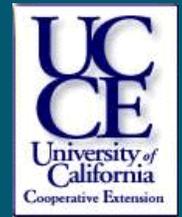




Garden Notes

with the San Joaquin County
Master Gardeners



JANUARY - MARCH 2015

San Joaquin County Master Gardeners

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Garden Chores	2
Horticultural Terms	3
Winter Pruning	
Pests and Plants	4
Annual Bluegrass, Leaf-footed Bug, & Bacterial Canker. Pine, Current/Gooseberry, & Rosemary.	
Beneficial Insects	6
Mealybug Destroyer	
Growing Knowledge	7
Apples of North America	
Importance of Chill Hours	9
Fruit Trees not to Prune this Winter	10
The Garden Gate	11
LOEL Center	
The Help Desk	12
Voles & Squirrels	
Taste of the Season	14
Recipes	
Coming Events	15
2015 Weekend Workshops	18

Master Gardener Training - 2015

Marcy Sousa, Master Gardener Coordinator

Happy New Year! We're all settling in after the frantic activity of the holidays for a quiet winter. January is a good planning time of year. Assessing what you have for seed starting supplies, potting soil and seed varieties is always a fun way to start the excitement for the spring ahead. Like many people, the new year brings renewed energy and hope, plans for self improvement and of course resolutions. Our resolutions this year as a program, is to help plant as many gardens as possible, to teach old and young alike how to care for their soil and their plants, be a resource to our community and to encourage the residents of San Joaquin County to conserve resources, reduce green waste and practice sustainable gardening practices.

January marks five years since we sent out our first issue. We started off with a few hundred emails are now close to 4,000 recipients. This year also marks the 8th anniversary of the Master Gardener Program in our county. Since then, over 150 people have gone through the program with active Master Gardeners volunteering over 29,200 hours on various projects in the County since 2007. In the last year alone, master gardeners volunteered over 6,600 hours.

2015 brings another year of Master Gardener Training that will begin at the end of January. I am excited about the experiences, enthusiasm and expertise this class will bring to the Master Gardener Program. It was a great group of applicants and I can't wait to get started. We will be hosting our Saturday workshops in Lodi and Manteca again this year. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for the 2015 class topics for both locations.

Master Gardeners are available to answer your gardening questions. The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am—Noon. You can contact us at 953-6112.

Enjoy the quiet of this time of year and watch as the excitement starts to grow with every seed and

Getting a Jump on Mother Nature with Seed Starting

Trish Tremayne, Master Gardener

It is January and time to start perusing those wonderful seed catalogs for new varieties and those hard-to-find favorites. To put this dreary time of year to good use, you can start seeds indoors for early spring planting. Besides offering a myriad of plant choices because you're growing your own, seed starting can save you money, and give you a whole new growing experience.

If you are using saved seeds from the previous year, check the germination rate by putting 10 seeds on a damp paper towel; fold the towel

over, slip it into a plastic bag, and set in a warm place until they germinate. If 8 out of 10 begin to sprout, you have an 80% germination rate. This will give you an idea of how viable the seeds are. If you get less than 50%, throw them out and buy fresh seed.





Glen 40 Camellia flower

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 topic!



Winter Gardening Chores

Winter is the time to plan and invest time in garden maintenance for spectacular results.

January ideas:

Plant –

Bare root roses and fruit trees are available in your local nursery for planting now. Bare root plants are less expensive than they will be in a couple of months when they have been potted. Planning your spring and summer garden while you leaf through seed catalogs will make planting easier when the weather warms.

Camellias in nurseries are in bloom now; choose one that catches your eye. Don't let the flower color alone determine your choices though; before purchasing a plant, make sure it's healthy and its leaves are lush and green. Avoid plants that have pale leaves, overly leggy growth, or roots protruding through drain holes.

Japanese maples (*A. palmatum*) are available in nurseries now. These trees come in many varieties, including ones with deeply cut leaves or variegated foliage. They can range in height from 3 to 20 feet and should be protected from the wind. Sun tolerance varies by species.

Determine the mature size of plants you are adding to your landscape so that you allow sufficient space when placing it in your garden. If the area looks sparse now, fill it in with some annuals or small perennials that can be relocated later.

Maintenance –

Sharpen pruning tools. Vines, fruit and shade trees, grapes and roses all benefit from pruning with sharp tools to remove dead, diseased, and broken branches, open their framework to the sun and improve air circulation. As you work, disinfect your pruning tools with a ten percent bleach-to-water solution to prevent the spread of disease. You can also wipe your tools with rubbing alcohol as you go, and/or submerge and soak them for 1 minute between uses. Be sure to dry them with a clean rag and oil them after use to prevent rust. Keeping Lysol spray in your garden tote and spraying your tools each time you move to a new plant or tree will also work to keep your pruning tools disinfected.

Rake and discard all the fallen leaves around your rose bushes which may be harboring next season's pests.

Remove all mummified fruit from your fruit trees, as well as any fruit or leaves still on the ground to discourage pests and diseases. Apply dormant oil sprays to control pests, disease and infection. Dormant sprays are labeled for specific diseases or pests as well as for the recommended amount and frequency of spraying.

Please read labels carefully. You'll get the best results from spraying after rain or foggy weather and not during or just prior to freezing weather.

Mulch around your plants at least as far as the drip line but not near the trunks to discourage weeds, prevent soil erosion and help regulate soil temperature.

Work compost into the soil around your plants and continue or start a composting pile for your spring and summer gardens.

Use a balanced fertilizer for winter-flowering plants to keep them blooming in these cold months. Among those that should be fed: primroses, stock, calendula, snapdragons, poppies, pansies and violas. Potting a few of these will add a splash of color to your porch or patio.

Check under pots, wood, benches and pavers for snails and slugs and dispose of any you find.

In February:

Plant –

Start seeds indoors (see Lee Miller's article on starting seeds in the Winter 2012 issue of this newsletter). Peas can be planted outside; however, it is best to pre-germinate the pea seeds on moist paper towels in a warm room for a few days before you sow them.

Winter blooming annuals such as pansies and snapdragons can still be planted this month.

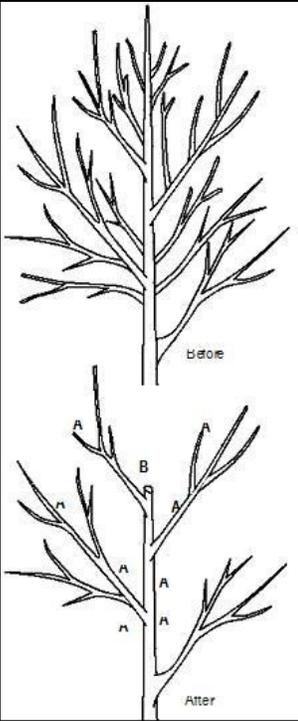
Dahlia tubers are available in area nurseries. For best selection, choose them now then plant them in the garden in mid to late April (when the soil reaches 60 degrees) for a rich array of color

[Cont. pg. 13.](#)

Winter Pruning Terms—A Cut Above

Julia Schardt, Master Gardener

During winter dormancy many garden plants need special attention from pruning shears. Shaping a shrub, taming a neglected tree, or opening a fruit tree to more sunlight require different cuts.

