)** will provide you with inspiration, information, creative ideas, awesome images and abundant resources to accomplish your goals and create a low maintenance, sustainable landscape. Hadden's text is thoughtful, detailed, accurate and full of innovative ideas. She is recognized as a cutting-edge, award-winning author. Hadden is "THE original lawn reformer, having written **Shrink Your Lawn: Design Ideas for Any Landscape** and created the Less Lawn website back in 2001.

European estate owners once flaunted their wealth with extensive areas of green, manicured lawns. American gardeners followed in this tradition with large unproductive areas of lawn that consume excessive amounts of time, energy and money. Ads remind us to "green up" our lawns with chemicals and fertilizers of every kind. These chemicals and herbicides harm the environment. Damage includes wasted water, fertilizers that pollute the environment, and pesticides that harm soil, pollinators, humans and animals. Landscaping alternatives such as meadows, edible gardens/landscapes and native grasses are part of Hadden's **Beautiful No-Mow Yards** solution.

"Partnering with nature" is Hadden's key to transitioning to a lawn-free landscape. Successful no-mow yards work like a natural system made up of plants that are not only native to the area, but also based on the ecology of the site. Hadden's book combines plants that naturally associate with each other and thereby increase the probability that they will thrive in their eco-friendly environment. Landscapes will be both interesting and wildlife-friendly.

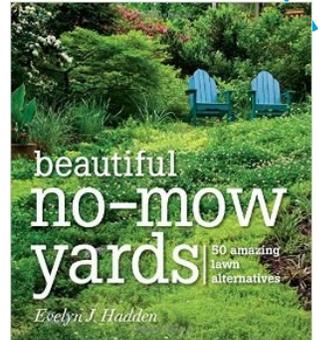
Beautiful No-Mow Yards is presented in three main sections. In Part One – "Design Inspiration: the Many Possibilities," Hadden introduces and discusses (11 no-mow options). These no-mow inspirational descriptions include "Living Carpets" described as low growing plants that don't need mowing, watering, or fertilizing. "Shade Gardens" are woodlands that provide a shady filter of light, purify the air and soften garden walls and floors. "Meadow and Prairie Gardens" feature ornamental grasses and native plants while "Rain Gardens" act as sponges that absorb storm water run-off both above and below ground.

"Patios" are garden rooms where people enjoy time outdoors. They are places to relax and entertain and are often used more than lawn areas. "Play Areas" are natural outdoor environments that support brain, body and creative development for children of every age. Here, natural spaces are filled with sound, scent, textures, color and movement to enhance the senses. Some play areas do include areas of turf for sports or play, but it is kept at a minimum.

"Pond Gardens" are sanctuaries for birds and aquatic wildlife. They add light, movement and tranquility to the landscape. "Xeric Gardens" combine grasses and succulents to create dramatic landscapes in arid climates where it is unrealistic to grow green lawns. "Edible Gardens" not only provide nutritional food crops, but also provide lush landscapes for the senses. "Stroll Gardens" allow the exploration of nature throughout the seasons. Finally, "Smarter Lawns" provides lawn alternatives that require little maintenance.

Part Two of the book is filled with practical and technical advice on how to convert a lawn into an eco-friendly environment. Information on replacing lawns through smothering, tilling, solarizing, cutting away sod, limited use of herbicides, and mulching are covered. Hadden encourages homeowners to implement changes gradually over time as budget and energy allow. She suggests starting with a spot seen and used daily, a small trouble spot or an area that can be completed in a reasonable amount of time. She suggests planting trees and shrubs that will provide the foundation for eventual transformation to no-mow areas.

Part three offers a thorough and beautifully illustrated resource of plant choices grouped by growth habits: "mounding, mat-forming, fill-in, and minglers." Hadden's format for each plant includes a detailed plant description with many illustrations, plant behavior (growth habits, height, reproduction, self-sowing, attractive to pollinators, etc.), and plant preferences such as recommended zones, preferred soil, moisture, and light requirements. Hadden's book is illustrated with beautiful and inspiring photos and abundant resources. Readers will be delighted by the endless possibilities they find in **Beautiful No-Mow Yards**. This book encourages the transformation of lawns into livable gardens that bring nature's beauty to life! Enjoy!



