

### San Joaquin County Master Gardeners

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## Program Spotlight

Marcy Sousa, Master Gardener Coordinator

Our Master Gardeners just hosted a very successful Smart Gardening Conference on September 24. We had over 100 people attend and had multiple breakout sessions throughout the day. Topics covered included lawn alternatives; watering wisely; responsible pest control; nurturing the soil; less to the landfill; right plant right place; and bees, butterflies and beneficials. Master Gardeners worked hard on informational booths that were open during lunch that covered additional gardening topics like mulch and CA natives. Kelloggs Garden Products, Public Works Solid Waste Dept, Delta College Horticulture Dept, and City Water agencies joined us for our lunch displays. We anticipate this being an annual event and look forward to organizing the 2012 Smart Gardening Conference.



IPM display booth

We have also been busy developing our workshops for next year. Public workshops will be held again the second Saturday of the month at the San Joaquin Historical Museum (Micke Grove) and on the third Saturday at the Manteca Library. The schedule should be released within the next couple of weeks. Look for some hands-on classes like Basic Rose Pruning!

San Joaquin Master Gardeners are making plans for a spring garden tour and we are looking for gardens in the Central Stockton area to showcase smart gardening practices such as lawn alternatives, drought-tolerant landscaping, and other sustainable practices. Call us if you have a garden that can be offered. Call 209-953-6112.

## Seed Saving for Fun and ... Well... Whatever! (Part 2)

Lee Miller, Master Gardener

In Part 1 in the last Newsletter, I discussed some of the easier seed-saving techniques used with self-pollinating vegetables like tomatoes and lettuce, as well as how to deal with some that cross-pollinate like carrots. In this article



we will move on to more complicated seed-saving techniques, but first let's look at some storage techniques for increasing seed longevity.

Moisture is as much the culprit in the long-term decline in seed germination as is storage temperature. Storing seeds at low humidity and low temperatures is good. A good rule of thumb is to keep the sum of relative humidity and temperature (F°) below 100. Hence containers should be airtight if possible. A Ziploc bag inside of an air-tight container

will work best. Most of us are not running a seed bank, but those that do, dry seeds to a

# Garden Chores Calendar

Sue Davis, Master Gardener

## October

Fall is the time of year when gardening is all about getting ready for next year. The things you accomplish in your garden before winter will make spring gardening much easier.

### Planting:

**Bulbs:** For spring color, naturalize daffodils, tulips and crocus in sunny areas by broadcasting the bulbs and planting them where they lay. Other bulbs that add spring beauty include Dutch iris, freesia, ranunculus, narcissus, and hyacinth. Plant bulbs in a hole 3 times the height of the bulb with a little compost and bone meal at the bottom. Bulbs planted in containers now will bloom for indoor color during the holidays.



Tulip Bulbs

**Flowers:** Use cool-season annuals (violets, calendulas, stock, Iceland poppies and snapdragons) over bulbs to provide color before and after bulbs bloom. Sow wildflower beds in sunny areas for a riot of color in the spring. California poppies are spectacular in any wildflower mix.

**Trees, Shrubs & Perennials:** This is a good time to plant new trees, shrubs and perennials to get them established in the cooler days of fall. Exceptions are frost-tender plants such as citrus, bougainvillea and mandevilla which are best planted in spring.

**Vegetables:** Radishes, spinach, lettuce, peas, beets, cauliflower, chard, kale, leeks and fava beans can still be planted in areas that get at least six hours of sunlight. Broccoli sprayed with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a naturally occurring caterpillar biocide, defeats an infestation of Imported Cabbage Moth. Onion sets and garlic are good choices for fall planting. Planting garlic and onions through newspapers will help keep down weeds and make weeding easier. Break garlic bulbs into individual cloves and set them, base down, in rich, well-drained soil. Cover regular garlic with 1 – 2 inches of soil. Cover elephant garlic with 4-6 inches of soil. Press the soil down firmly and water well. Continue to irrigate until winter rains keep the soil moist.



Broccoli Plants

### Maintenance:

Houseplants that were growing outside should be prepared to be brought back inside. Gather in a shady place, look for signs of insects, and prune and repot any that may need it. Leave in

the shade a few days to get them used to lower light.

Pull weeds and clean up your summer vegetable garden. Plant a [cover crop](#) of clover, bell beans, fava beans, or vetch to add nitrogen for next year.

The debris from all of these clean-up projects can be added to your [compost](#) bin.

If perennials such as daylilies, Shasta daisies, and agapanthus have become crowded, dig each clump with a spading fork so the root ball comes up intact, then use a spade or sharp knife to divide them (each division should have plenty of leaves and roots).

Protect rhododendron and azalea roots during winter by adding 2 or 3 inches of mulch at the base of each plant.

Your lawn may need to be aerated and/or thatched. This is a good time to plant and fertilize lawns. UC Davis has good information on lawns at [this site](#):

Clean and disinfect all of your gardening tools. Have pruners, mower blades and shears sharpened now so they will be ready for winter pruning and spring use. Disinfect using a 10:1 solution of water and bleach.

### Pest Control

Fall weather brings on [snails](#). Pick them off plants and discard, surround the edges of post and raised beds with copper barrier tape, or apply iron phosphate which is a bait that is safe to use around edibles, children, pets, and wildlife.



[Tomato hornworms](#) are going into hibernation in the soil beneath tomato plants. Dig down about 4 inches and discard their cocoons which resemble 2 inch long reddish footballs.

[Source: Sunset web-site](#)

## November

### Planting

Put in transplants after a light rain during calm conditions to make digging easier and help roots with hydration. Plant seeds just before a light rain on a calm day.

Get cool-season annual starts (Iceland poppies, pansies, primroses, snapdragons, stock or viola) in by mid-month so they become well established before the cool weather sets in. Or, plant baby blue eyes, forget-me nots, sweet alyssum, sweet peas and spring wildflowers directly from seed.

# Internet Resources for “Growing Young Gardeners”

Lynne and Bill Gowdy, Master Gardeners

Autumn provides young gardeners with an abundance of opportunities for new and exciting garden-related activities including planting, harvesting, arts, crafts, decorating ideas and garden gifts for Holiday giving. The activities listed on the websites below are just a starting point to spark interest and generate ideas. Information on each topic is provided to get you started. Then just click the links for site access for activities, instructions, images, resources and additional web links.

“The Bulb Project” website has many flowering bulb activities. Bulbs are not dormant. They are living plants and lead to successful blooming gardens with just a little guidance from adults. “The Bulb Project” provides excellent instructions and videos for both Paperwhites and Amaryllis.

