



Garden Notes

Spring 2024

April~May~June



Have a Gardening Question? Ask Us!



Welcome to our Spring Gardening Newsletter, where buds of inspiration blossom into vibrant blooms of knowledge! As nature awakens, so does our passion for cultivating thriving gardens. From tips on creating a night garden to understanding your microclimates, we're here to guide you through the verdant journey of springtime gardening. Let's sow the seeds of a bountiful season together!

~ Happy Gardening ~
Marcy Sousa, Program Coordinator

New Article!



Here comes the sun: what gardeners should know about it

With respect to gardens, our sun is far more than a “mass of incandescent gas” (a phrase borrowed from the song “Why Does the Sun Shine?” by the group They Might Be Giants); the radiation from our nearby star literally powers the engine of plant growth. Sunlight is the fuel that allows plants to convert water and carbon dioxide gas into glucose—a type of sugar—and oxygen—a vital component of the air we breathe. It's a miracle of nature. Sunlight and plant health are closely intertwined, so here are some things to consider during your spring planting and gardening chores.

[Find Out More](#)

Plant, Pick, Prep, and Plate 'em Up!

Yep, we're talking about vegetables and fruits and the joy of homegrown food. Read on about vegetarian eating, getting the kids on the veggie train, a bit of food history, and recipes—some tried and deemed true by kids themselves. Children are enticed by the color, texture, scent and “magic” of homegrown vegetables and fruit. Get them involved when they're young and you'll send them into the future with healthy eating habits.



[Find Out More](#)

Your Garden at Night

When do you most love to be in your garden? A spring or summer morning comes to mind, or maybe a fall afternoon. Most gardeners spend plenty of time in the garden during the day; by observing as they tend to the plants, they are well aware of soil

conditions, sunlight patterns, and microclimates, as well as the various creatures that inhabit the space. But what is going on in your garden at night? Maybe it's a bit of a mystery. Investigating that can add another dimension to your gardening.

[Find Out More](#)



Understanding Your Planting Zone and Microclimates

As spring unfurls its vibrant tapestry, local nurseries beckon with a kaleidoscope of colors, inspiring garden enthusiasts to bring life to their landscapes. However, successful gardening is not just about choosing aesthetically pleasing plants; it requires a deep understanding of your planting zone and the nuanced world of microclimates. This comprehensive guide aims to delve into the intricacies of these two critical elements, providing insights into plant selection, optimal growing conditions, and landscaping success.

[Find Out More](#)



Need Help Identifying Weeds?

After all the winter rains you may find yourself dealing with weeds and struggling to control them. The first step in successfully controlling weeds is knowing what weed you have. Well, you're in luck: the UC IPM website contains many useful resources to help you identify and manage weeds in



The Importance of Thinning Fruit

Thinning prevents overbearing and early fruit drop. It helps improve the remaining fruit sizes, color, and quality, as well as aids to avoid limb damage from a heavy fruit load. Moreover, it stimulates the next year's crop and helps prevent biannual bearing. The best time for thinning fruit trees is after pollination occurs and

the garden or landscape. A great place to start is the UC IPM [Weed Gallery](#), which contains images and identification tips for more than 150 common weeds.

[Find Out More](#)

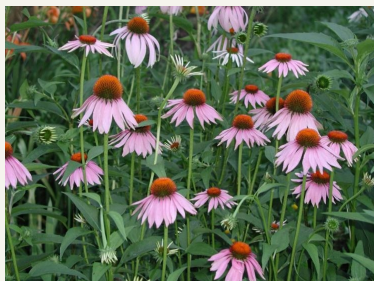
early stages of fruit development start to show, usually before fruit exceeds an inch in diameter. Fruit trees thinned out later than this lessen the chance that fruit size will increase.

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Spring Garden Chores

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Plants of the Season

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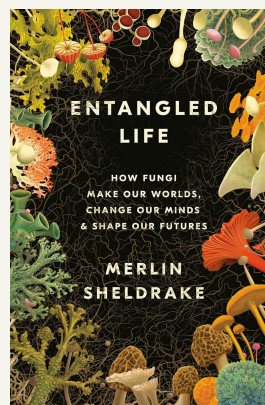
Pests of the Season

[Find Out More](#)



Gifts From the Garden Garden Markers

Garden markers can be made using upcycled items; they are a perfect way to label plants and can also be a decorative accent for the garden. Here are some ideas, a list of items to use, and methods to create pieces for vegetable, herb, and flower gardens. Using repurposed items will give your garden a unique look and the items will gain a new purpose in the garden.

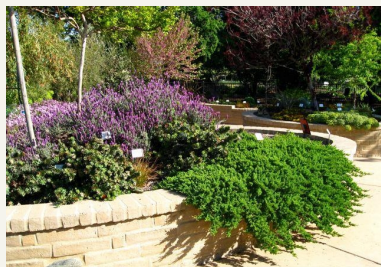


Growing Knowledge “Entangled Life”

Fungus is a mystery that may be “good” or “bad” depending on your outlook. It grows, it spreads, it helps, it destroys. Even though it is often seen and discussed with a pejorative outlook, it might be helping us more than we realize.

[Find Out More](#)

[Find Out More](#)



**Community Connections
Native Plant Gardens to
Visit for Inspiration**

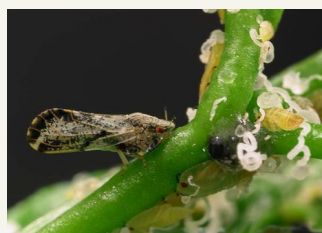
**Horticultural Terms
"Fruit"**

**A Taste of the Season
Recipes from the Garden**

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**Help Desk
Asian Citrus Psyllid**

I have heard of a disease that has devastated citrus in Florida. Is it in California, and if so, how can we protect the citrus trees in our yard?

The disease you are referring to is called Huanglongbing—HLB for short—or citrus greening disease.

[Find Out More](#)



**Herb Study
Agave: A Worthy
Herb**

Agave is quite the herb to incorporate into your gardens, landscapes, or farms. "What?" you ask.

That's right, it survives in poor soils (although it does need good drainage), it seldom suffers from nutrient deficiencies, and it is drought tolerant and frost tolerant (for the most part).

[Find Out More](#)



**Master Food Preservers
Jams, Jellies and
Marmalades...Oh
My!**

As spring breathes new life into orchards and gardens, it's the perfect time to harness the abundance of fresh fruits for homemade jams and jellies. Have you ever wondered what sets jams and jellies apart? What is a conserve? Marmalade?!

[Find Out More](#)



Find us on Social Media!

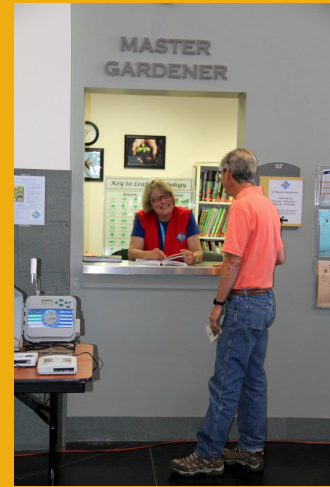
The San Joaquin County UC Master Gardeners have several social media pages. Find us on our [Facebook page](#), Instagram @sj_mastergardeners, [Pinterest](#), Twitter @UCsanjoaquinMgs and our [YouTube page](#).

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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