[Restoring the Landscape with Native Plants – Questions & Answers with author Evelyn Hadden](#)

[Better Homes and Gardens – A No-Mow Backyard](#)

[Give Your Grass the Boot: 10 No-Mow Alternatives](#)

[Designing a beautiful no-mow yard: 5 considerations & video at bottom of the page](#)

[No Mow or Low Maintenance Yard Ideas \(lots of images and ideas to explore\)](#)

[Sunset – 21 Inspiring Lawn Free Yards](#)

[Five No-Mow, No Fuss Lawn Alternatives \(Slideshow\)](#)

## Spring Garden Tour Highlights (Continued from page 1)

required. The floppy look of no-mow grasses gives a meadow-like appearance. Some visitors loved the look; others, not so much. Clearly there is a place for no-mow grasses in our water-conserving toolbox.

The “[water can test](#)” demonstrated at one of the Morada gardens proved to be illuminating. When the owner first did the test, he learned he was overwatering one area of his lawn and underwatering another. Adjusting the sprinkler system accordingly resulted in a healthier, more efficiently watered lawn. Visitors were inspired to do this simple test on their own lawns or planting beds to audit their water use.

Attendees wanted to see plants that thrive in our Central Valley heat with low to moderate water needs. Smoke tree (*Cotinus coggygria*), with its striking purple leaves, and strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), with its wonderful multi-stemmed form, were two of the large shrubs that captured lots of attention. Creeping thymes (*Thymus polytrichus britannicus*) were popular groundcovers, especially those that could take the heat, be used between pavers, and could withstand light foot traffic. The cultivar, ‘Tom Thumb’ was thriving in one of the gardens. Other cultivars for this use include ‘Elfin’ and ‘Pink Chintz,’ with woolly thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) being another great choice. Groundcover sedums were also a big hit. These water-thrifty succulents, with their many colors and forms, have become a mainstay in San Joaquin Valley landscapes.



Tour visitors enjoying the “Whimsical & Wonderful” garden in Lodi.

Growing edibles in our home gardens, whether in raised beds or amongst our ornamentals, continued to be popular. One of our Tour gardens used the “lasagna” gardening method to fill its raised beds. This no-dig, no-till method creates fluffy, nutrient-rich, easily workable soil in a matter of months. This method, also known as “composting in place” or “sheet mulching,” can also be used in your lawn conversion project. The fall season is the perfect time for lasagna gardening, as rainfall can provide the moisture needed for the decomposition process.

Blueberries were growing at two of the Tour homes. With the newer Southern Highbush varieties widely available, gardeners have no reason not to plant these tasty shrubs. They make attractive evergreen hedges in the landscape as well as offer vitamin rich berries. All they ask is that we provide the acidic plant mix they need, regular moisture, and perhaps a little afternoon shade in our hottest areas. You’ll get best fruiting after 3 years and especially if you have 2-3 berry bushes.

Visitors shared their major challenges with us, whether it was a disease or pest, or just the ever-present need to grow more with less. Snail control was a major topic of conversation at one of our shadier gardens. It had Hostas and many other big leaf plants that snails love. The owner’s advice was to keep on top of the pest by using organic bait on a regular schedule, especially just before new leaves emerge. A few visitors quickly realized that snails were to blame for their “disappearing” plants.

A favorite Tour stop was the “Whimsical & Wonderful” garden in Lodi. Along with water-efficient plants, there was a koi pond, a lime-green bench and multiple bird houses and bird baths. Visitors were charmed by the clever repurposed garden décor and the two fairy houses.

These were the things visitors found most enjoyable, most helpful, or just plain fun. We wanted to promote sustainable garden practices and to educate, but what’s a Garden Tour without some tasty pastries and garden crafts? One Morada location offered just that. We wanted to offer our garden enthusiasts the whole package, making it a thoroughly enjoyable day.