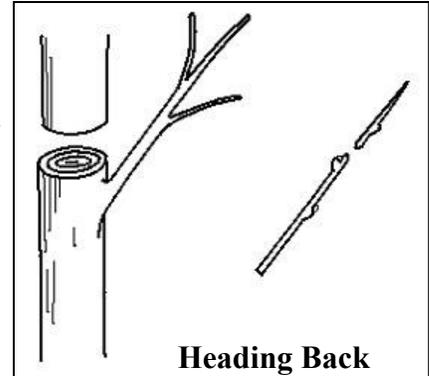


Thinning

Thinning is the removal of an *entire* shoot or limb at its point of origin, reducing the number of branches. It can be used to prevent the crowding of branches and allow sunlight to penetrate into a tree.

Heading back removes *part* of a branch or shoot. It promotes branch development and stimulates growth just below the cuts. Some plants benefit from less light infiltration and heading back a few branches can help. Recently planted fruit trees benefit from heading cuts to get scaffold branches started properly and to balance top growth with roots inadvertently pruned back by the nursery.

Topping reduces the height of a tree by heading back large branches. This technique must be used judiciously or it can damage or severely disfigure a tree.



Heading Back

Using proper tools is essential for successful pruning.

- **Pruning shears (hand shears)** are generally used to cut branches up to 3/4" in diameter. "Bypass" or scissor-like shears tend to be easier to use and are better for cutting than "anvil" shears because they leave a cleaner cut and are less likely to damage a branch.
- **Long-handled loppers** can cut 3/4" to 2" in diameter
- **Pruning saws** come in several designs and are necessary for trimming branches larger than 1 1/2 inches in diameter.



Illustration of bypass & anvil pruners

Note: Pruning capability does depend on quality and care of tools used.

Consult the experts at these websites to help you succeed with winter pruning chores:

[Training and Pruning Fruit Trees](#)

[Backyard Orchard: Pruning and Training](#)

[Advanced Techniques for Small Orchards](#)

Pests and Plants of the Season

UC IPM website

Integrated pest management, or "IPM," is a process you can use to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment. IPM can be used to manage all kinds of pests anywhere.

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!



WEED: Annual bluegrass, *Poa annua*



Photo Project
© University of California

Annual bluegrass is one of the most common weeds of residential and commercial turfgrass, ornamental plantings, and gardens in the United States. Annual bluegrass is a cool-season grass weed that starts germinating in late summer or fall as soil temperatures fall below 70°F. It continues to germinate throughout winter, allowing several flushes of germination at any one site throughout the season.

Control with pre-emergent herbicides is dependent on timing and ability to assure that parent plants die off in summer. Pre-emergent application should be done in late summer, ideally August. This weed is very shallow rooted, so it can easily be controlled by frequent cultivation. A key part of either chemical or mechanical control is to eliminate it before it goes to seed. Each small plant can produce about 100 seeds in as few as eight weeks. Cleaning landscape equipment after use in infested sites can help prevent annual bluegrass from spreading to uninfested areas. Annual bluegrass has a fairly weak and shallow root system and needs frequent rainfall or irrigation to survive. It grows well in moist areas in partial shade to full sun and tolerates compacted soil. For more information, [click here](#).

PEST: Leaffooted Bug, *Leptoglossus spp.*

Leaffooted bugs are medium to large sized insects that feed on fruits, fruiting vegetables, nuts, and ornamentals. They have piercing-sucking mouthparts that allow them to feed on plant parts, particularly seeds. Leaffooted bugs are in the family Coreidae and get their name from the small leaf-like enlargements found on the hind leg. They are closely related to other sucking insects, such as stink bugs. Leaffooted bugs overwinter as adults, typically in aggregations located in protected areas, such as in woodpiles, barns or other buildings. When weather gets warm, typically in March in the San Joaquin Valley, adults disperse to find food sources. Overwintering leaffooted bugs can lay over



200 eggs during a two-month period in the spring. It feeds on many types of plants and is most commonly reported by gardeners as a [pest of tomatoes](#) and pomegranates. For more information, [click here](#).

DISEASE: Bacterial canker and blast—*Pseudomonas syringae*



Photo 130 A. L. Jones and T.

Symptoms of bacterial canker and blast are most obvious in spring and include limb dieback with rough cankers. Cankers are irregularly shaped, brown, water-soaked areas that develop in the bark and outer sapwood of spurs, branches, and the tree trunk. Small cankers can develop on twigs at the base of infected buds. Amber-colored gum may exude from the margins of cankers. In cold, wet weather, blossoms may turn brown, shrivel, and cling to the tree. Leaves also may develop dark spots that later drop out. Sunken spots may develop on young fruit. Reddish flecks and pockets of bacterial invasion in bark occur outside canker margins. Trees frequently sucker from near ground level. Cankers do not extend below

ground. For more information, [click here](#).

TREE: Pine (Pinus spp.), Family: Pinaceae**PLANT IDENTIFICATION:**

Pines are mostly coniferous evergreen trees, but are also found as shrubs. They're distinguished by their leaves, which are needles held in bundles of two, three or five, and the presence of cones. Pines are commonly seen in parks and along highways, where their wind, drought and soil tolerance make them highly prized. Young trees are usually pyramidal, getting more open with age. There are hundreds of varieties with different colors, forms and growth rates. Sizes between and amongst species vary widely, from the tallest at 200 feet, to dwarf forms under 10 feet. One of the most popular pines for home gardens is *Pinus mugo* (Swiss mountain pine). Within this species, *P. mugo mugo* (dwarf mugo pine), at 4-8 feet, is a particularly dependable selection which makes an attractive specimen in a small garden.

Mugo Pine**OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH**

Pines grow in several climate zones varying by species. Plants do well in areas with full sun, and most species need little water once established. They do best in relatively well-drained soils. Pines are generally hardy species, but can be vulnerable to a number of common pests and diseases including cankers, rusts, bark beetles and soft scale.

SHRUB: Current, Gooseberry (Ribes, spp.), Family: Grossulariaceae**PLANT IDENTIFICATION:**

Ribes spp. are California natives, often divided into two categories: currants, which do not have spines, and gooseberries, which do have spines. Both deciduous and evergreen species are grown. Leaves are fragrant and rounded with lobed or toothed edges. Many species produce clusters of showy, bright yellow, white, pink, red, or purplish flowers. Some species have drooping flowers, resembling those of fuchsia. Yellow, red, or black edible berries form after bloom. Plants are very attractive to hummingbirds and beneficial insects. *R. viburnifolium* (evergreen currant) is a good shade-tolerant groundcover for dry shade. *R. malvaceum* (chaparral currant), at 5 x 5 feet, and *R. aureum* (golden currant), at 3-6 feet, are among the deciduous *Ribes* species recommended for Central Valley gardens.