The “Disney Family Fun” website is huge and filled with fantastic activities including crafts, recipes and holiday projects that will delight kids of all ages.

The “Kids Gardening – Helping Young Minds Grow” website features novel ideas for Creative Containers with special appeal for kids. This container gardening site can be adapted to any season of the year.

Finally, the link to “Kids Gardening Resources – Children’s Books” has a wonderful collection of children’s literature that features every kind of gardening activity imaginable. These books can be enjoyed and cherished during every season of the year and make wonderful holiday gifts.



Make the most of your time together with your young gardeners. Use these resources as a beginning point for explorations on gardening activities. The Internet sites below are just the beginning.

Click the links below and enjoy using these sites to explore a limitless number of exciting resources. With guidance and support, you can help your young gardener grow and learn the joys and rewards of gardening.

Remember, the Internet should always be used with adult supervision. It is always best to preview each site and become familiar with it before introducing them to children.

Enjoy!

<a href="#">The Bulb Project</a>
<a href="#">Force Paperwhites</a>
<a href="#">P. Allen Smith (video on Growing Paperwhites and Amaryllis Indoors)</a>
<a href="#">Grow Bulbs in Winter – The Bulb Project</a>
<a href="#">The Bulb Project – Digital Photo Collage, Build a Bulb Labyrinth, The Human Camera</a>
<a href="#">The Bulb Project – Tough Tools for Tiny Hands, From Little Acorns...”, Tender Care for Turf</a>
<a href="#">Disney FamilyFun – Fall Crafts</a>
<a href="#">Disney FamilyFun -- Halloween</a>
<a href="#">Disney FamilyFun -- Halloween Yard Crafts</a>
<a href="#">Disney FamilyFun – Thanksgiving Crafts</a>
<a href="#">Disney FamilyFun – Winter Crafts</a>
<a href="#">Gardening with Creative Containers</a>
<a href="#">Awesome Activities for Autumn</a>
<a href="#">Kids Gardening Resources – Children’s Books</a>

[Home](#)

## Pests and Plants of the Season

by Marcy Sousa and Adrian Anthony

You can click on any of the blue underlined words in any of the articles to go to a web-page and learn more about that topic!



UC Statewide IPM Project  
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When severe, the disease can reduce fruit production substantially. Although this occurs during bloom time, preventative treatment should take place when all the leaves have fallen off the tree. For more info [click here](#).

## Oriental Fruit Fly

This quarter's pest is the Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF) (*Bactrocera dorsalis*). You might have heard about the OFF in the news or in public service announcements regarding quarantines in the Stockton area. The adult Oriental fruit fly is somewhat larger than a housefly, about 8 mm in length. The body color is variable but generally bright yellow with a dark "T" shaped marking on the abdomen. The wings are clear. The female has a pointed slender ovipositor to deposit eggs under the skin of host fruit.

**Hosts and Damage:** In excess of 230 fruits and vegetables are on the quarantine list. Fruit that has been attacked may be unfit to eat as larvae tunnel through the fruit as they feed. Decay organisms enter, leaving the interior of the fruit a rotten mass. Following the principles of integrated pest management, CDFA uses "male attractant" treatment as the mainstay of its eradication measures for this pest. On and near properties where flies have been detected, additional measures include removal of host fruits and vegetables, fruit cutting to detect any fly larvae that may be present, and treatment of host trees and plants with the organic-approved material spinosad.

"This quarantine includes both farms and residential properties, so all of us must work together to carry out an effective program," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "We urge home gardeners to comply with these measures by consuming homegrown produce at home and not moving it from the property. Your cooperation will protect your fellow gardeners and help ensure that the infestation will not spread to nearby areas where it could affect California's food supply."

For more information visit the following web-sites:

[CDFA Press Release including quarantine maps](#)

[USDA Hungry Pest Site](#)

[CDFA Pest Info](#)



## Peach Leaf Curl & Sowthistle

**Peach leaf curl**, also known as leaf curl, is a disease caused by the fungus *Taphrina deformans*. It affects the blossoms, fruit, leaves, and shoots of peaches, ornamental flowering peaches, and nectarines, and is one of the most common disease problems for backyard gardeners growing these trees. The distorted, reddened foliage that it causes is easily seen in spring.

**Sowthistles** Scientific name: *Sonchus* spp.  
(Sunflower Family: Asteraceae)

Sowthistles are among the most common weeds in farms and gardens in spring. They can be seen at any time of the year in mild climates, but commonly germinate from late fall to early spring with the highest numbers of mature plants present in spring and early summer. Flowers are yellow and mature into fluffy white seed heads. For more info, [click here](#).



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## Cyclamen and Winter Jasmine - Shrub and flower of the quarter

**SHRUB: Winter jasmine**  
(*Jasminum nudiflorum*)

**PLANT IDENTIFICATION:**

A rambling and deciduous vine-like shrub with 1" six-petaled trumpeted yellow flowers which bloom in winter, November through March.

Flowers start blooming at the base of the stems and slowly bloom up the stems, before the leaves unfurl. The blossoms have no fragrance, but the bees love them. Leaves are bright green and glossy and pinnately divided into 3 oblong leaflets. Mature size is up to 10 feet wide and tall, if supported on a trellis or arbor, otherwise it grows in a weeping form and may be pruned to shape as a shrub or hedge.

**OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:**

Full sun in fertile, well-drained soil, for best blossoms. No serious pest or disease problems. Prune after flowering, to clean out old wood and tidy plant. Every 5 to 6 years, rejuvenate the shrub by cutting it down to within 6 inches of the soil.

For more information including common pests [click here](#).

Visit the [Sunset Plant Finder](#) to read more about this plant.



**PERENNIAL: Cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*)**

**PLANT IDENTIFICATION:**

Cyclamen grow from tubers that are round and rather flat. They flower in autumn, winter or spring, and go into a leafless or near-leafless dormant period in the summer. They typically have heart or kidney-shaped dark green leaves, often with silvery mottling. Flower colors include crimson, red, salmon and white. Used as a potted plant or for bedding.

**OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:**

Plant in part shade in the central valley to avoid leaf burn. All cyclamen grow best in fairly rich, porous soil with lots of humus.

Cyclamen prefer to receive a good soaking, then dry out partially before receiving a good soaking again. Wait until the soil surface feels dry before you water, but don't wait until the plant becomes limp. Do not water the center of the plant or the tuber may rot. They go dormant during the summer months, at which point water should be minimized. When new leaves start to grow in the fall, water the soil thoroughly. Pinch off spent flowers and dead leaves to keep tidy.