We got lots of positive feedback from Tour attendees about our Master Gardener docents. They were there to guide visitors through the gardens and answer any questions. We took pride in providing gardening knowledge, whether from our docents, demonstrations, detailed plant signs, or handouts. As we had hoped, visitors said they had gained some earth-friendly ideas that they planned to incorporate into their own gardens.

## Gardening with Design in Mind



Just as important as flowers, trees and shrubs are to yards and gardens, so also is the design you choose. And like everything else in the horticulture world, design has a vocabulary of its own.

Take for instance, **“hell strips.”** Aptly named, it’s the area between the sidewalk and street where it can be difficult to grow any plants due to lack of water, heat reflected from the road, foot traffic, trash and pet waste.

Most hell strips are public property (or easements) that the homeowner must maintain but allows the city the authority to make public improvements such as installing water and sewer lines, bus benches, tearing it up during street repairs and widening.

**“Hardscape”** consists of the inanimate elements of landscaping such as masonry work or woodwork, stonewalls, concrete or brick patios, tile paths, wooden decks or arbors and water fountains.

**“Softscapes”** are the plants used in your landscape such as trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, bulbs and groundcovers. Softscapes make up the diversity of the yard’s design and can soften the hardscapes in your garden, giving it beauty and aesthetic appeal.

**“Foundation plantings”** takes into consideration the architectural design of your home (for example, colonial home or a comfy cottage style or low-slung ranch house) using the right trees, plants and shrubs to play up its assets and soften its hard edges. Foundation plants should enhance your home to make it more welcoming and connect it to its surrounding landscape.

Other areas such as walkways, lawns, borders and drive-ways should also be incorporated. As a unit, these plantings should lead the eye toward the front door and welcome the visitor.

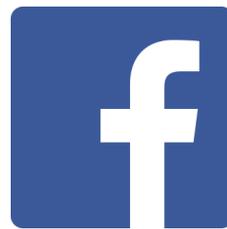
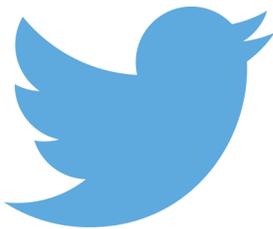


Foundation planting should integrate simple designs that are both easy to care for and visually pleasing. While simplicity is essential to good design, there should still be enough variation in form, texture and color to create plantings of interest and, if done correctly, a sense of balance in the yard and garden.

Foundation plants help to frame a house and anchor it to the site creating an air of permanence and harmony. Using imagination and creative planting schemes, the front yard of any home can become a dynamic garden space to be enjoyed and convey a sense of welcome.

These are just a few of the many design terms to add to your resource toolbox as you create the garden and yard you’ve always imagined.

**Don’t miss out on Master Gardener news or tips! Click on the logo to go to our social media sites!**



## The Garden Gate—Opening Doors in the Community

### The Delta Water Supply Treatment Plant Julie Hyske Master Gardener



If you were fortunate enough to have attended the recent Master Gardener Tour, “Lovely to Look At, Delicious to Eat,” one of your stops was the Delta Water Supply Project Water Treatment Plant. Located at 11373 N. Lower Sacramento Road north of Stockton, the treatment plant has a demonstration garden which is a showcase for California natives and drought tolerant plantings. Signs identified the plants, and the landscape designer for the project was on hand to provide further information. With the efficient underground drip system, moisture-retentive mulch and permeable pathways, the site is a model for sustainability.

Living so close to the Delta waterways, you may wonder why with water in our own backyard we should be concerned with drought conditions. What is this latest craze to remove your thirsty lawn and adapt to sustainable gardening practices?

Why a water treatment project? The irony of the situation is that while we supply two-thirds of Californians with drinking water, until 2012 and the completion of the Delta Water project, Stocktonians have not had a sip from the Delta’s waters in the city’s 162 years!