Golden Current**OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:**

Ribes do well in areas with full sun or partial shade. Many do well planted under oaks. Plants vary in water needs; some require little to no water while others require moderate or regular amounts of water. Cut back plants to maintain tidy growth.

PERENNIAL: Rosemary—Rosmarinus officinalis, Family Lamiaceae (Mint family)**PLANT IDENTIFICATION:**

Rosemary is a tough evergreen shrub. Some are stiff and grow upright. Others are rounded and grow low to the ground. Leaves are narrow, glossy green above, and grayish white beneath. The highly aromatic leaves are widely used as a fresh or dry seasoning. Clusters of mostly blue blossoms are produced in winter and spring and attract birds, butterflies, and bees.

Rosemary foliage**OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:**

Taller rosemary plants are often planted as hedges or in dry borders. Smaller plants can be used as ground cover. Rosemary does best in areas with full sun and requires little to moderate amounts of water. Provide good drainage. Prune plant tips when plants are small. Prune older plants regularly to shape and remove old growth. Upright plants are generally cold tolerant. Prostrate species suffer more damage.

Beneficial Insects—Mealybug Destroyer

Kathy Ikeda, Master Gardener

We're all familiar with the iconic "ladybug" or ladybird beetle, the most celebrated of the beneficial insects, but did you know that this beloved red and black garden predator has a close and very useful cousin?

The mealybug destroyer (*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*) is a lady beetle that was introduced to California from Australia in the 1890s specifically to combat mealybug infestations in citrus groves. Like all beetles, it undergoes complete metamorphosis with four life stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Both larval and adult forms have chewing mouthparts that they use to feed upon the eggs and larvae of mealybugs and upon other soft-bodied insects such as soft scales and aphids.

The adult mealybug destroyer resembles a ladybug with its domed shape, glossy exterior, and short legs and antennae. Its coloration, however, is quite different and distinctive: black to dark brown, with a rusty- to orange-colored head, thorax, and posterior. Males and females can be distinguished from each other by their foreleg colors, which are light brown and dark brown, respectively. The larval form of the mealybug destroyer secretes a white, waxy substance that covers its body and makes it look much like a large mealybug, but it crawls much faster. It bears no resemblance to the larva of a ladybug.

Mealybug destroyers are now present in many areas of our state, and they're also raised commercially for pest control in citrus orchards and greenhouses. They're not tolerant of cold weather, but can survive in temperate winter areas like ours, so you might be fortunate enough to find them in your garden.



Mealybug destroyer larva next to a much smaller mealybug



Adult mealybug destroyer (female)



Ladybug larva (for comparison)

For more information:

[Mealybug Destroyer UC IPM](#) [Mealybug Destroyer Cornell](#)

Photos from UC sources:

[Mealybug destroyer larva](#)

[Adult mealybug](#)

[Ladybug larva](#)

Useful Garden Websites



San Joaquin County Master Gardeners:

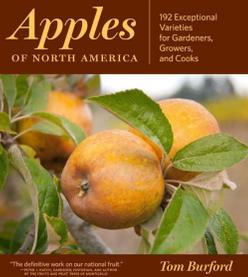
Our site is full of information on gardening. We are continually adding information to this site. Have questions? We have answers!

Hungry Pests: Hungry Pests is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's signature outreach initiative to raise public awareness about the invasive pest threat.

UC IPM Weed Gallery

The UC IPM Weed Photo Gallery includes many, but not all, weed species commonly found in California farms and landscapes. The site also includes an interactive key to help identify weeds.

eXtension: eXtension is an interactive learning environment delivering the best, most researched knowledge from the best land-grant university minds across America. eXtension connects knowledge consumers



Apples of North America, 192 Exceptional Varieties for Gardeners, Growers, and Cooks by Tom Burford, 2013, Timber Press, Portland, 300 p.

Who else but Tom Burford could so knowledgeably write a book on apples? He is a fruit explorer, orchardist, horticulturist, nurseryman and a sage of heirloom apples. I am glad that his friend, Roger Swain, of PBS fame, convinced him it was time to write down his store house of knowledge about apples. The book's preface starts out with the story of how Tom was almost born in an apple orchard in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia in 1935. He was born to be an apple expert. His family has been growing apples in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia since 1715.

He grew up around a great diversity of apples. The book starts out with a brief history of the apple's early sojourn from its origins in Kazakhstan to Mesopotamia to Greece, Rome and eventually to North America. By 1650, thousands of trees had been planted for cider production in the New World. Random seeds from the cider presses would occasionally produce a tree of desirable eating qualities and it would then be named and propagated. Thousands of cultivars came into being, but many have been lost due to the impact of Prohibition, the introduction of soft drinks, and other factors.

The book is divided into two sections. Part 1 features apples from A to Z with one apple per page. Each apple is named, pictured, and generally described or with an appropriate anecdote. There follows a listing of synonyms, the apple's history, exterior description, interior description and tasting notes, tree characteristics, disease resistance, season of ripening, uses and storage quality. This section begins with American Beauty and, not making it to Z, ends with the York, covering 190 apples in between. No Granny Smith is to be found since it is an apple of Australian not American origin.

This is a book on American apples which were a mainstay of earlier times when they were used for making cider as well as stored or dried to get folks through harsh winters. Cider was the drink of preference until German immigrants brought beer to America in the 1840's. Orchards of a great variety of apples thrived in the East and Midwest as an American staple. Some of these apples have been lost to us as the nation lost its agrarian roots to the triple forces of industrialization, agribusiness and urbanization. Thankfully, there have been a few folks like Tom Burford, who have collected scion wood from some of these apple tree survivors of earlier times to preserve them for our future.

One apple that has been saved from the brink of extinction is the Harrison. This tree was profitably grown extensively in the Middle Atlantic States for cider production after its appearance in New Jersey in the early 19th century. One tree was discovered in New Jersey in 1976, and since then others were found in Maryland and Virginia. Being a New Jersey transplant to California, I wanted to grow a Harrison apple. Tom Burford sent me some scion wood which I grafted this past spring and I hope to taste a Harrison apple in a couple of years.

Part 2 of the book is The Orchard Primer. The first section is on Planning and Designing an Orchard. The subsections describe: site selection, site preparation, variety and root stock choices, and information about nursery material. The next section covers Planting and Cultural Management. These are basic, important things to do to manage a productive and long lived orchard. Pruning and pest issue management are covered. The next section is on Propagation and here most aspects of grafting apples are well described and illustrated.

The final section is Apple Products and how to make them: cider, vinegar, apple butter, and dried apples. This includes a lot of history of how these products were traditionally made along with descriptions of the tools traditionally used. Apple jelly, a favorite of mine, was mentioned but the making of it is omitted as this process is fairly well known.

The book ends with a listing of recommended apples by use, a bibliography, Acknowledgements, Photography Credits and an index. The index is crafted to include a list of the best apples for each use as listed in the index---cider, pie, dessert, etc. This is a book for the apple devotee to cherish and refer to. It would make an excellent gift to any apple aficionado you might know.