For more information on growing Cyclamen [click here](#). Visit the [Sunset Plant Finder](#) to read more about this plant.

## Liquidambar - Tree of the Quarter



**TREE: Liquidambar, American Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)**  
Family Hamamelidaceae (Witch hazel family)

**PLANT IDENTIFICATION:**

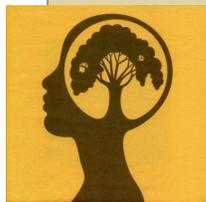
Liquidambar species are deciduous trees and grow from 25 to 60 feet. Young and middle-aged trees are generally upright, somewhat cone shaped; older ones have a more spreading habit. Lobed, maple-like leaves. Valuable for form, foliage, and brilliant fall foliage in many colors, depending on variety. Trees have spiny pods that hang through the winter and drop in the spring.

**OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:**

They prefer full sun and accept a range of soil conditions. Although they are tolerant of lawn water conditions, Liquidambar does best as a street tree; it forms surface roots that can be annoying in lawns. Additional water is favorable during hot or windy conditions. Prune to train central leader when young. Disease and pest resistant.

For more information on Liquidambar including common pests [click here](#). Visit the [Sunset Plant Finder](#) to read more about this plant.

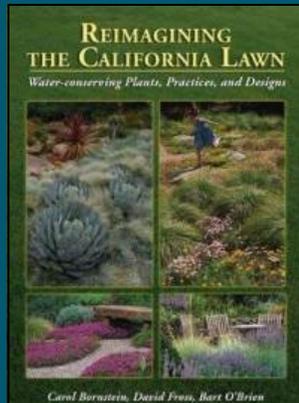




## Growing Knowledge

### Useful and interesting books

Susan Price, Master Gardener



*The average Central Californian use 135 gallons per person per day according to the CA Department of water resources.*

For other tips of water efficient landscapes [click here.](#)

Reimagining the California Lawn Water-conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs By Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien

There's been considerable interest in the last 5-10 years in sustainable practices in our gardens—using less water, less chemicals and less fertilizers. With this came a new movement away from our well-manicured, high maintenance lawns to designs of mixed plantings, meadows, and even edible landscapes. Besides reducing chemical and water needs, these offer a more diversified plant mix to attract wildlife. "Reimagining the California Lawn – Water Conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs," takes this interest a step further. It offers six lawn replacement alternatives, including greenswards, meadows, rock gardens, succulent gardens, carpet and tapestry gardens, and kitchen gardens. There's even a section on green roofs. For each alternative, they provide the history of the design style, examples, design and installation considerations, plus maintenance and special issues. Most useful is the selected plant palette for each garden, which contains an extensive list by botanical and common name, with California Natives highlighted. The authors, Bornstein, Fross and O'Brien, also wrote the highly regarded reference book, "California Native Plants for the Garden" (published in 2005). Their deep knowledge of California natives, as well as Mediterranean and other water-thrifty plants, make this book shine.



Although just 160 pages, the book contains a wealth of practical information. There are over 300 color photographs that richly illustrate the many ideas and designs suggested. The book's California focus makes it an indispensable reference for climate-specific plant information. Plant lists note the optimal California climate zones for growing each plant, with Central Valley and inland zones among them. Specific cultivar information is included making the plant information that much more useful. There is a chapter devoted to managing, reducing or removing a lawn with practical advice that gives readers details on the various options. Sheet mulching, solarization and mechanical removal processes are described along with tips on making the removal process go smoothly.

The final chapter, roughly 75 pages, contains detailed plant profiles. According to the authors, these plants represent the best choices for lawn alternatives for California. The criteria used were size, reliability, availability, aesthetic value, drought tolerance and resistance to insect and pest problems. Plant profiles include cultural information and suggested garden use. Not surprisingly, many of the plants are suitable for more than one garden style. For example, Achillea (yarrow) is recommended for use in meadow, rock, carpet and tapestry, kitchen and green roof gardens.



"Recommended Plant Selections" round out the plant information. These list plants with a particular function or desirable feature to help gardeners make informed plant selections. There are 17 categories, including plants for attracting hummingbirds and butterflies. Less common, but perhaps particularly helpful to San Joaquin gardeners, are the lists of plants that tolerate poor drainage or dry wind.

Anyone considering replacing all or part of their lawn—or even those just looking for fresh design ideas, will appreciate all this book has to offer.

# Be Kind To Your Young Trees

Corinne Bachle, Master Gardener

BE KIND TO YOUR YOUNG TREES  
THEY'RE GOING TO BE WITH YOU A LONG, LONG TIME

Fall is a good time to plant new trees because the cooler weather gives them some time to become established before winter sets in. Trees are the backbone of the garden and the type of tree and location you select should be chosen very carefully. When selecting a tree, consider the mature growth size to avoid excessive amounts of labor and expense in maintaining it at a size less than it is meant to be.

## STAKING YOUNG TREES

A young tree will develop a sturdier trunk if it grows unsupported and can sway in the breeze. Stake it only if it is planted in an extremely windy location or if the main trunk is too weak to stay upright on its own. Use ties that won't bind or cut into the bark, such as wide strips of canvas or rubber; fasten each tie around the tree and both stakes in a figure-8 pattern, as shown (A). The tree should be able to move an inch in either direction.

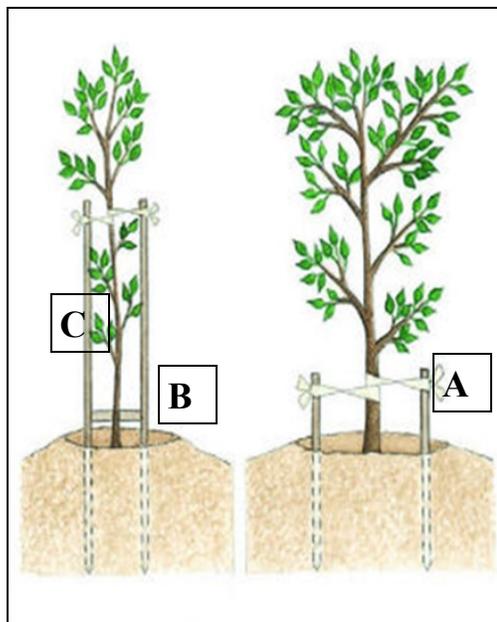
To figure out where to attach the ties to a weak trunk, run your hand up the trunk until you find the point where the top no longer flops over. Cut off the stakes an inch or so above the ties. In a windswept site, a young tree's roots may need anchoring to keep them in firm contact with the soil; use stakes and ties only a foot above ground level for this kind of staking (B). In both cases, sink stakes at right angles to the prevailing wind. Remove them after about a year or as soon as the tree appears to be self-supporting.