Early in the 1960s, Stockton realized that groundwater sources would be unable to sustain the city’s growing water needs. The city looked for water from the Sierra Nevada foothills, tapping into the Calaveras River, and eventually the Stanislaus River with treated water discharged from Stockton East Water District. At one point the State directed Stockton to look to the American River to satisfy its thirst, but the infrastructure to transport the water never became a reality. It was time to look to the 1,000 miles of the Delta waterways. In 1996 the application was filed to divert water from the San Joaquin River at Empire Tract. In 2006 Stockton was issued its own water rights after a feasibility and environmental study. After decades of water struggles with diminishing groundwater, uncertain costs and unreliability from outside sources, the 2012 completion of the Delta Water Project finally provided Stockton a straw to drink from the Delta.

Robert Granberg, the deputy director of Stockton’s Department of Municipal Utilities and the project manager, relays that as a condition of the project, Stockton can only pump out of the Delta the equivalent amount of water it sends to the City’s wastewater treatment plant. This has ensured a 100% recycling component to the project. The project initially was providing 30 million-gallons-per-day (mgd) of water, while ultimately it could accommodate 160 mgd. Since inception of the project, the groundwater basin has risen about 30 feet, allowing it to be used as a drought reserve.

Due to the current drought, Stockton, as a junior-rights water holder, has been ordered to curtail pumping from the Delta. Although the state is also concerned with the over-pumping of ground water, that is what Stockton must return to in order to meet water needs. Now it is our turn, as citizens, to consciously adhere to landscaping conservation measures while the needs of Stockton’s water are debated in the world of water policies.

As a partner in our community, the Delta Water Treatment project has helped to make the City’s water availability more secure. The demonstration garden at the site is a shining example of water-conserving practices and serves as testimony to California’s native beauties! Consider attending one of the Master Gardener’s informative classes held at the site on the second Saturday of the month, making sure to include a stroll through this wonderful public garden while you’re there.



### What Can I Plant Instead? Some Alternatives to Garden Favorites

Many Central Valley gardeners are becoming advocates of wise gardening. They understand the need to cut back on water use as well as encourage non-invasive, wildlife friendly plants. It can be a challenge, though, to give up some of the landscape favorites that require a lot of water, overgrow designated space, or hide problematic pests.

Here are some of the popular thirsty and/or overreaching plants and suggestions for smart-garden alternatives. All of the suggested substitutes are drought-tolerant and non-invasive; most encourage beneficial insects or birds.

**Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) and Mexican feather grass (*Stipa tenuissima*)** - You've seen these insidious beauties along the coastline, in garden landscapes, and along neighborhood driveways. Their feathery fronds dance in the breeze. No wonder they've been popular. They are, however, extremely invasive and can harbor pests such as rats and snakes.

Better alternatives include **deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)** and **giant wild rye (*Leymus condensatus*)**. These grasses offer the characteristics you want from grasses, but are non-invasive and wildlife-friendly. Both can grow in sun or part shade and require minimal water once established. The giant wild rye grows taller than deer grass and offers the dramatic effect of pampas grass without the negative/deleterious effects.

**English ivy (*Hedera helix*) or its various *Hedera* relatives** - This popular ground cover/climbing vine is ubiquitous in many yards. It can smother other vegetation, kill trees, damage walls, and harbor rats and snails.

Better options include **violet trumpet vine (*Clytostoma calystegioides*)**, vigorous climber which can cover walls and fences without compromising the structure. It can also be used as ground cover in full sun or part shade. Its lovely purple flowers are a favorite of hummingbirds.

Another possibility is **California pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*)**, a green-flowered beauty that needs more shade than the violet trumpet vine, but offers the same climbing and ground-covering characteristics.

**Hydrangea (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) or various hydrangea relatives** Nearly everyone likes these exquisitely colorful plants. They bloom generously throughout a long season, but they demand a lot of water. If you have several hydrangea plants, consider keeping one (as a source for cut flowers in the house and color in the yard) and replacing the rest with a less-thirsty alternative.

A drought-friendly choice could be **walking iris (*Neomerica caerulea*)**. Similar in size to hydrangea, these shade-loving plants have low- to very-low water needs. Their dramatically beautiful blue flowers bloom repeatedly in partial shade during the hot valley summer.

**Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) or various broom relatives** - These plants have invaded over one million acres in California, obliterating plant and animal communities and causing fire hazards even in residential communities. Although most nurseries no longer sell Scotch broom, it's still found in many landscapes.

An ideal non-invasive alternative is the **lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*)**. This California native is an evergreen shrub that offers pink or white flowers and red berries. It makes a good hedge but, unlike Scotch broom, it won't usurp other plants.

Here are a few resources that are helpful when looking for plant alternatives:

[California Invasive Plant Council](#)  
[UC Davis All Star database](#)



Pampas grass



Violet trumpet vine

If you have a gardening question, call the Master Gardeners Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 am-12:00 pm at 209-953-6112 or by e-mail [anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu](mailto:anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu)

harvest. Beets, carrots, turnips, and fast-maturing [potatoes](#) planted now should yield a crop by Christmas. Lee Miller's article, *Planning and Planting a Cool Season Vegetable Garden*, in the 2013 summer issue, provides additional information.

Beet varieties that do well in our area are those with a short number of days from seed sowing to maturity (generally those with 60 days or less as listed on the seed packet).

Carrot lovers might try growing white, yellow, orange-red, or purple varieties from seed.

Lettuce as well as kale and Chinese cabbage planted now will mature for fall salads. Try some of the heirloom lettuces available now.

### Maintenance -

Keep warm-season annuals blooming through the end of summer and into fall. Water and fertilize them regularly with fish emulsion or other fertilizer. Remove spent flowers before they go to seed.

[Hydrangeas](#) produce flowers on the previous year's growth. To shape and control the plants' size, and to avoid cutting off next year's flower buds, prune stems back to 12 inches right after the blooms fade. Fewer, but larger flowers will grow next spring if you cut back some stems to the base of the plant.

Before fall planting, amend soil with [compost](#) and soil conditioner. Worm castings, though expensive, are worth the price. Choose pure castings or a mix of castings and compost. Now is also a good time to start a worm bin which will provide castings for spring soil amending. Information on worm composting can be [found here](#).

[Prune cane berries](#). Canes of single-crop [blackberries](#) and [raspberries](#) that have finished fruiting should be cut to the ground. Thin out the new growth, keeping the strongest canes - 5 to 8 per blackberry plant, 8 to 12 per raspberry plant - and removing the others. Prune ever-bearing varieties after the fall harvest.

Water potted [citrus trees](#) at least once a week, especially in summer heat. Mature citrus in the ground can go longer between watering. Check soil moisture at the root level — 18 or more inches down — with a moisture meter, and keep soil on the dry side of moist (the soil surface doesn't need to be damp). Water deeply and slowly when necessary.

## September Notes

### Plant -

Set out transplants of campanula, candytuft, catmint, coreopsis, delphinium, dianthus, foxglove, penstemon, phlox, salvia, hollyhocks and yarrow.

Plant spring flower bulbs now. Bulbs appear in nurseries right after Labor Day. They're most effective in big flower pots and in kidney-shaped drifts at the front of garden beds.

Some excellent choices include bluebells, daffodils, grape hyacinth, hyacinth, and tulips.

Shrubs, trees, and groundcovers get a head start when planted in fall. Nature does most of the watering for you, and plants have fall (and winter in mild climates) to send out roots. Your plants will be well established by the time spring growth starts.

Plant a tree on the southwest side of your home, where it will provide the most-needed shade. Use a deciduous tree for summer shade and winter sun. Chinese hackberry, [Chinese pistache](#), ginko, [Japanese pagoda tree](#), ['Raywood' ash](#), and [red oak](#) can be good choices.

Organic mulch applied in several inches around plants (don't let it touch the trunks) will keep roots moist if rainfall doesn't do it for you.

Plant lettuce every few weeks so fresh salad greens can be harvested over a longer season. Tasty blends of young leaf vegetables are easy to grow.

### Maintenance -

[Fertilize the lawn](#) to thicken top growth, crowd out weeds, and strengthen grass roots for winter. Combination lawn fertilizers are a good choice. They contain a small amount of fast-release nitrogen for a quick green-up, and a larger portion of slow-release nitrogen. By regularly using a mulching mower which chops the grass blades into fine pieces, and leaving your grass clippings on the lawn to decompose and release nitrogen into the turf, you can eliminate one lawn feeding or more per year.