Getting a Jump Start on Mother Nature (Continued from page 1)

Read the seed packet. It will tell you how deep to plant, light and temperature requirements, spacing, and average days to harvest. Most seeds should be started 6 to 12 weeks before the [last spring frost](#). [Click here](#) to view suggested seed starting dates.

To get seeds to germinate, they need water, oxygen, light, and the correct temperature. A heat mat and/or grow lights are highly recommended. The medium you will use to germinate your seed should be weed-free, hold large quantities of moisture, drain readily, and be light weight and noncrusting. You can make a soilless mixture using a combination of 1/3 sterilized sharp sand, 1/3 vermiculite or perlite, and 1/3 peat moss. A good quality compost also works well.



For germinating the seed, try purchased plastic flats made for this purpose that have drainage holes in the bottom, a tray to catch drainage, and a clear cover to help hold in heat and slow evaporation. If you are re-using old trays, disinfect them before use with 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. Allow them to dry before proceeding. If you plant several varieties, label them with Popsicle sticks, strips cut from plastic milk cartons, pieces of mini-blinds, or purchased tags. Use a waterproof marker or grease pen so writing doesn't fade. Include the date started along with the name/variety.

Some plants are harder than others and should be started first. These include early cabbages and lettuces, then tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and seedless watermelon in that order. By the time the heat-loving plants need more space under the grow light, the cabbage and lettuce are already in the ground.

Fill containers with growing medium, moisten thoroughly with warm water, and allow them to drain. The mixture needs to be moist but not dripping wet; remember the seeds need oxygen to germinate. Sow seeds sparsely and evenly in rows, covering them lightly with a fine grade of perlite or sterile sand. Cover trays with their plastic covers or plastic wrap and set them on the heat mat which will keep them at about 70 to 75 degrees and helps make germination more uni-

form. It's important to check daily. Once they start breaking through the surface, move them to the grow light. If you don't do this right away, the little plants will get leggy as they try to reach the light which should be 6 inches above the tray.

When your plants have two to four true leaves, it's time to transplant into larger containers. It's tempting to allow them to grow larger, but this is not a good idea as the leaves intertwine and there is more damage to the roots. Gently pick the plants out by holding by the leaves, not the stem. They are very fragile at this point and can be easily damaged. Transplant the seedlings into larger pots. This is a good time to recycle some old 6-packs cells, small pots, yogurt containers, etc. Peat pots are also commercially available. It's wise to use the same type container for all transplants. Otherwise they dry out at different rates and make consistent watering more difficult.

Plants need about 16+ hours of light per day. The light emitting from fluorescent bulbs is weaker at the ends than in the center, so adjust the trays accordingly. This is also true with natural light from a window.

Use warm water to keep plants moist but not wet. Too much moisture will encourage disease or cause the roots to die.

After about 7 to 10 days, fertilize with a weak solution of fish fertilizer or liquid kelp. Do this weekly.

A couple of weeks before planting in the garden, begin putting the plants outside in a shaded, protected area for a few hours each day. This process, called "[hardening off](#)", helps the plants adjust to the outside conditions. Gradually increase the time outdoors. Select an overcast day for planting and protect your plants if there is a cold spell.

Seed starting is a rewarding experience. Why not give it a try this year?

Cold weather is not everyone's favorite, but chilly winters are crucial to the life cycle of California's temperate fruit (and nut) trees, whose health and productivity affect farmers and backyard orchardists alike. The harvest of these trees are mainstays of the Central Valley's economy and kitchen tables all over the United States.

The term "temperate fruit tree" refers to trees that go dormant in winter, preferring moderately cold winters without the killing freezes of the coldest zones. Dormancy begins in late fall and lasts into early winter, initiated by lengthening days and cooler temperatures; it is chemically wrought by hormones suppressing buds for next season's foliage and flowers until conditions are right for tender new growth.



What is critical is how the tree breaks dormancy. Trees listen for the signal that yes, winter has arrived. The necessary signal strength varies between species, but is officially referred to as "chill hours", or vernalization, when the temperature stays between 32°-45°F. The hormone responsible for dormancy breaks down in this range, allowing buds to develop into flowers or foliage when the weather warms up in late winter. Interestingly, temperatures below 32°F are ineffective and do not count; hours when temperatures exceed 60°F are actually subtracted from the [accumulated chill hours](#).

When a tree does not receive the necessary signal to break dormancy, the buds tend to leaf out later, and the flower buds may appear irregularly, which can result in a longer bloom period. This may seem beneficial, but flowers are delicate things, and the longer the bloom period, the more likely they will be exposed to diseases such as fire blight and brown rot, meaning a harvest of fewer and deformed fruits.



Why all this talk about tree signals and deformed fruit? Climate change is making warm winters more frequent, resulting in poor harvests for certain fruit trees. As stated above, some require more chill hours than others, depending on species and varieties within species. Choosing "low chill" (requiring less than 300 hours at 32°-45°F) will hedge your bets, with the added benefit of getting more for your water and compost inputs when chill-needy trees have a low yield.

Figs, olives, and quince have the lowest natural chill requirements, followed by persimmons, pomegranates, almonds, and chestnuts. The more commonly grown fruits such as cherries, apples, peaches, and plums required breeding to develop low-chill varieties for folks

living in areas like southern California where chill hours are minimal. Fortunately, us valley-dwellers can benefit from this horticultural achievement as well.

For a list of low-chill fruit tree varieties, visit the UC's [California Backyard Orchard webpage](#). Select a fruit and click on "varieties for planting in the home garden" and scroll down to the list of low-chill varieties, if applicable (naturally low-chill species such as fig and persimmon will not have a separate list).

Most people think about pruning fruit trees during the winter since the branch structure is most visible and winter is considered the traditional time to prune deciduous trees. Actually, pruning fruit trees mainly during the growing season is a good practice and with some species such as apricots and cherries, pruning between September and March in northern California could lead to detrimental canker diseases. Cherries, apricots, and a few related species are particularly susceptible to fungal and bacterial canker diseases, including *Eutypa* dieback, *Botryosphaeria* canker, and bacterial canker.

Pathogens can be spread by rain or tree wounds – such as pruning wounds – during wet weather; subsequent infections spread through the wood for several years and may eventually kill the tree. When trees are infected, limbs or twigs may wilt and die suddenly in late spring or summer with the leaves still attached. Bark may be darkly discolored and amber-colored gumming may ooze (Figure 1). Infected areas in the interior of the wood are discolored brown (Figure 2) sometimes in wedge shapes; with bacterial canker the cambial area will turn red or speckled red and then brown. To remove such infections, cut infected limbs at least one foot below any internal symptom of the disease, preferably during the dry season when infection risk is lowest.

The best practice is to avoid pruning these susceptible species during the typical rainy period from September through mid-March. Rains after March can still lead to infections although tissue susceptibility to disease decreases with warmer weather.

However, it is best to avoid pruning altogether until at least late spring.

If growth is very vigorous, the first summer pruning can be done in late May or June, at which time many strong upright shoots can be removed to allow sunlight to reach lower fruiting branches. Doing the final pruning in July leads to excessive regrowth later that summer. The main or final pruning should be in August, but heavy pruning, especially at that time of year, may lead to sunburned branches, so leave spurs and some other shoots to provide some shade. Alternatively, whitewash west- and south-facing branches with a 50:50 mixture of interior, white latex paint and water to prevent sunburn.