## FORMING A STRONG TREE TRUNK

Young trees develop a strong trunk more quickly if their lower branches are left in place for the first few years after planting; these branches also help shade the trunk (C). During this time, shorten the side branches only if they become too long or vigorous, pruning during the dormant season or just before spring growth begins. Once the trunk is at least 2 inches thick, begin removing the lower branches gradually, over a period of several years.

For more information on planting trees [click here](#).

Source: [Sunset Western Garden Book](#)



## Useful Web-sites



### [Sunset Plant Finder](#)

Find the perfect plants for your yard with this plant finder. Criteria includes: sun exposure, water requirements, planting zones, as well as type of plant you are looking for from annual to vines.

### [UC Backyard Orchard](#)

Find info on backyard fruit trees. Fall and winter is a good time to start thinking about what needs to be done in your home orchard. Did you have peach leaf curl this year? If so you will want to take action this fall to prevent another occurrence next year.

### [Las Pilitas Nursery](#)

Interested in growing CA Natives? If so, this site is FULL of great information on growing and selecting CA Natives. Make sure to check out all the topics in the green header at the top of the page!

[Home Page](#)

## Seed Saving cont. from page 1

Lee Miller



moisture content of less than 8% using silica gel and then freeze the seeds. Most of us can get by fine with just refrigerating our seeds.

Recently, I planted some onion seeds packed for 2008. The pack stored in the refrigerator germinated well, whereas the other seed pack, stored in my warm garden shed, germinated about 2 plants. Onion seeds are normally good for only 2 years, so refrigeration definitely extends their vitality.

Cucurbitaceae is a complex family of commonly grown vegetables which makes it a group that is worthy of seed saving. It is also a group that is confusing, so let's see if I can shed some light on it.

*Citrullus vulgaris* includes watermelons and citron. *Cucumis melo* is the species which includes muskmelon, cantaloupe, honeydew, Armenian cucumber, casaba and others. *Cucumis sativus* includes most cucumbers. *Cucubita pepo* includes summer squash such as scallop, zucchini, spaghetti and crookneck. *Cucurbita maxima* includes winter squash such as Hubbard, buttercup, and banana. *Cucurbita moschata* includes butternut squash and some pumpkins. All of these species will accept pollen from varieties **within** the same species. The progeny of uncontrolled crosses within the species will usually result in fruits that bear little resemblance to the mother plant. The solution is to avoid random insect pollination by controlling the process. This is done by hand pollinating the female flower and isolating it from the chance introduction of other pollen.

The first order of business is to know the sex of the flowers. Female flowers are located above the ovary which is an enlarged bulb-like structure. Male flowers are usually on a thin stalk. This differentiation of the sexes is most obvious on squashes which have large flowers whereas on cucumber and melons with smaller flowers it may be more difficult to discern. That problem understood, we can move on to actually doing the pollination. A morning and evening inspection of flowers is required each day. Flowers that have not opened, but are near opening, are taped shut in the evening with masking tape. The location of these flowers can be marked with surveyor flag markers or stakes so they can be easily found the following day.

The next morning male flowers that were taped closed are harvested and the petals removed. The tape is then removed from a female, and male flower pollen is rubbed on the style. It is good to use more than one male flower. The female flower is taped up quickly to avoid bees undoing the process. It is important to use a color-coded marker such as yarn or plastic survey tape to mark a hand-pollinated flower so when harvest time comes you will know to save seeds from that fruit. Markers should be secured firmly so they remain attached through the vagaries of weather, birds looking for nesting material, etc. Loss of the marker will mean losing those seeds which required some effort to produce.

If male flowers are used from the same plant, the process is deemed "selfing." If male flowers from the same variety but a different plant are used, the process is termed "sibling" and provides for greater genetic diversity. Genetic diversity within a population is best preserved by growing 6 plants at a minimum and 12 or more for a greater amount of diversity. Most gardeners are not going to grow 12 zucchini, so we may have to live with less diversity. Seed viability is going to be higher the longer the fruit is left to mature, so don't pick before full maturity. Leaving the seeds in the fruit for 20 days after harvest can also improve seed viability.

After harvesting the seeds, wash using a sieve. Cucumber seeds that are fermented have a higher germination likely due to removal of fungi or a germination inhibitor. Seeds are rinsed and dried on a hard surface away from direct sunlight. Never dry seeds in an oven as temperatures of 95 F° and above will damage them. After drying, put them in envelopes, and mark with the variety and date, and store in a moisture proof plastic bag.

Next year, you can enjoy the self-sustainable satisfaction of planting your very own seeds.

References: Seed to Seed, Seed-Saving Techniques for the Vegetable Gardener, Suzanne Ashworth, 1991; Seed-Saver Publications, 222 p.

# Recipes of the season—Persimmons and Squash

## Persimmon Bread

### Ingredients

- 1 cup persimmon pulp
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 3 cups white sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 2/3 cup water
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup chopped walnuts



You can make in a bundt pan or even cupcake liners just watch your cooking time.

### Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F
2. Grease three 6x3 inch loaf pans.
3. In a small bowl, stir together the persimmon pulp and baking soda. Let stand 5 minutes to thicken the pulp.
4. In a medium bowl, combine sugar, oil, eggs, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Blend until smooth. Mix in persimmon pulp and water alternately with flour. Fold in nuts. Divide batter into the prepared pans, filling each pan 2/3 full.
5. Bake for 1 hour in the preheated oven, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

**Which persimmons to use?** *Hachiya* are the pointed persimmons and are better for cooking. You want to wait until they are squishy (like a water balloon) before you cook with them. Unripe *hachiyas* are extremely astringent and will make your mouth pucker if you try to eat them. To ripen a *Hachiya* persimmon, simply let it sit on your countertop until it's soft. You can also freeze the whole fruit overnight and when it thaws, it will be soft. *Fuyu* persimmons look more like a flat bottomed apple and are they are meant to be peeled, sliced, and eaten like apples.



Ripe Hachiya Persimmon



Fuyu Persimmons

## Baked Acorn Squash

### Ingredients

- 1 medium acorn squash, halved and seeded
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Turn acorn squash upside down onto a cookie sheet. Bake until squash begins to soften, approximately 30 to 45 minutes.
3. Remove squash from the oven and turn onto a plate so that the flesh is facing upwards. Place butter and brown sugar into the squash, and place remaining squash over the other piece. Place squash in a baking dish (so the squash wont slide around too much) while baking. Return squash to the oven and bake another 30 minutes.

