



Garden Notes

Summer 2024

July~August~September



Congratulations Class of 2024!

Have a Gardening Question? Ask Us!



Welcome to our summer gardening newsletter! The season of sunshine and growth is upon us! This summer, we celebrate not only the beauty of our gardens in full bloom but also the remarkable achievement of our newest graduating Master Gardener class. Congratulations to these dedicated individuals whose hard work and commitment to horticultural excellence inspire us all.

~ Happy Gardening ~

Marcy Sousa, Program Coordinator

The Champions Behind
the 20-Year-Old UC Davis
Arboretum All-Stars



Ellen Zagory was Director of Horticulture of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Gardens, fondly referred to as the Arb, when the Arboretum All-Stars plant list came to be created in the early 2000s.

According to Ellen, “In order to create the list that ended up as our top 100 All-Stars, we developed strict criteria for selecting plants. We wanted plants that first and foremost needed very little water. They had to be attractive, easy for both beginning and advanced gardeners to grow, and have few problems with pests or diseases...

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Transforming Your Landscape: A Journey of Inspiration, Challenges, and Success

Are you dreaming of a front yard transformation? Are you eager to embrace water-conscious landscaping and bid farewell to your traditional lawn? If so, you're in good company! Like many homeowners, I found myself yearning for a fresh start for my front and backyard landscapes. After embarking on this journey and completing my own project, I'm excited to share my experiences with you. Join me as I guide you through each step of the process, offering insights and updates in every seasonal newsletter over the next year. Let's embark on this transformative journey together!



Before



After

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How Much Water Do My Plants Need This Summer?

The classic answer is, “It depends.” Some of the variables to consider are soil texture and structure, plant choice, season, weather, amount of sunlight and wind, and how well

established the plant is. With so many variables, the answer to this question is not simple. The appearance of a plant can suggest a water deficit, but appearance alone is not a reliable indicator of water needs.

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UC IPM Invasive Pest Spotlight: Pampasgrass & Jubatagrass

Pampasgrass (*Cortaderia selloana*) is a common ornamental landscape plant that readily naturalizes throughout California's coastal areas and some interior regions. Historically, pampasgrass was planted for erosion control, but it has since escaped cultivation and spread along sandy, moist ditch banks throughout coastal regions of southern California. Pampasgrass can also grow in the hot, dry climate of inland areas of California.

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Bring on the Tomatoes! 5 Common Tomato Problems and Solutions

Almost any home gardener will tell you that one of the most versatile and rewarding plants to grow in a summer edible garden is a tomato. In fact, a 2023 study by the National Gardening Association revealed that 86 percent of gardeners grow tomatoes. If tomato yields aren't what was expected, or the fruit is damaged, it could be due to a number of abiotic disorders, diseases or pesky pests. Abiotic disorders result from non-living causes and are often environmental.

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Summer Garden Chores

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Plants of the Season

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Pests of the Season

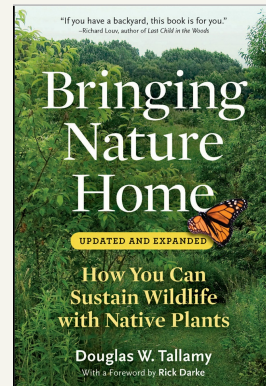
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Gifts From the Garden Early summer Harvest

Being out and about in the cool, morning summer air can be a great source of joy and surprise as we encounter sudden beauty in our gardens. The slow-to-ripen strawberries and cherries suddenly are ripe all at once. Landscape flowers seemingly out of nowhere are in full bloom. Early summer's harvest brings savory cooking herbs, onions, and garlic to the table, as well as early potatoes and the last of the winter lettuce...

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Growing Knowledge "Success with Natives"

Author Doug Tallamy makes a convincing case for using native plants in backyard gardens to increase habitat for insects, birds, and other fauna. Collectively, our gardens can not only be an enjoyable way to spend time outdoors, appreciate the beauty and diversity of plants, and enjoy exercise and fresh air, but they can also contribute to a rich and healthy ecosystem that enhances our sense of place.

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UC Bug Squad "The Water Girls" Bees need water too!

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Horticultural Terms "Elaiosome"

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A Taste of the Season Recipes from the Garden

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Help Desk Curling Roses

A few of my rose bloom stems have curled downward and I wonder what causes this?

This is not an uncommon phenomenon to see in the rose garden and is usually caused by a pest, the raspberry horntail, *Hartigia cressoni*. Rose cane tips wilt, droop, discolor and die back.

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Herb Study Artemisia

The plant family Asteraceae contains over 32,000 distinct species of flowering plants that sport the traits known best as herbal: edible (or toxic) parts, aromatic leaves and flowers, and historical culinary, medicinal, and ornamental use with economic value derived from its uses.

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Master Food Preservers Summer BBQ Sauces

There's something magical about the long, sun-soaked days of summer that calls for gatherings around the grill, laughter filling the air, and the irresistible aroma of barbecue wafting through the breeze. This season, elevate your cookouts with a personal touch by crafting your own summer BBQ sauce.

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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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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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