Figure 1. Oozing produced by fungal infection of a cherry branch pruned during a previous cool season.



Figure 2. A cross-cut into the infected branch reveals a large fungal canker in the wood; the infection continues into the trunk.

The LOEL Center Community Garden: Sprouting Seeds of Courage

In 1976, William Holz, equipped with a visionary mission and a bequest of \$100,000, gave life to a small and simple dream of providing a senior agency centered as a congregate-based nutrition site. The LOEL Foundation, LOdi ELderly, was born and very soon afterwards grew from its original site located at the Hotel Lodi on School Street. In 1978, the center established residence at a vacant church site on South Washington Street in Lodi. A simple dream with humble beginnings was soon to blossom into one of serving the educational, health, and social needs of the senior community. With dedicated commitment, the LOEL Center has grown in programs and services that have empowered Lodi area senior adults to live meaningful and independent lives providing advocacy along with the benefits of social interaction.

Turn the pages several decades to 2014. A vacant church structure adjacent to the LOEL Center has been demolished providing additional parking for the expanding number of seniors being served. The mission vision has grown once again to include construction of a community garden. This garden's concept not only fulfills the gardening needs of seniors, but takes a step forward in reaching out to the Eastside residents of Lodi. Residents of the Eastside also have a dream of creating community gardens within their neighborhoods, where they can teach the kids to grow their own food and keep them off the streets. The goal is to grow healthy foods and grow community pride, while encouraging engagement of the youth in healthy non-gang- related activities.



Today, the footprint of the community garden rests above the abandoned church's foundation supported with financial-based startup aid from the City of Lodi Community Development Block Grant, or CDBG. New to Lodi, this 28-planter garden is one of the first open-to-the-public gardens within the city. LOEL Center seniors and the public are invited to participate in leasing a 4' x 8' raised bed for \$5 per year. Curt Juran, a San Joaquin County UC Master Gardener, has spearheaded the community garden project with the tireless assistance of fellow master gardeners. Also, the California Human Development (CHD) construction skills class volunteered over 200 hours of labor to help build the redwood planters and picnic table. Local business members and donors have generously contributed gardening supplies. Hard work and persistence are the seeds that will bring this project to fruition!

Once again, a simple plan and a dream will bring life to a vision of fresh food for a neighborhood that is seeking direction. The vision is to have families come to the garden and plant edibles, to bring their own cultural favorites to grow and harvest. Master Gardeners will help to mentor and educate the public in UC research-based methods of cultivation and irrigation. Pest control will focus on mechanical, biological and cultural control rather than be pesticide based. Juran has a vision for this garden one that accommodates trailing pumpkins, espaliered fruit trees which will maximize the space along



the fence line, and perhaps one day, enough produce will be grown to support a small farmers' market. This will be a teaching garden with opportunities to learn research-based methods of growing edibles. The sincerest hope is that the LOEL garden will serve as a prototype for other neighborhood gardens that will bring food, direction, and pride to strengthen community ties. Community gardens can plant seeds of hope and courage to revitalize what once was broken.

If you would like to volunteer, make a donation, or acquire an application for any of the remaining planting boxes, please contact Curt Juran, Volunteer Coordinator LOEL Center Community Garden, LoelCommunityGarden@outlook.com. Your interest and support are greatly appreciated!

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 anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu

Q. How can I control voles and ground squirrels?

Squirrels and voles may look cute and harmless, but the damage they cause to home gardens and commercial farming can be severe and costly.

VOLES

With six species prevalent in California, it's the California vole, *M. californicus*, that is most common in the Central Valley. Voles are mouse-like rodents that when fully-grown can measure 5" to 8" long. They spend most of their time below ground in burrows. Indications of their presence are well-traveled paths between burrow openings.

They can increase rapidly. In some areas their numbers are cyclical, reaching peak numbers every 3 to 6 years. Voles breed any time, but the peak period is spring. Extremely prolific, females mature in 35 to 40 days and have 5 to 10 litters annually with litters ranging from 3 to 6 young. However, voles seldom live beyond 12 months.

Voles usually don't enter homes or buildings. Instead, they inhabit wild lands or croplands adjacent to buildings, gardens and landscaped sites. Voles feed on a wide range of garden plants, lawns, and landscape plants and will gnaw the bark of fruit trees.

To effectively manage vole populations, make their habitat less suitable. Remove weeds, heavy mulch, and dense vegetation that encourages voles by providing food and protection from predators and environmental stresses. More information is available at the following [website](#).



GROUND SQUIRRELS



The most common species is the ground squirrel whose habitat includes nearly all of California. Easily recognizable, they measure 14-20" in length and forage above ground. Ground squirrels can climb trees but when scared will always return to their burrow. Tree squirrels will climb a tree or structure but never use a burrow. Learn more about tree squirrels: Ground squirrels live in burrows up 30' in length, with depths 2' to 4' below the surface. They live in colonies and their range is typically within a 75-yard radius of their burrow. In the Central Valley, breeding occurs February through April. The young are born in the burrow. When about 6 weeks old, they emerge from the burrow. At 6 months they resemble adults.

Ground squirrels damage many ornamental and food-bearing plants including grains, nuts, and fruit trees. They will devour vegetable seedlings and damage young shrubs, vines, and trees by gnawing bark, girdling trunks (completely removing a strip of bark from the outer surface), eating twigs and leaves, and burrowing around roots. They eat the eggs of ground-nesting birds and will chew on plastic sprinkler heads and irrigation lines.

Burrows and mounds present hazards to machinery, pedestrians, and livestock. Burrows around trees and shrubs can damage and dry out roots, causing trees to topple. Burrowing beneath buildings often produces damage that results in costly repairs. They carry diseases harmful to humans such as bubonic plague which can be transmitted to humans by fleas carried by ground squirrels.

Habitat modification is an effective way to reduce populations. Remove brush piles and debris to make an area less desirable. Destroy old burrows by deep ripping them to a depth of at least 20 inches, as ground squirrels easily find and reopen old burrows.

More information on control of ground squirrels is [available here](#).

and different flower forms.

Tuberous begonia bulbs should be available at your nursery. Choose the largest and healthiest looking bulbs to start indoors now. Move them outside in late March. **Azaleas** in bloom are arriving now. Your favorite garden center should have the best selection of these shade-loving plants early this month.

Evergreen vines that grow well in our area include fragrant yellow-flowered Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*); white-flowered evergreen clematis (*C. armandii*); purple *Hardenbergia violacea* 'Happy Wanderer'; pink *H. v. 'Rosea'*; fragrant pinkish white *Jasminum polyanthum*; pink or white *Pandorea jasminoides*; and violet trumpet vine (*Clytostoma callistegioides*). All of the above are easy to grow, reaching 15 to 20 feet long.

Maintenance

Empty any rain-filled containers around the yard to eliminate mosquito breeding areas.