**For an extra treat add apples, raisins and a touch of cinnamon!**



# The Help Desk

Marcy Sousa, Master Gardener Coordinator



If you have a gardening question, call the Master Gardeners Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 am-12:00 pm at 209-953-6112 or by e-mail [mgsanjoaquin@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgsanjoaquin@ucdavis.edu)

You can click on any of the blue underlined words in any of the articles to go to a webpage and learn more about that



## The Help Desk Frequently Asked Questions

**My neighbor told me I should clean up all the rotten fruit under my fruit trees. I was going to leave it there to compost. What should I do?**

### Sanitation Around Fruit Trees

Sanitation is necessary to prevent disease and pests and reduce the needs for sprays. Many diseases, and some insects, that attack fruit trees during the summer will overwinter on or under the tree. Fruit that is left on the tree or allowed to rot under the tree often carry fungi that will affect next season's crop. Even leaves left under the tree can be a source of diseases the next growing season.

Often times fruit left on or around the tree will not rot completely. These fruit will shrivel up into a small ball and are called mummies. Although they may look dry and harmless, these mummies will produce fungal spores during the spring and summer that can infect new fruit. Brown rot on peaches and summer rots on apples can quickly spread and may be uncontrollable, even with fungicide applications.

If possible, rake and dispose of all leaves after they drop and before the first rains arrive. Remove and destroy overwintering mummies in the tree and on the ground to eliminate sources of disease and insects next season.

For more information deciduous fruit tree winter management [click here](#).



Peach mummy left on tree

**With winter on the way, how can I make sure my plants are protected from frost?**

Frost damage causes shoots, buds, and flowers to wilt, turn brown or black, and die in frost-tender plants. Whole branches or entire plants may be killed. Succulent plant tissue in the spring is especially susceptible to frost. In some species, blossoms may fail to develop if exposed to frost when budding.

### SOLUTIONS

The degree of cold injury is influenced by the duration and frequency of frost. To prevent frost damage, do not plant species adapted to mild climates in areas where freezing temperatures occur. Provide soil with adequate moisture to increase its ability to retain heat. When frost is expected, cover sensitive plants overnight with, for example, an old sheet to reduce heat loss to the atmosphere; remove covers during the day. Placing electric lights

(Christmas lights) in the canopy, especially if plants are covered, can generate enough heat to prevent plants from freezing. Operating sprinklers overnight to wet foliage can reduce frost damage because extensive cold is required to turn water to ice. Do not combine the use of outdoor lights and sprinkling. Plants adapted to the local environment usually are not permanently harmed by frost. Most established woody species will survive light, short-term frost with minor or no injury, but many semitropical or tropical species will be severely injured or killed by prolonged freezing temperatures. For more information on frost protection [click here](#).

Using pipe insulation around the trunk of a tree



Christmas lights in a cold frame to protect vegetable plants

[Home Page](#)

# Coming Events

Corinne Bachle, Master Gardener

## October

Saturday, October 1

### **Guided Tour: It's Oktober!**

10 a.m., Gazebo

*Check out the great diversity of oak trees in Shields Oak Grove.*

Event is free

[UC Davis Arboretum](#)

-

Saturday, October 8

[San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop:](#)

### **Landscape Trees and Shrubs: Selecting/Planting/Training**

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Classes are free

San Joaquin County Historical Museum at Micke Grove (\$5 parking if not a Museum member)

11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi

Saturday, October 8, 1:00 - 5:00 pm.

Sunday, October 9, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

### **Alden Lane and Mt. Diablo Rose Society 18th Annual Fall Rose Show**

Public Entries Welcome! Roses can be entered on Saturday, October 8 from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Event is free

[Alden Lane Nursery](#)

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA (925) 447-0280

Sunday, October 9

### **Plant Sale: Growing a Green Future**

Public sale: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Arboretum Teaching Nursery

*Great plants for your sustainable garden. Get expert advice on working with your garden conditions. Join at the door for 10% member discount and a free plant!*

Event is free

[UC Davis Arboretum](#)

-

Saturday, October 15

[San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop:](#)

### **Landscape Trees and Shrubs: Se-**

## **lecting/Planting/Training**

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Classes are free

Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca

Saturday, October 15

### **Guided Tour: Knowing Our Native Plants**

10 a.m., Wyatt Deck

Class is free

*Learn about the diversity, adaptability, and beauty of California native plants*

[UC Davis Arboretum](#)

-

Saturday, October 15

### **Beekeeping Class**

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Class is free

Call and reserve your space today for this class at (925) 447-0280.

[Alden Lane Nursery](#)

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA (925) 447-0280

Saturday, October 15

### **Sweet Pea Quick Class**

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

The \$5.00 fee admits 2 and includes a 6-pack of sweet peas and "Extreme Gardening Feeder Packs" to get you started.

[Alden Lane Nursery](#)

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA (925) 447-0280

Saturday, October 19

### **Sacramento County Master Gardeners Open Garden Day**

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Event is free

Fair Oaks Horticulture Center

11549 Fair Oaks Boulevard

Fair Oaks, CA For a map and directions to the Horticulture Center, click [here](#)

*See how to winterize your water-wise garden.*

*Fall is a beautiful time to walk through the demonstration gardens and note what you'd like for next year!*

Saturday, October 22

### **Growing Daffodils in Containers**

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Class is free

## [Alden Lane Nursery](#)

981 Alden Lane,

Livermore, CA (925) 447-0280

Saturday, November 5

### **Guided Tour: Adapting to Seasonal Change**

2 p.m., Gazebo

*Learn how to create a garden with beauty and interest in all seasons*

Event is free

[UC Davis Arboretum](#)

-

## November

Saturday, November 12

[San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop:](#)

### **Winter Garden Chores**

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Classes are free

San Joaquin County Historical Museum at Micke Grove (\$5 parking if not a Museum member)

11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi

Saturday, November 19

[San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop:](#)

### **Winter Garden Chores**

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Classes are free

Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca

Saturday, November 19

### **Guided Tour: Container Plants for Winter Color**

2 p.m., Arboretum Terrace Garden

Event is free

*Container gardens can enliven a deck or patio or create a lush oasis while conserving water*

[UC Davis Arboretum](#)

-

Saturday, December 3

### **Guided Tour: Planting for Pollinators and Other Beneficial Insects**

2 p.m., Arboretum Teaching Nursery

Event is free

[UC Davis Arboretum](#)

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# QUICK AND EASY HOLIDAY DÉCOR

Betty Liske, Master Gardener

Do you wonder where the time goes during the holidays, despite all the leisurely plans you are making this fall? All of those gorgeous magazine covers, TV shows showing the gourmet entertaining space done in only a day? Of course the difference is that neither you nor I have a crew of seven, exclusive materials, or a professional designer living in!