Harvest cantaloupe when it slips off the vine easily. With other kinds of melons, a strong, pleasant aroma at the blossom (not stem) end is the best indicator of ripeness. A watermelon is a bit more difficult, but good indicators of ripeness include: The ground spot (the underside where the watermelon laid on the ground) turns from white to pale yellow; the tendril opposite the stem of the melon has dried and withered; the skin of the watermelon has turned from shiny to dull; and there is a dull "thunk" when the melon is rapped with your knuckles in the morning.

Information for this article has been gathered from:

[UC IPM](#), [Sunset Garden](#), [Farmer Fred](#)

# Cookie Recipes from the “Lovely to Look At– Delicious to Eat” Garden Tour

Corinne Bachle, Master Gardener

## EASY LAVENDER SHORTBREAD COOKIES

Kevin Lee Jacobs, A Garden for the House

### *Ingredients*

8 ounces (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened to room temperature  
4 teaspoons fresh or 2 teaspoons dried lavender buds  
1/2 cup sugar  
2 cups all purpose flour, scooped and leveled

Preheat oven to 300°. Using a food processor, a blender, or a mortar and pestle, grind the sugar and lavender petals together. In the bowl of a standing mixer outfitted for a paddle, beat the lavender sugar and butter at low speed until smooth. Then add the flour and beat until combined. Mixing is complete when there are no visible lumps of butter in the dough. Form the dough into a rough disk, wrap it in plastic and chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Roll the dough into a 1/4-inch thick circle; cut out cookie shapes with a round, 2-inch diameter cutter. Using a flat spatula, transfer the rounds to a parchment-lined baking sheet. Chill for 30 minutes before baking. Bake on the middle rack of oven just until the sides of the cookies begin to color — 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool completely on the baking sheet. Decorate with Wilton’s white sparkling sugar or sprinkle with additional lavender petals.

**Makes: about 2 dozen, 2-inch diameter cookies**



## LEMON & ROSEMARY SHORTBREAD COOKIES

### *Ingredients*

1 cup butter, softened  
1/2 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons lemon juice  
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
4-1/2 teaspoons minced fresh rosemary  
1/4 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the lemon juice, peel and vanilla. Combine the flour, rosemary and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.

Shape into two 12-in. rolls; wrap each in plastic wrap. Freeze for 30 minutes or until firm. Cut into 1/4-in. slices. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until edges begin to brown. Cool for 2 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks. Store in an airtight container.

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 25 min. + freezing. Bake: 10 min. per batch.

**Makes: 8 dozen**



## CHERRY CHIP SUGAR COOKIES

### *Ingredients*

1 1/2 cups softened butter  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 1/2 tablespoon Almond extract  
3 cups flour  
3/4 teaspoon baking powder  
3/8 teaspoon salt  
1 cup sliced almonds  
1 10-ounce bag cherry chips

Preheat oven to 400°. Combine butter, sugar and almond extract in large mixer bowl. Beat at medium speed until creamy. Reduce speed to low; add all remaining cookie ingredients. Beat until well mixed. Roll dough in 1-inch balls; place 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Flatten balls to 1/4 inch thickness with the bottom of a buttered glass dipped in sugar. Bake for 7-9 minutes or until edges are very lightly browned. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheets.

**Makes: 40-45, 2 1/4—2 1/2 inch cookies.**



## AUGUST

Saturday, August 2

UC Davis Arboretum: **Succulents That Sizzle**

10:00 a.m.

Gazebo, UC Davis Arboretum

Need plants for your garden that can take the heat? Try succulents! They will surprise you with their diversity and beauty, even in mid-summer. The event is free.

Free parking is available in the nearby Visitor Parking Lot 55, or on the street.

[Click here for a map of the location.](#) For more information and directions, please call (530) 752-4880.

