



Fall 2024 Garden Notes

October~November~December

Have a Gardening Question? Ask Us!



As the crisp autumn air settles in, it's the perfect time to embrace the beauty and bounty of the fall garden season. Whether you're harvesting the last of your summer crops or preparing your beds for cool-weather plants, this season offers endless opportunities for growth and transformation.

Our Master Gardeners are hard at work planning activities for next year. Plus, you can find us at several fall events throughout the community. Be sure to stop by and say hello—we'd love to chat about all things gardening!

~ Happy Gardening ~

Marcy Sousa, Program Coordinator



The Value of Oaks

Wherever you go in California, you are likely to see oak trees. They are so common that we might take them for granted, but once we learn about the extensive contributions they make to wildlife, people, and our environment, it's hard to look at them in the same way. As gardeners know, learning about plants and observing them closely allows us to truly see and appreciate their distinct features and characteristics, making them seem more like valued friends than simply an indistinguishable green backdrop.

Find Out More



Transforming Your Landscape: A Journey of Inspiration, Challenges, and Success Part 2

Watching the transformation of my front landscape over the past six months has been nothing short of exhilarating. Despite the challenges of an exceptionally hot summer, the plants have thrived, slowly acclimating to their new environment. This success underscores the wisdom behind the Master Gardeners' mantra: "Right Plant, Right Place." Each plant's resilience is a testament to thoughtful selection as well as careful placement and cultural care. Follow along with me in this article as I share my simple, weekly, 15-minute maintenance routine, summer pruning benefits for select plants, and the significant benefits of choosing the right irrigation controller. I'll also showcase some of the plants I have chosen for my landscape.

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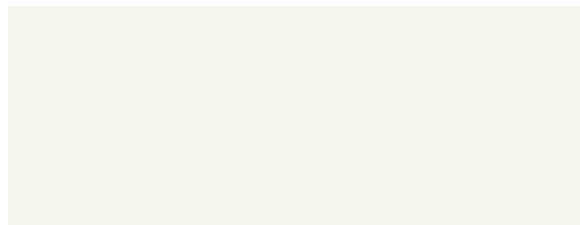
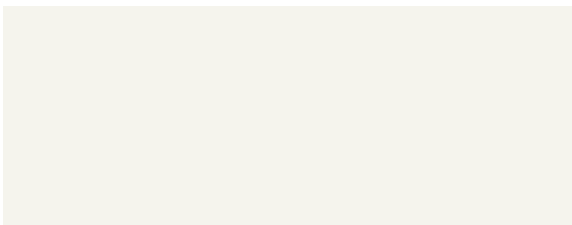
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The UC Master Gardener - and the Public - as IPM Ambassadors

An effective UC Master Gardener volunteer should see themselves first as a gardener, then a student, as well as a teacher, a storyteller, and finally, a defender of our shared California waterways and clean air. By learning and practicing the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies yourself, you too can become an ambassador by modeling, teaching, and educating your community, and hopefully, improving the water and air quality of your community.



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UC Statewide IPM Project
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UC IPM Mixed up too much of a pesticide? Now what?

You bought a pesticide product that needs to be mixed with water before applying. Did you accidentally mix up too much and now have leftover pesticide? What should you do with it? Leftover pesticides should never be poured down the drain, including indoor drains, outdoor drains, or gutters/storm drains. Pesticides should also never be burned, buried, or dumped on the ground as a means of disposal.

[Find Out More](#)



Going Native - A History

There are lots of reasons to include native plants in your garden. But do you know when the native plant movement began in California and why the use of native plants is so important? Theodore Payne (1872-1963) is generally considered the father of the native plant movement in California. Mr. Payne was born in England and arrived in New York on June 10, 1893. By July, he had made his way to Southern California where he spent the rest of his life promoting the virtues of California's native plants.

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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 Make a Scarecrow!

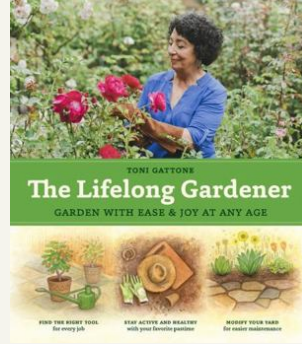
Clay pots aren't just for growing your plants anymore. With some creativity and craft supplies, they can be transformed into fun home and garden decorations.

Creative and endless ideas can be found on the internet, many with how-to tutorials. Fall is a favorite time of year to create seasonal decorations using pots. Scarecrows are a familiar sight to see as fall approaches.

Scarecrows were originally made to help farmers protect their fields from hungry birds that ravaged their crops.

Today, they add whimsy to home gardens and are cute decorations for the home.

[Find Out More](#)



Growing Knowledge "The Lifelong Gardener"

The Lifelong Gardener, by Toni Gattone, offers lots of practical information on gardening as we age. The author is retired from the garden manufacturing industry with four decades of experience. She is also a certified UC Master Gardener in Marin County, CA, with 15 years' experience and one "bad back."

The Lifelong Gardener is organized into three sections: 1) Your Body, 2) Your Garden, and 3) Your Tools. The book is quite readable with many photos, graphs, checklists, and illustrations. It is sprinkled with insightful adages from the likes of Dalai Lama, Mark Twain and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

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UC Bug Squad
"Tiny Bug, Big Problem, Great Science" Spotted-wing drosophila

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Horticultural Terms
"Epizoochory"

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A Taste of the Season
Recipes from the Garden

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Help Desk Fruit Trees

I am buying some fruit trees this fall for a small backyard orchard. What trees are best to buy and how do I prune the trees to get them started correctly?

To start out your orchard trees properly, it is important to prune them after planting. For most semi-dwarf or standard trees, they need to be pruned with a heading cut to start them on their way correctly.

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Herb Study Caraway

Caraway is a biennial plant of the family Apiaceae, or Umbelliferae, which also includes celery, carrot, parsnips, fennel, parsley, and other fragrant flowering plants. Carum carvi is the only caraway under cultivation. Caraway is usually grown from seed, giving rise to an herbaceous plant with thin stalks and fine leaves in its first year.

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Master Food Preservers 2025 Training

Are you passionate about preserving food? Do you love the idea of teaching others how to do the same? If you've got a volunteer spirit and enjoy working with a community of like-minded enthusiasts, the UC Master Food Preserver Program might be your next adventure!

We're looking for individuals who want to help spread knowledge about home food preservation and food safety.

[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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