As the time begins to fly by, decorating with style on limited time and energy becomes a must. Especially for all of us who love to garden and love the natural world, using items that nature and the garden give us freely enhances any decorating project we undertake.

The basic approach for bringing nature into your holiday décor is actually really enjoyable! Get outside (a welcome break!). Enjoy the clean, crisp air, maybe with a whiff of smoke from the neighbors' chimneys, the sound or sighting of our winter birds, the quiet and peace of the outdoors.

Next, just look around. There will be so much available in your garden, along your street, in any open space. Keep your eyes open as you are driving around also, looking for interesting colors, branches, berries, twigs, dried plant parts or cones, etc. Plan on dropping back around to some of these places on a foraging expedition, or make a quick stop following shopping errands. Just be sure it's a place appropriate or legal to gather items. I have found some wonderful eucalyptus branches with cones and berries along some of our frontage roads or along roads by open fields. Of course if you are visiting other areas such as the mountains, even more interesting items can be found. Look for items with different textures and shapes and especially color.



Your treasures can be used in many ways around your home. Think simple! Make it easy! Scatter or arrange items along your table runner, mix with winter greens along the mantel, put on display in clear glass bowls or vases, or around candle displays.

One beautiful way to use your found treasures is to make a lovely wreath for your front door. Purchase a pre-made wreath of greens from a store or tree lot. Many regular big-box or even grocery stores have these as well as fresh green garlands and are very inexpensive. So your base is already made! Then

just "stick stuff in"! Short branches with berries, eucalyptus or bay work well this way. For other items you may need to gather a few leaves or mixed items together with florist wire, leaving extra at the end to push into the wreath. Dental floss is fast and sticky and works well for this also! In some cases you may want to twist the wire or floss around the wire backing of the wreath.

The joy of this project is that you can play with it! You can change things around easily to find the best arrangement. After your wreath is finished and hung on your door, it will last an amazingly long time. You can keep freshening it by changing or adding new or fresher items. Keep it looking fresh by spritzing with a spray water bottle occasionally.

Have fun! Have a wreath decorating party with warm soup and good friends...everyone can bring their collected items to share. Or do it with your (or someone else's) kids. Make them for your



Wreath Before

## QUICK AND EASY HOLIDAY DÉCOR cont.

church or group fundraiser or to take to convalescent homes or hospitals. Happy home-made holidays!

Items to look for—although any and all that capture your interest are best!

Tree cones	dried twigs/branches	pepper berries
Privet berries	bay leaves	magnolia leaves
Dried fruits	moss	hydrangeas
Fruits/fruit leaves	rose hips	pyracantha
Magnolia cones	dried grasses/herbs	eucalyptus
Boxwood/hedge clippings		

Other sources:

[Better Homes and Gardens: Natural wreath](#)

[DIY: How to Make a Wreath](#)



Wreath After



## The Garden Gate... Opening Doors in the Community

Julie Hyske, Master Gardener

When the weeds won't surrender, the grass needs a mow, or you just want to beautify it all, who are you going to call? Well, I'd like to introduce you to a team of industrious young men and women, ages 18-25. These youth, that had once accepted they can't are now learning that they can. Youth labeled at risk are gaining hands-on vocational skills, preparing for entry into the work force, working on completing high school diplomas or acquiring their GED, and meanwhile, providing a service to the community. Sounds like a win-win situation!

The San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps (SJRCC), through the San Joaquin County Office of Education, focuses not only on academics, but are teaching young people about the positive benefits of conserving our natural resources along with the principles of sustainability. A green, environmental approach is fundamental to their training. Services provided can range from recycling, construction, and the many aspects of land beautification. The umbrella of training focuses on acquiring life skills and long-term employment opportunities.

So, what can SJRCC do for you? Don't worry, no job is too large or too small. Projects can involve a one-time completion or a continuation of support. Estimates for work are free. A staff supervisor and an energetic corps member crew of 2-10 with materials and equipment will arrive at your site to provide your required service.

Whether your project involves irrigation, yard maintenance, water conservation, native plantings, landscape construction, plant propagation, or tree plantings or removal, the Corps members are prepared to provide services under direction of a crew leader. SJRCC natural resource crews also have skills involving land restoration, erosion control, and clearing of land for fire prevention and public safety.

While Corps members are developing work skills, gaining personal and team success, you might just get that long list of garden chores and improvements completed! If you or your business are interested in the opportunities of working with the S.J. Regional Conservation Corps, you can learn more by visiting their [web-site](#) or contacting natural resource crew leader Chad Hedge at 209.993.9650.



# Going Green with a Living Christmas Tree

Adrian Anthony, Master Gardener

The holidays are fast approaching and the most revered and anticipated tradition is decorating the family Christmas or Yuletide tree. The first Christmas tree was decorated in 1510 in Riga, Latvia; however evergreen trees have been used for thousands of years to celebrate the spirit of life and the winter harvest. Centuries later, we still covet that fresh pine smell and the glistening ornaments that bring the special magic of the season to the center of the home.



Living tree without any decorations

Since the 1850's, Americans have been bringing home cut trees for Christmas decorating. They are widely available from cut-your-own farms, to tree lots springing up on roadside corners, to home improvement stores. Over 30 million cut Christmas trees are sold in the U.S. every year. These trees are grown on immense tree farms, with 80% of the world's supply of fresh cut trees coming from the Pacific Northwest. The alternative artificial tree is made from plastic, involving fossil fuels for production. In these times of environmental awareness, it makes sense to consider a greener alternative: Selecting a live potted tree which can become part of the landscape for years of enjoyment long after the tinsel and lights have been boxed away.

There are many lovely landscape evergreen trees that are naturally 'Christmas-tree shaped' and even have the lovely aroma of fresh greenery. Consider the tree's growing needs and mature size and where to plant it, when purchasing. If the mature size is too large for your own yard, consider donating it to your local parks department or friend with a larger landscape.

Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) are popular landscape trees which require regular watering, benefiting from thick mulching, and eventually grow to 70 feet high or more. 'Aptos Blue' Redwoods are particularly well suited to the dryer central valley climate. Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) provide denser branches with silvery needles.

Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) is actually nick-named the "California Christmas tree," with elegant weeping branches and blue to gray needles. The Deodar appreciates a good deep watering periodically in the summertime and is most excellent as a specimen tree, growing to a height of 50 feet. They become very drought tolerant when established and are pest and disease resistant.

The true pine trees do best when planted where they will receive little water once they are established. Elderica Pine, also called the Afghan Pine (*Pinus elderica*) is extremely drought tolerant and needs well drained soil, preferably away from irrigation, as regularly irrigated soil can lead to root diseases. Elderica grows in a true cone shape, 30 to 50 feet in height and 15 to 25 feet wide. Aleppo



Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) is a wider spreading tree, with a very rounded and open shape when mature. Similar in shape at maturity is the Italian Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*), which has a very traditional cone shape and short silver needles when young, which are replaced by longer green needles in the first year or so. They are commonly sold as table-top live potted trees this time of year. A great California native tree is the Jeffery Pine (*Pinus jefferi*).

Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) is particularly well suited to being an indoor live Christmas tree, being a tropical native. They appreciate a periodic misting to mimic the natural humidity of their native environment. Plant in a protected area outdoors, as they are frost sensitive.

Once you have decorated and enjoyed a live Christmas tree, the inspiration to try an even more non-traditional tree may attract you. I adopted a lovely Podocarpus gracilior last year, which became a

graceful and gorgeous Christmas tree in our home (*see picture*). It is now planted in my front yard. They can be grown as a screen, or limbed up to become a charming small evergreen tree. Podocarpus are tolerant of a wide range of soil and light conditions, but avoid planting in heavy clay soil.

It becomes apparent that any healthy tree specimen can easily become your holiday feature, as once it is decorated, any plant can present holiday sentiment. A palm tree can make a light-hearted tropical statement and a group of tall cypress can create a majestic 'grove'. In fact any tree or shrub when ornamented can become a Christmas tree! Some other exceptional yet unconventional evergreen trees to consider are Marina strawberry tree (*Arbutus x 'Marina'*), fruitless olive (*Olea europea*), Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and Australian willow (*Geijera parviflora*).

It may take some research and exploration to find your perfect live tree, so be prepared to call and visit nurseries and garden centers. They may come in a container or may be balled and burlapped, at which point you would need to provide a temporary pot for it. You can pick your tree early and keep it outside until just before you plan to decorate. Consider that you will most likely spend less on your live tree than a cut tree and enjoy it for many years to come!

Give the tree time to acclimate to the indoor conditions by placing it in a semi-sheltered spot for a few days before bringing it inside, such as a covered porch or garage. (This also a good method for re-acclimating to the outdoors.) To provide good light, place the tree near a window and rotate your tree daily so all sides get exposure. Place a large drain tray under the pot and water as needed to keep the soil moist but not soggy. A rolling plant dolly can make moving and rotating the tree easy. You can even conceal the pot with a decorative tree 'skirt'.

Caring for a potted plant that needs to live outdoors, while it is inside, is critical. Because the indoor environment is much warmer and dryer than optimal open-air conditions, limit the length of time your live tree is actually inside. No more than 7 to 10 days is recommended. Avoid placing anywhere near a heater vent or other heat source. Try to place it near a window, which can be opened from time to time to let fresh air in. Another consideration, due to the smaller stature of live trees and their subsequently thinner branches, is to use lighter ornaments. And although Christmas lights are sparkly and pretty, do not overdo it. The lights give off heat and are best set to a timer to be on only when you can appreciate them (not during the day or all night long). The wire strands of the lights can be quite heavy as well, so consider using some of the newer LED lights, called micro 'rice' lights, which are low voltage, giving off much less heat and being far lighter than traditional Christmas light strands.



Living tree in my home last season

Even if you decide you still want a cut tree for their larger, more imposing appearance, a potted live tree can be a focal point at your front entrance or other room in your house. Once planted in your yard, it will bring years of fond memories and can be seasonally decorated.

For more information on deciding what kind of living tree you would like visit the following sites:

- [Clemson Univ. Living Christmas Trees](#)
- [Sunset Magazine Guide to Selecting and Caring for a living Christmas Tree](#)
- [UC Redwood Info](#)
- [UC Cedar Info](#)
- [UC Pine Info](#)
- [UC Podocarpus Info](#)
- [Afghan Pine Tree](#)
- [Aleppo Pine](#)
- [Norfolk Pine](#)
- [Jeffrey Pine](#)
- [Deodar Cedar](#)



Example of a smaller living Christmas tree decorated

## Garden Chores Calendar Cont.

Continue to plant broccoli, cabbage, carrots, chard, kale, lettuce, onions and garlic. Bundles of bareroot onions should be available in early November as well as artichoke, asparagus, rhubarb, strawberry and blackberry plants.

### Maintenance:

Trim spent blossoms, weed all garden areas and clear leaves and grasses from flower beds. Prepare for the possibility of temperatures below freezing by moving frost-sensitive potted plants indoors. Row covers, and water-filled containers surrounding young vegetable seedlings offer these plants a warmer nighttime environment.

Protect young and frost sensitive trees from [frost](#) by wrapping the trunks with insulating material (palm fronds, corn stalks, and cardboard) from the ground to main branches. Keep the ground around trees clean and as free from mulch, weeds, and ground cover as possible. Bare, moist soil radiates more heat than mulch covered soil.

Knock down watering basins around trees to prepare for the rainy season. Continue composting! For UC Davis information on composting, [click here](#).

### Pest Control

Clean up debris and fallen leaves around fruit trees and remove any dried fruit from branches. A fungicide containing copper will control brown rot on apricots and peach leaf curl. Apply spray on a calm day after leaves fall and avoid spraying before a heavy rain. Thoroughly cover branches, stems and trunk, as well as the ground beneath the tree. Additional information on pest control can be found [here](#).

### December

Choose [poinsettias](#) with healthy dark green leaves. Display away from heater vents in a spot that gets bright, indirect light or outdoors under an overhang next to the house. Temperatures below 45-50 degrees can damage plants. Water when the top of soil feels dry to the touch.



### Planting:

It is a good time to select colors of your camellias since early flowering varieties are blooming now. Asparagus, horseradish and rhubarb can be planted this month. Many types of primrose are available in nurseries.

## San Joaquin County Master Gardeners

2101 E. Earhart Ave.  
Ste. 200  
Stockton, CA 95206



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Web-site:

<http://sjmastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>



In the next issue look for an article on repurposing and recycling in the garden. What can you reuse in the garden?

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## LEAVES MAY TURN, BUT GREEN LASTS ALL YEAR.