Saturday, August 2

Sacramento County Master Gardeners: **Harvest Day - Sacramento's Ultimate Gardening Event!**

[Fair Oaks Horticulture Center](#), 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA 95628  
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Contact: (916) 875-6913

Listen to speakers, watch demonstrations, visit educational booths, tour the gardens, sample fresh tree-fruit, grapes, and vegetables, and much more. Visit the Plant Clinic for advice. Bid on fabulous gardening-related items at the Silent Auction. Come and bring your friends to the area's premier one-day educational gardening event!

Saturday, August 9

**San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Made in the Shade**

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

It's possible to have a successful shade garden, even in our climate.

City of Stockton Delta Water Supply Project, 11373 N. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi.

Classes are free.

Class size is limited to 30. All participants must register by the Wednesday before the class by calling (209) 953-6100.

Saturday, August 16

**San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Made in the Shade**

10:30 am to 12 noon

It's possible to have a successful shade garden, even in our climate.

Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca  
Classes are free.

All participants must register a week prior to the class by calling (209) 953-6100.

Saturday, August 16

UC Davis Arboretum: **What's Up with Plants Down Under?**

10:00 a.m.

Wyatt Deck, UC Davis Arboretum (just off Arboretum Drive), UC Davis campus  
What a difference a hemisphere makes!

Explore the unusual and interesting plants in the Australian and New Zealand collection at the east end of the Arboretum.

Many of these plants grow well in our climate. The event is free. Free parking is available in the nearby Visitor Parking Lot 5. [Click here for a map of the location.](#) For more information and directions, please call (530) 752-4880.

## SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 6

Ripon Garden Club Presents "September Stroll Garden Tour"

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This year's our features four country properties and two city gardens. There will be Silent Auction and Raffatunity opportunities, and refreshments at one of the gardens. Tickets can be purchased at The Greenery in Turlock, Creative Water Gardens and P & L Garden Center in Escalon, Morris Nursery in Riverbank, Park Greenhouse, Schempers Ace hardware, and Silverado Garden Center in Ripon, Westurf Nursery in Modesto, and German Glass Works in Manteca. For further information, call (209) 599-7475.

Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under.

Saturday, September 13

**San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Art of Floral Design**

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Learn how to make beautiful floral arrangements for yourself and as gifts.

City of Stockton Delta Water Supply Project, 11373 N. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi

Classes are free.

Class size is limited to 30. All participants must register by the Wednesday before the class by calling (209) 953-6100.

Saturday, September 20

**San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Art of Floral Design**

10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Learn how to made beautiful floral arrangements for yourself and as gifts.

Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca  
Classes are free.

All participants must register a week prior to the class by calling (209) 953-6100.

Saturday, September 20

Sacramento County Master Gardeners:

**Open Garden – sponsored by E. B. Stone & Son**

[Fair Oaks Horticulture Center](#), 11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Ask questions, get advice, and take notes. Learn about cover crops, seed saving and the new pests living in our gardens. Get ideas on water-efficient lawn conversions

## Cookie Recipes from the “Lovely to Look At– Delicious to Eat” Garden Tour (Continued from page 14)

### MOOKIE (Oatmeal Cookies)

#### *Ingredients*

1 cup butter, at room temperature	1-1/2 cups brown sugar, firmly packed
2 large eggs	1 teaspoon vanilla
3 cups regular rolled oats	1 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt	1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup walnuts, chopped	1/2 cup sweetened dried shredded coconut
1/2 cup raisins (we used cranraisins, pomegranate flavored)	

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix butter and brown sugar until thoroughly blended. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Combine oats, flour, salt, and baking powder. Blend oat mixture with butter mixture. Stir in walnuts, coconut, and cranraisins. Pack cookie dough into an ice cream scoop (4 oz size) or 1/2 cup measuring cup, scrape dough level with rim, and empty onto lightly oiled baking sheets, spacing dough about 3 inches apart. Bake until cookie edges are golden brown, about 20 minutes. Cool on a rack. Serve, or store in an airtight container for up to 2 days.