Look for snails hiding beneath plants and lumber piles now before they get started munching on tender, young foliage. Pick them from where you see them and drop them in a pail of soapy water.

Remove old flowers on camellias to reduce the chance of petal blight.

Citrus trees will appreciate a feeding of a nitrogen-rich fertilizer 6 to 8 weeks before their spring bloom time. Citrus requires micronutrients not found in turf fertilizers. A good citrus fertilizer will include additional nutrients like Magnesium, Boron, Copper, and Zinc.

Apply dormant spray for the final time in mid month to prevent peach leaf curl, brown rot and scale on your stone fruit trees.

Finish pruning your roses by mid-February. Cut back woody stems to within a few inches of the ground on butterfly bush, fuchsia, and Mexican bush sage to stimulate new growth. If left unpruned, plants become leggy and scraggly-looking.

If your cymbidium orchids are bulging out of their containers or the bark has decomposed, it's time to repot them. Do this between mid-February and early July to assure bloom next season. Remove old bark, cut off dead roots, and discard soft or rotted bulbs. Repot the plant into a larger container, or divide plants into groups of three to five pseudobulbs (bulbs with leaves). Replant in medium-size bark or purchase a cymbidium mix.

Mix compost into your flower and vegetable beds to help condition the soil and make them ready for a great crop this year.

Leave freeze-damaged leaves on plants for a few more weeks

to protect and insulate any new growth from a March cold snap. **Sharpen lawn mower** blades and change the mower's oil before lawn cutting becomes a weekly job.

March Notes:

Plant –

Beets, carrots, leeks, potatoes, and radishes can be planted from seed now. Wait until the soil is workable so your seeds don't rot in very cold or soggy soil.

Potatoes can carry soil-borne diseases which are harmless to humans but devastating for a potato plant. Buy seed potatoes from a nursery or a mail-order company that certifies the seed potatoes are disease free. Whole potatoes can be divided to give you a bigger crop by cutting the potatoes into chunks that each contain one or two eyes (the small depression where sprouts will form). To prevent rotting, store the freshly cut pieces at room temperature for three days before planting to allow the cut surfaces to dry and form a callus. Potatoes are heavy feeders, so planting with a good amount of compost will help the plant and your harvest.

Maintenance –

Empty any rain-filled containers around your yard to eliminate mosquito breeding areas. **Prune** suckers from trees and shrubs.

Check your drip irrigation for leaks in the lines and make repairs as needed. Flush out sediment from filters, check screens for algae and clean with a small brush, if necessary. Make sure all emitters are dripping water. If some are clogged, replace them (if you can't remove one, install a new emitter next to it). Add emitters to lines if plants have grown significantly since the system was installed. Put new batteries in your electronic drip controllers and check the settings.

Loosen moist, not wet, vegetable garden soil to a depth of 6-10 inches and lightly work in compost and fertilizer. Rake and water the beds to be ready for planting in April.

Pre-emergents applied now to your lawn can help stop the summertime onslaught of crabgrass. A little fertilizer at the same time will help the rest of your lawn be green and healthy as spring begins.

Add mulch around shrubs and trees to the drip line. Leave a six-inch area adjacent to the trunk clear to prevent rot.

Woody species in landscapes should not be routinely fertilized - with the possible exception of young plants and fruit and nut trees. As long as woody plants exhibit normal leaf size and color and desired growth, nutrients are probably adequate. For more information on recognizing when your landscape trees and shrubs might need nutrients, [click here](#).

Roasted Beet And Goat Cheese Salad with Sherry-Walnut Vinaigrette

This is a colorful winter salad. Roasting the beets brings out their sweetness. Walnut oil is delicious, but a bit expensive. If you do use it, keep the leftovers in the refrigerator to keep it fresh. This recipe is a variation of a Whole Foods Market recipe.

Salad

10 small red or golden beets or some of each
1 pound baby spinach
5 ounces arugula
1/2 cup walnuts, toasted
4 ounces goat cheese, crumbled

Dressing

1/2 cup sherry vinegar
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/4 teaspoon honey
1/2 clove garlic, finely chopped
1/2 cup walnut oil or canola oil
1/4 cup olive oil
1-1/4 teaspoon salt
Ground black pepper, to taste



Directions

Heat oven to 400°F. Trim and scrub beets, leaving a 1/2 inch of stem and root to keep them from bleeding during roasting. Place beets on a piece of aluminum foil on a baking sheet and make a pouch out of the foil, sealing it tightly. Roast for 40 minutes or until tender. Remove from oven and let beets steam for 10 minutes. Open pouch and let beets cool slightly. Meanwhile, whisk together vinegar, mustard, honey, and garlic in a small bowl. Slowly whisk in the oils and season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

After beets have cooled enough to handle, remove and discard skins and cut into bite-size pieces. Mix beets with half of vinaigrette, then mix spinach and arugula with the rest of the vinaigrette. Transfer greens to plates and top with beets, walnuts,

Sausage and Kale Soup

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 onion, diced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1/4 teaspoon crushed red-pepper flakes
Yukon Gold or Red potatoes (1 1/2 pounds), peeled and cut into 1/2-inch chunks
3 quarts chicken broth
1 bunch kale (12 ounces), stemmed and shredded
1/2 lb. smoked chicken sausage, or linguica sausage cut into 1/2-inch half moons

In a large pot (6 to 8 quarts), heat oil over medium heat. Add onion and cook until soft, stirring 2 to 3 minutes. Add garlic and red-pepper flakes; cook until fragrant, 1 minute. Add potatoes and broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer until potatoes are tender, 10 to 15 minutes.

In a blender, puree half the soup. Return to pot and add kale and sausage. Simmer until kale is cooked and sausage is heated through, 10 to 15 minutes.

Salad Ideas using Kale

Kale, seedless red grapes, feta cheese, sliced almonds, and honey Dijon salad dressing

Kale, sliced strawberries, sliced almonds, and poppy seed dressing

Kale with Caesar dressing and shards of parmesan cheese

Shredded kale, Brussels sprouts, broccoli with dried cranberries, pumpkin seeds, and poppy seed dressing

Kale, slice pear, blue cheese, toasted pine nuts, and pear salad dressing (from Trader Joe's)

Add thinly shredded kale to your coleslaw recipe

Ideas for using Kale

Add kale to sausage-bread stuffing

Kale, roasted butternut squash cubes, and crispy bacon

Replace spinach with kale in lasagna or stuffed jumbo shells

Make kale chips in the microwave or oven

Almost any soup recipe that calls for spinach can use kale instead: Italian wedding soup, Pasta e fagioli soup, or Greens soup

JANUARY 2015**San Joaquin Master Gardener workshop: Yardscaping with Fruit Trees
Saturday January 17**

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon.

Learn how to plant and grow fruit trees for a productive backyard orchard.

Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca
Classes are free. All participants must register a week prior to the class by calling (209) 953-6100.**Sacramento Master Gardener Workshop: Pruning and Grafting**

Saturday, January 17

9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Horticulture Center, 11549 Fair Oaks
Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Get familiar with pruning techniques for deciduous fruit trees and blueberries. Watch a fruit tree grafting demonstration.