### HAPPY GREEN HALLOWEEN

**Costumes:** Create costumes from thrift store clothing, Grandpa's old fishing gear, big brother's old costume. Hold a costume swap with old costumes, or donate them for others to use.

**Pumpkins:** They last longer if painted instead of carved. When their decoration days come to an end, turn them into pies and cookies, and roast the seeds for a healthy snack. Treat your worms or toss it in the compost. If these options don't work, drop it in your curbside greenwaste bin.

**Candy:** If your kids bring home candy you don't want, hand it out to the next Princess or Goblin who rings your bell. You can also bake some in cookies, freeze them to last longer, or donate them to a local group sending care packages to the troops.

**Parties:** Buy local foods. String your trips to save gas and reduce pollution. Email invitations. Use real plates, utensils, and cloth napkins to reduce waste and costs, then throw them in the washer for easy cleanup. Be sure to recycle your bottles and cans, paper, and empty food containers.



Find more Halloween tips at [GreenHalloween.org](http://GreenHalloween.org)  
Find more recycling info at [BeGreenSanJoaquin.org](http://BeGreenSanJoaquin.org)



## Have a gardening question about bugs, water conservation, native plants, pruning, fruit trees, tomatoes, lawns?



**Call the Master Gardener Office  
Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 953-6112**



# FREE PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL EVENTS

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, FROM 10AM-2PM



Kimbra Andrews, Public Works, Solid

### **Why be concerned about prescription drug disposal?**

40% of prescribed drugs aren't taken.

A 2002 study by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) found that 80% of streams in the U.S. have measurable concentrations of prescription drugs, including steroids and hormones.

\$225 billion in medications are prescribed per year, and it is expected to grow to \$550 billion by 2017.

Unwanted prescription drugs are a major public health, safety, and environmental problem. Without convenient disposal options, people often discard unused or expired drugs by dumping them down drains or flushing them down toilets. Municipal water treatment systems treat waste water, but trace amounts of drugs can still be found in the treated water that is discharged into our waterways. Studies like the USGS study referenced above show that exposure, even to low levels of drugs, can have negative effects on fish and other aquatic species and may also have harmful effects on human health.

### **Product Stewardship is the Best Solution:**

Many pharmaceutical companies that sell drugs in the US are already practicing good stewardship of unused drugs in [British Columbia and Ontario, Canada](#). Pharmaceutical companies or dispensing pharmacies should be encouraged to participate in the development and implementation of safe and secure prescription drug take-back programs. California needs a pharmaceutical stewardship program and we encourage pharmaceutical companies to help establish one.

As a consumer, there are a number of things you can do to help:

Dispose of unused or unwanted medications at take-back sites or events

[Find a medicine take-back location here.](#)

- Do NOT dispose of any medication down the toilet or in the trash
- Encourage your provider to take-back unwanted drugs
- Purchase drugs in small amounts, limiting the amount of unused/expired medications
- Ask for medications with low environmental impact
- Share the message of safe disposal with family and friends
- Commit to wellness strategies to reduce your reliance on medications
- Practice healthy product stewardship

### **DEA Collection Events:**

In 2010 Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act, amending the Controlled Substances Act to give communities more options for providing secure drug collection programs. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is drafting regulations to implement the Act, a process that can take 24 months. Until the new Federal regulations are in place, local law enforcement agencies, in partnership with the DEA, will hold occasional prescription drug collection events.

While this initiative does not address the source of the problem (excessive quantities of unwanted drugs), it does address a vital public safety and public health issue, as current Federal law prohibits collection of drugs listed as controlled substances by anyone other than law enforcement officers. Prescription drugs stored in homes are susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse, and accidental poisonings and drug overdoses are quite common in the U.S.

On **Saturday, October 29**, from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** local law enforcement agencies like the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. **The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.**

### **Bring your old medications for disposal to a location near you, Saturday, October 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:**

- Lathrop Town Hall, 390 Towne Centre Drive in Lathrop
- Manteca Police Department, 1001 W. Center Street in Manteca
- St. Patrick's Church, 19399 E. Highway 120 in Ripon
- Gianone Park Community Center, 2885 E. Harding Way in Stockton
- Kennedy Community Center, 2800 S. D Street in Stockton
- Lincoln Center South (Rite Aid), 6455 Pacific Avenue in Stockton
- University of the Pacific Health Sciences Building, 757 Brookside Road in Stockton

- Thornton Community Hall, 26590 N. Sacramento Boulevard in Thornton
- Tracy City Hall, 324 E. 11th Street in Tracy

Note the following guidelines:

Remove Rx labels or conceal personal information.

Medical sharps from residents will also be accepted. Please deliver sharps in a sealed biohazard sharps container or other sturdy plastic container, such as a bleach bottle or coffee can.

For additional drug disposal event locations visit [www.DEA.gov](http://www.DEA.gov) or call **800-882-9539**.

**Household Hazardous Waste Facility:**

Medications (excluding controlled substances) and home-generated medical sharps are also accepted at the San Joaquin County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility, free of charge from County residents. The HHW Facility is located at 7850 R.A. Bridgeford Street, by the Stockton Airport, and is open Thursday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information on the San Joaquin County HHW Program please call the Department of Public Works, Solid Waste Division at **209-468-3066** or visit [www.SJCrecycle.org](http://www.SJCrecycle.org).

**Alternative Guidelines for Safe Drug Disposal:**

If there are no options for safe disposal in your area, please do NOT dispose of medicines into the toilet or sink. Medicines in wastewater cannot be removed by water treatment plants, and directly enter our environment. The next best alternative is disposal in the trash.

**Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet or drain.** If a drug collection program is not available in your area, please take the following steps:

Take your prescription drugs out of their original containers.

Mix drugs with an undesirable substance, such as wetted kitty litter or used coffee grounds.

Put the mixture into a disposable container with a lid, such as an empty margarine tub, or into a sealable plastic bag.

Place the sealed container with the mixture in the trash.

Conceal or remove any personal information, including Rx number, on the empty drug containers, and recycle if possible.

**Got Drugs?**

Most abused prescription drugs come from family and friends. You could be a drug dealer and not even know it.

Visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) or call 800-882-9539 for more information.

**LIVING DRUG FREE** RED RIBBON WEEK October 23-31

**Turn in your unused or expired medications for safe disposal: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

For the full list of event locations please visit [www.SJCrecycle.org](http://www.SJCrecycle.org) or call **468-3066**.

**Tips:**

- Remove labels or conceal personal information.
- Medical sharps from residents will also be accepted. Please deliver sharps in a sealed biohazard sharps container or other sturdy plastic container, such as a bleach bottle or coffee can.