Prep Time: 5 mins. Total Time: 25 mins. **Makes: 20 cookies**

### ALMOND BISCOTTI

#### *Ingredients*

1 cube butter	1 ½ cups granulated sugar
4 eggs	1 teaspoon baking powder
4 cups flour	3-6 teaspoons anise seed
1 cup dry/unsalted whole almonds	

Preheat oven to 350°. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time. Mix in baking powder and flour thoroughly. Stir in anise seeds and the almonds. Chill for at least half an hour. Divide dough into fourths and shape into loaves. On a cookie sheet, flatten dough to ½” thickness. First baking is approximately 30-35 minutes. Let loaves cool; then cut into ½” slices and bake a second time for approximately 20-25 minutes until light brown.

#### *Anita’s helpful hints:*

- \*\*\* Do not over chill dough as becomes too difficult to shape.
- \*\*\* Flour hands while shaping.
- \*\*\* Anise seed can be found in a cellophane bag in the Mexican food section.
- \*\*\* Slice using a serrated bread knife.



### UC Master Gardeners

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Web-site: <http://sjmastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>

[Find us on Facebook!](#)

Coordinator: Marcy Sousa 953-6100

For nondiscrimination policy, [click here](#)





# San Joaquin Master Gardeners 2014 Workshop Schedule

City of Stockton  
Delta Water Supply  
Project Building

## January 11: Behind the Greenhouse Door -

Creating the greenhouse that works for you.

## February 8: Veggies Gone Vintage -

Learn how to grow heirloom fruits and vegetables.

## March 8: Growing a Masterpiece Centerpiece -

From garden to vase, learn how to grow a cutting flower garden.

## April 12: Gardening For Life -

Tips and tricks to gardening in your "golden years."

## May 10: Picked at its Prime -

Ever wonder how to pick a fresh melon and the best way to store tomatoes?

## June 14: Bees Wanted -

Creating a buzz-worthy garden.

## July 12: Seed Envy -

How to collect and store seeds to use in next year's garden.

## August 9: Made in the Shade -

It is possible to have a successful shade garden, even in our climate.

## September 13: Art of Floral Design -

Learn how to make beautiful floral arrangements for yourself and as gifts.

## October 11: Gardening Tool Box -

Discover great gardening websites and resources that are available to add to your virtual tool box.

## November 8: Pruning With a Purpose -

Winter pruning chores.

## December:

No class. Happy Holidays!

## Classes will be held at the City of Stockton Delta Water Supply Project

11373 North Lower Sacramento Road • Lodi, CA 95242

Classes begin at 10:00 am and end at 11:30 am.

Class size is limited to 30. You will need to RSVP by the Wednesday before the class to attend the workshop. Please call (209) 953-6100 to guarantee your seat.





# San Joaquin Master Gardeners 2014 Workshop Schedule

Manteca Library

Time 10:30 am -12:00 pm

## January 18: Behind the Greenhouse Door -

Creating the greenhouse that works for you.

## February 15: Veggies Gone Vintage -

Learn how to grow heirloom fruits and vegetables.

## March 15: Growing a Masterpiece Centerpiece -

From garden to vase, learn how to grow a cutting flower garden.

## April 19: Gardening For Life -

Tips and tricks to gardening in your "golden years."

## May 17: Picked at its Prime -

Ever wonder how to pick a fresh melon and the best way to store tomatoes?

## June 21: Bees Wanted -

Creating a buzz-worthy garden.

## July 19: Seed Envy -

How to collect and store seeds to use in next year's garden.

## August 16: Made in the Shade -

It is possible to have a successful shade garden, even in our climate.

## September 20: Art of Floral Design -

Learn how to make beautiful floral arrangements for yourself and as gifts.

## October 18: Gardening Tool Box -

Discover great gardening websites and resources that are available to add to your virtual tool box.

## November 15: Pruning With a Purpose -

Winter pruning chores.

## December:

No class. Happy Holidays!

## Classes will be held at the Manteca Library

320 W. Center Manteca, CA 95336 • (209) 937-8221

Classes begin at 10:30 am and end at 12:00 pm.

Classes are free.

All participants must register a week prior to the class at (209) 953-6100.

