



Garden Notes

Winter 2024



Have a Gardening Question? Ask Us!

"Anyone who thinks gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream."
Josephine Nuese



Wyevale
garden
centres

As the New Year unfolds, it's the perfect time to set fresh goals for your garden. What are your aspirations for the coming seasons? Perhaps you are going to try growing a new summer vegetable. Maybe you want to learn how to keep your houseplants alive. Will this be the year you start a garden journal? Whatever your goals may be, I think you will find this issue of Garden Notes packed with valuable insights, seasonal wisdom, and firsthand experiences. Cheers to new beginnings, green aspirations, and a thriving garden ahead.

~ Happy Gardening ~
Marcy Sousa, Program Coordinator

FLAVOR: It's Sensory Perception

Winter is a season of flavorful bursts. The dinner to warm and nourish, a breakfast of eggs plucked from perhaps your own hens' laying boxes, dishes prepared with carefully preserved vegetables and fruits (talking about YOU, Master Food Preservers!) Although we tend to use the words 'taste' and 'flavor' interchangeably, FLAVOR is composed of all our senses: taste, smell, touch, sound, and sight. And, of these, the smell of food is the captain that steers the ship of Flavor perception.



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Lifelong Gardening

Gardening requires many physical tasks that can be challenging for those with physical limitations. As we age, we may have problems such as impaired balance, slower reaction time, limited mobility, decreased muscle strength, reduced vision and depth perception, chronic pain, and reduced endurance. Even young people can have disabilities or diseases that restrict gardening activities. But with planning and modification, less spry bodies can still enjoy gardening.



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The Color of Leaves

Have you ever wondered what makes tree leaves change color during fall? Many people believe that frost is responsible for the change in colors, but frost has little to do with it. Many times, leaves change color before the first hint of frost. Autumnal leaves in vibrant hues are a beautiful part of the season, but those leaves are also vital to keeping trees alive. Trees that have leaves that change color in fall are deciduous.

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Egg-cellent Gardens: Cultivating Success with Backyard Chickens

More and more home gardeners are discovering the joys of raising backyard chickens. Beyond the delight of harvesting fresh eggs at your doorstep, there's an added bonus – top-notch fertilizer for your garden. However, to harness this natural boon without risking your plants, it's crucial to adhere to a few essential guidelines. For optimal results, follow these guidelines closely:

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Garden Tool Maintenance From the Alameda UC Master Gardeners

It may seem counter-intuitive to clean a tool that will get dirty again. But proper tool care starts with cleaning and maintenance. The routine ensures your garden tools maintain the correct working order and will last you for seasons. Winter time is an excellent opportunity to prepare your tools for spring. This guide covers everything you need to know to clean and maintain the typical gardening tools.

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Winter 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. Gather dried pods, seed heads, dried flowers, herb stems, and even weed plumes. Also, Oak galls, acorns, and pinecones are some more of nature's gifts. If you have a grape plant, cut the vines and wind them into a circle to form a wreath. Weave the vine to help hold it in place or use jute or wire to secure it tight.

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Growing Knowledge "Online Learning"

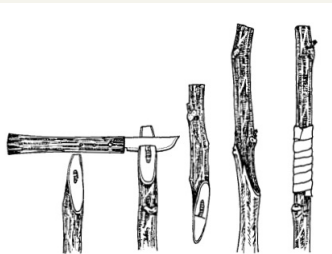
What might you do to gain gardening knowledge? Congratulations! You are doing it! 65% of people prefer visual information, so reading helps most of us. Apart from learning new things, reading activates our cognitive brain functioning and staves off decline. We become changed people. Some of the best aspects of learning can be to view it as a journey, becoming surprised by the joy of the serendipitous discoveries along the way.

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Community Connections Urban Forestry in the city of Tracy

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Horticultural Terms "Grafting"

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A Taste of the Season Recipes from the Garden

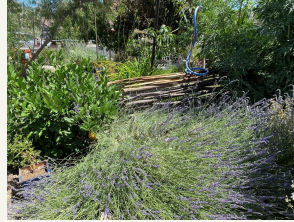
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Help Desk Taking Care of Citrus

We are fortunate to be able to grow a variety of citrus trees in our area. Because they are subtropical plants, the first consideration is to choose a site that is sunny, warm, and protected from wind in well-drained soil.

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Herb Study Why Grow Herbs?

Herbs thrive when you place them within the friendly confines of companion plants which protect them from harsh environmental elements while the herbs reciprocate with repulsion of pests and attraction of beneficials.

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Master Food Preservers Super Bowl Food Safety Tips

The Super Bowl is a time of excitement, camaraderie, and of course, indulging in delicious snacks and meals. As you gear up for the big game, it's crucial to prioritize food safety to ensure that your Super Bowl party is not only enjoyable but also free from potential health risks.

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

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