Do you have a specific question about a plant problem or mysterious pest? The Workshop includes a Plant Clinic where Master Gardeners will help solve your gardening problems. Do you have questions about irrigation or water conservation? Composting or worm composting questions? Help is available from experienced Master Gardeners.

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

Admission is free

Contact: 916-875-6913

Alden Lane Nursery Rose Care and Pruning SeminarsSaturday and Sunday, January 10 and 11
11:00 a.m.981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550
Seminars will be led by Mt. Diablo Rose Society members on Saturday at 10 a.m. and the Alden Lane Staff on Sunday at 11 a.m. They will cover proper pruning techniques, feeding, and general care, as well as the best varieties for the Valley.

Contact: (925) 447-0280 at 1 p.m.,

Alden Lane Nursery Grape Pruning with Jim Ryan, Grape & Wine Consultant

Saturday, January 10

1:00 p.m.

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550

Contact: (925) 447-0280

Alden Lane Nursery Last Pruning Basics Class

Saturday, January 24

11:00 a.m.

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550
Learn the basics to shape deciduous trees and shrubs, prune fruit trees properly, or get any of your own pruning questions answered.

Contact: (925) 447-0280

Alden Lane Nursery Grafting Class with Graham Stott

Saturday, January 17

10:00-11:30 a.m.

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550
Have you ever tasted a perfect apple, pear or stone fruit and wished you could grow that in your own garden? January is the time of the year to get cuttings (scions) of fruit trees and graft them onto an existing tree. In this class you will learn various grafting techniques. If you would like to try your hand at grafting, please bring a sharp utility knife. If you are interested in attending, please sign up by calling (925) 447-0280. Various chapters of the California Rare Fruit Growers will host their scion exchanges in early January. For more information see the [CRFG website](#) for information on the local chapters.**Alden Lane Nursery Terrariums Workshop**

Saturday, January 24

1:30 to 3 p.m.

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550
Learn how to create a timeless piece of living art for your home or as a gift! You will create a miniature landscape born of your garden fantasies in just a twinkle of an eye. Alden Lane will provide all the plants and earthy elements, including a large glass container. Just come and be inspired – and the rule is – you can't leave until you LOVE it. Terrariums only require minimal care, and add a bit of nature to your home or office. Signups will be taken until Wednesday, January 18, so please sign up early to reserve your space. The cost is \$40.00 plus tax.
Contact: (925) 447-0280**FEBRUARY****San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Big Flavor Small Spaces****Saturday February 14**

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Growing edibles in small spaces and containers with big results

City of Stockton Delta Water Supply,
11373 N. Lower Sacramento Road Lodi
Classes are free. Class size is limited to 30. All participants must register by the Wednesday before the class by calling (209) 953-6100.**Alden Lane Nursery Inspiration by Invitation Seminars**

Saturday, February 14

10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550
This event features a full day of seminars for gardening enthusiasts. Attendees will be able to design their day according to their interests and there will be many incredible seminars and instructors to choose from.Call and reserve your tickets soon with our Alden Lane Cashiers (925) 447-0280. The cost is \$35.00 per ticket and includes lunch. [Click here for more information](#)**San Joaquin Master Gardener workshop: Big Flavor Small Spaces****Saturday February 21**

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon.

Growing edibles in small spaces and containers with big results.
Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca
Classes are free. All participants must register a week prior to the class by calling (209) 953-6100.**Alden Lane Nursery Tillandsia Wreath Class**

February 28

1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

981 Alden Lane, Livermore, CA 94550
Here's a new twist on a classic wreath. Create a beautiful, living wreath with tillandsias (air plants) for an indoor conversation piece that will bring lots of compliments. This 12" wire wreath will consist

of a base of Spanish moss interspersed with lichen-covered twigs (from our own ancient oaks), natural moss and other natural elements, and a host of beautiful tillandsias. It is an easy and fun project with very easy maintenance. Call and reserve your tickets and repay with our Alden Lane Cashiers (925) 447-0280 by Wednesday, February 25. The cost is \$38.00 plus tax.

MARCH

UC Davis Arboretum Spring 2015 Plant Sales

Saturday, March 7 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
– Member Appreciation Sale – Members Only.
(Members enjoy special preview sales and receive a 10% discount. Not a member? Join at the door or call ahead! At our annual member appreciation sale, members not only receive 10% off their purchases, they get an additional \$10 off thank you coupon).

[LEARN MORE](#)

Saturday, April 11 – Public sales – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 25 – Public sales – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 16 – Clearance Sale 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[Arboretum Teaching Nursery](#), Garrod Drive, UC Davis campus

Many homeowners are in the process of developing their “New Front Yard” by replacing high-water use plants with low-water alternatives. This year you will find just what you need at our “New Front Yard” Spring Plant Sales. We are going to have the area’s largest selection of attractive, drought-tolerant, easy-care, region-appropriate plants including lots of California natives and Arboretum All-Stars.

Click to [Download the NEW FRONT YARD plant list](#): our list of 40 attractive, low-water plants that also support wildlife.

San Joaquin Master Gardener workshop: Handling Garden Enemies

Saturday March 14

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Learn how to deal with common garden pests and invasives in an environmentally friendly way.

City of Stockton Delta Water Supply,
11373 N. Lower Sacramento Road Lodi
Classes are free. Class size is limited to 30. All participants must register by the Wednesday before the class by calling

(209) 953-6100.

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

Wednesday thru Sunday, March 18 to 22
Wednesday thru-Saturday – 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday – 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

San Mateo Events Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo

As one of the top exhibitions of its kind in the United States, the Show covers more than 5-acres, includes full-sized designer showcase gardens; offers ways to grow, prepare, preserve your own fresh, organic food; and displays hundreds of flowers and floral designs, and tens of thousands of wonderful plants and garden-related products to buy. A full range of free seminars, exhibits, and demonstrations provide continuous opportunities to learn about landscaping, gardening, growing & preparing garden-fresh food, designing with flowers and creating fantastic garden spaces in your home, school and community. There is something for everyone.

San Joaquin Master Gardener workshop: Handling Garden Enemies

Saturday March 21

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon.

Learn how to deal with common garden pests and invasives in an environmentally friendly way.

Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca
Classes are free. All participants must register a week prior to the class by calling (209) 953-6100.



Need Help? Hire a Green Gardener!

Qualified San Joaquin County Green Gardeners are landscape professionals who have invested their own time and money to complete over 20 hours of advanced instruction in environmentally friendly landscape maintenance practices scientifically proven to

- ◆ *improve the health of your landscape*
- ◆ *save you water*
- ◆ *reduce your green waste*
- ◆ *reduce or eliminate the need for pesticides*
- ◆ *prevent polluted runoff water to the Delta*

For more information and a list of qualified Green Gardeners, visit our website:

<http://ucanr.edu/GreenGardener>

Are you a landscape professional?

Become a Green Gardener!

Visit our website to see how!

New classes begin January 15- Register now!



