



Garden Notes

Fall 2023



Have a Gardening Question? Ask Us!



As summer's warmth fades, the garden undergoes a captivating transformation in the embrace of autumn. The lush greenery gives way to a variety of vibrant colors as leaves turn fiery red, golden yellow, and rustic orange. Fall in the garden is a time of finishing summer's harvest. It's also a time of preparation—mulching, pruning, and planting bulb for the coming spring and cool season vegetables for winter's harvest. The cooler temperatures beckon us outdoors to savor the crisp air and the soothing rustle of leaves. We hope you take the time to enjoy all that fall has to offer along with this issue of Garden Notes filled

with timely gardening information.

Cultivate Your Passion: Enroll in the 2024 Master Gardener Training Class

Have you always wanted to learn more about gardening? Would you like to have more of a science-based knowledge of gardening? Are you interested in meeting new people that have a similar interest while make a difference in the community? The San Joaquin UC Master Gardener Program might be right for you. The UC Master Gardener Program of San Joaquin County offers the opportunity to use your enthusiasm, knowledge and skills to serve the community as a volunteer. **The 2024 application deadline is Friday, October 13th.**



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Water Tips for Gardening in Very Hot Weather

This last year of unpredictable weather of up and down temps, hot and cold, some rain and dry weather, did not bode well for this gardener and maybe not for others. Global warming is a reality for gardeners and the gardening they love to do. Now is the time to think about how we can tend to our gardens in the predicted unpredictable future of warmer, wetter weather.



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Saving Seeds

One of the best things about being a gardener is the joy of seeing new plants sprout from seeds. With some planning and effort, gardeners can grow plants from seeds they've saved from their own gardens, adding another dimension to the gardening

experience. Seeds can be expensive, and some varieties are hard to find, but there are other benefits to seed saving.

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Using Cover Crops

Cover crops are crops that are put into the ground to enhance and renew the soil with nutrients and organic matter. It is used mainly in the spring and the fall, often to cover the soil rather than for a cash crop. The benefits, whether in your backyard or in a commercial garden of many acres, is that a cover crop will manage soil erosion, soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests, diseases, biological diversity, and pollinators.

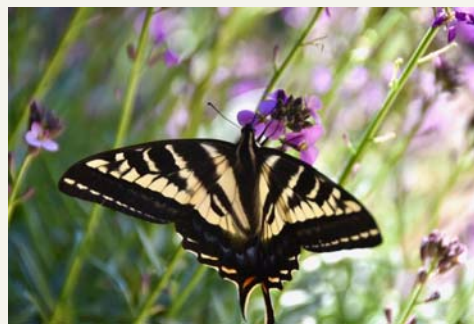
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Planting Coastal Redwoods in the Valley? Think again...

After residing amidst the awe-inspiring Coastal Redwood trees (*Sequoia sempervirens*) for a remarkable 3½ years, I recently returned to the valley.

To my surprise, I discovered a significant presence of redwoods in my neighborhood, with my backyard neighbor boasting three of these magnificent trees lining the back fence. The trees were planted in late 1980 and the largest tree is more than 150 feet tall. I've noticed that these



Where do Butterflies go in the Winter?

From the Stanislaus UC Master Gardeners

As the long, hot days of summer slide into cooler, shorter days of autumn, seasonal changes are occurring in my garden. Not as many plants are blooming, the leaves on deciduous trees and plants are becoming drier and starting to change color. Some plants are producing autumn berries that will sustain many birds as insects, another source of food, begin to disappear. With the advent of winter, butterflies disappear since they cannot

trees appear to be under stress, and their presence has become somewhat of a nuisance.

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tolerate temperatures below 55°F or rainy weather. So, what happens to butterflies in the winter???

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Fall Garden Chores

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Plants of the Season

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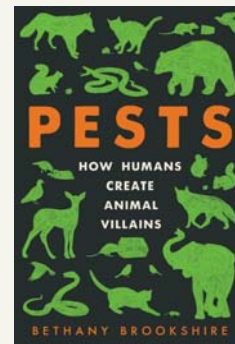
Pests of the Season

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Gifts From the Garden Pressing Flowers

Saving and preserving your garden flowers is a great way to enjoy them for years to come. Pressing flowers is one way to do that. Anytime during the growing season is the perfect time to pick your favorite flowers and press them, readying them for application to crafts to make beautiful creations and special gifts. Late morning is the best time to pick your flowers. Make sure it is after the morning dew has dried. If there is any water on the flowers, they will potentially rot or mold.



Growing Knowledge “Pests: How Humans Create Animal Villains”

The chapters in this book cover a wide range of animals that the reader may or may not consider a pest. From the introduction where Ms. Brookshire explores the idea of what a pest might be through chapters that explore the domesticity, urban compatibility, and natural tendencies of animals/pests like rats, snakes, mice, pigeons, elephants, cats, coyotes, sparrows, deer, and bears, the reader is consistently challenged to think about

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what constitutes a pest.

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Community Connections The San Joaquin County UC Cooperative Extension

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Horticultural Terms "Bacciferous"

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A Taste of the Season Recipes from the Garden

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Help Desk What's Best for Seniors to Plant?

Cool season annuals that bloom fall through spring are a good choice to plant in early fall so they get established and start blooming before the weather turns cold. Keep in mind that winter can bring on feelings that can pull down our spirits, especially as seniors. Looking out at colorful annuals that thrive in the cool and inclement weather can really lift our spirits and dispel the dreary feelings that winter can bring.



Herb Study Chillis

Recently our MG Herb Study group met and reviewed chili peppers. Do you know if chili peppers are a fruits or vegetable? Botanically speaking, chili peppers are a fruit but they are often prepared and eaten like a vegetable. Then, drying chilis and grinding them into flakes or powder makes them also a spice!



Master Food Preservers Butternut Squash and Pear Soup

What better way to embrace the arrival of fall than with a comforting bowl of Butternut Squash and Pear Soup? The harmonious fusion of velvety butternut squash and the natural sweetness of Bartlett pears is simply irresistible, leaving your taste buds yearning for each spoonful. We take the extra step of preparing multiple batches, freezing them to savor on

those upcoming cold
and damp days.

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Find us on Social Media!

The San Joaquin County UC Master Gardeners have several social media pages. Find us on our [Facebook page](#), Instagram @sj_mastergardeners, [Pinterest](#), Twitter @UCsanjoaquinMgs and our [YouTube page](#).

Have a Gardening Question? Ask Us!

Master Gardener Helpline: 209-953-6112

E-mail: anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu

Website: ucanr.edu.sjmg

The helpline office is open Tuesday-Thursday from
9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Find past editions of our newsletter here.



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