UC Master Gardeners

2101 E Earhart Ave

Suite 200, Stockton, CA, 95206

Phone: 209-953-6112

E-mail: anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu

Web-site: <http://sjmastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>

[Find us on Facebook!](#)

Coordinator: Marcy Sousa 953-6100

For nondiscrimination policy, [click here](#)



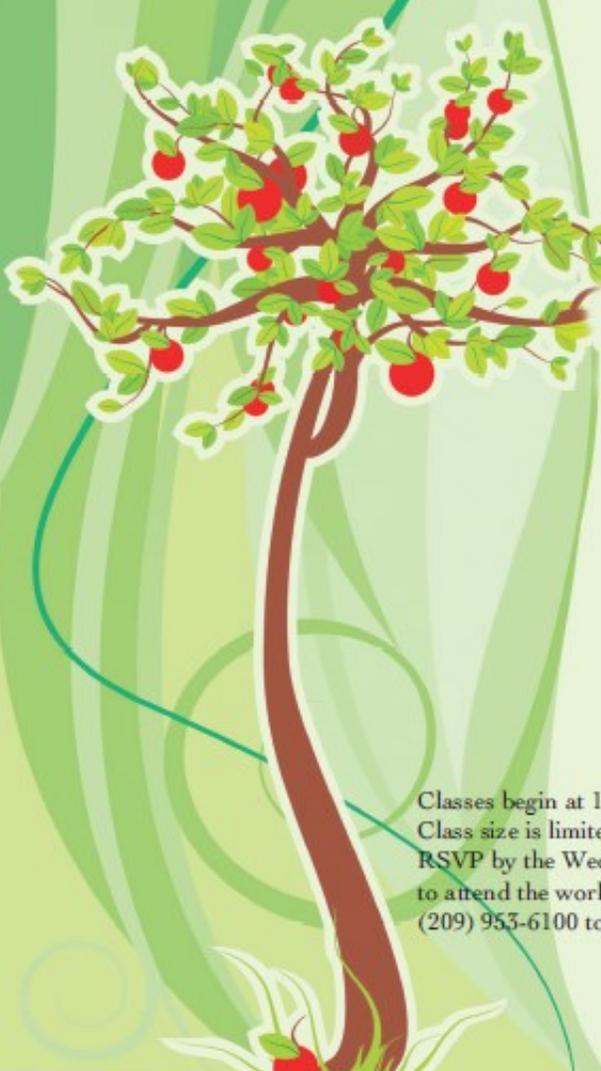


San Joaquin Master Gardeners 2015 Workshop Schedule

City of Stockton
Delta Water Supply Project Building

Classes will be held at the
**City of Stockton Delta
Water Supply Project**

11373 North Lower Sacramento Road
Lodi, CA 95242



**January 10:
Yardscaping with
Fruit Trees**

How to plant and grow fruit trees for a productive backyard orchard.

**February 14:
Big Flavor Small Spaces**

Growing edibles in small spaces and containers with big results.

**March 14:
Handling Garden
Enemies**

Dealing with common garden pests and invasives in an environmentally friendly way.

**April 11:
Tips and Tricks for
Drought Friendly
Landscaping**

Easy ways you can conserve water in your existing landscape.

**May 9:
Kidding Around
in the Home Garden**

Turning children on early to the joy of gardening.

**July 11:
Rethinking your Lawn**

Turf alternatives for today's landscape.

**August 8:
Growing Root Flowers
for Beauty**

How to successfully plant and grow tubers, corms, bulbs and rhizomes.

**September 12:
Creating beauty with
California Native plants**

Tips and tricks in successfully planting and growing CA natives.

**October 10:
Don't Toss It,
Compost It!**

Learn how to turn kitchen and yard waste into the ideal soil amendment for your garden.

**November 14:
House Plants
Made Easy**

Learn how to be successful growing indoor plants.

Classes begin at 10:00 am and end at 11:30 am.
Class size is limited to 30. You will need to
RSVP by the Wednesday before the class
to attend the workshop. Please call
(209) 953-6100 to guarantee your seat.





San Joaquin Master Gardeners

2015 Workshop Schedule

Manteca Library Time

10:30 am -12:00 pm

Classes will be held at the Manteca Library

320 W. Center Manteca, CA 95336
(209) 937-8221



January 17: Yardscaping with Fruit Trees

How to plant and grow fruit trees for a productive backyard orchard.

February 21: Big Flavor Small Spaces

Growing edibles in small spaces and containers with big results.

March 21: Handling Garden Enemies

Dealing with common garden pests and invasives in an environmentally friendly way.

April 18: Tips and Tricks for Drought Friendly Landscaping

Easy ways you can conserve water in your existing landscape.

May 16: Kidding Around in the Home Garden

Turning children on early to the joy of gardening.

July 18: Rethinking your Lawn

Turf alternatives for today's landscape.

August 15: Growing Root Flowers for Beauty

How to successfully plant and grow tubers, corms, bulbs and rhizomes.

September 19: Creating beauty with California Native plants

Tips and tricks in successfully planting and growing CA natives.

October 17: Don't Toss It, Compost It!

Learn how to turn kitchen and yard waste into the ideal soil amendment for your garden.

November 21: House Plants Made Easy

Learn how to be successful growing indoor plants.

Classes begin at 10:30 am
and end at 12:00 pm.

Classes are free.

All participants must register
a week prior to the class at
(209) 953-6100.



FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

ESCALON COMMUNITY CENTER, 1055 ESCALON AVE.

FREE to residents of San Joaquin County

Call (209) 468-3066 for more info.



RESIDENTIAL MATERIAL * ONLY

*Eligible businesses may participate but must make an appointment by Feb. 13th. Fees apply. Appointments: (800) 207-8222.

NO TIRES, LARGE APPLIANCES, EXPLOSIVES, OR RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS ACCEPTED

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

- **Household Hazardous Waste:** chemical cleaners, used oil, paints, pool chemicals, garden products, automotive products, pesticides, 1 gallon and 5 gallon propane tanks, etc.
- **Universal Waste:** fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, mercury containing devices.
- **Electronic Waste:** computers, monitors, printers, TVs, radios, VCRs, telephones, stereos, etc.

SAFETY TIPS

- Transport no more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds.
- Don't mix chemicals.
- Use only sealed, non-leaking containers.
- Transport in truck bed or trunk; pack to avoid spilling.
- Please leave pets at home!



Sponsored by the Communities of San Joaquin County.

www.SJCreycle.org



FREE CONVENIENT COLLECTION LOCATIONS



FREE PAINT RECYCLING

Strand's Ace Hardware
3360 McHenry Avenue

True Value Hardware
1436 N Main Street



Electronics Recycling

Escalon Community Center
9 AM - 1 PM
January 10, 2015 July 18, 2015
April 12, 2015 October 11, 2015



Battery Recycling

Escalon City Hall
Escalon Library
Escalon Unified School District
Single use & rechargeable accepted.



FREE to residents of San Joaquin County

Call (209) 468-3066 for more info.

Sponsored by the Communities of San Joaquin County.

www.SJCreycle.org

