



The Curious Gardener

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Increasing Habitat with Native Ground Covers

by Marianne Calhoun, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Are you considering adding ground covers to fill spaces between shrubs or along pathways? Fall is the perfect time to add plants due to cooler temperatures with anticipated winter rains. Before you head to a local nursery, let's step back and consider your goals.

Traditional goals for selecting ground covers include being evergreen, attractive year-round, low growing, wider than taller, and fast growing. An additional consideration may be adding fragrance. One nursery advertises two grasses, manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*), myoporum (*Myoporum parvifolium*), periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), and trailing rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Prostratus').

Are you also interested in attracting birds, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees to your garden? Then selecting ground covers that are native to your area becomes a primary consideration. By adding native plants, you'll increase the type and number of insects in your garden that will consequently provide more food for birds, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees.

In *The Living Landscape: Designing for beauty and biodiversity in the home garden*, Doug Tallamy describes how "the potential botanical biodiversity of a garden's herbaceous layer is much greater than that of any other aboveground layer... From the perspective of wildlife, a more diverse herbaceous layer provides more varied shelter and cover. An overlapping sequence of bloom throughout the season translates to a continual source of nectar and pollen along with a steady supply of ripening seeds and fruits." So let's focus on providing wildlife a sequence of ground covers that are native to both Nevada and Placer Counties.



Photo by Marianne Calhoun

A hummingbird enjoys the fall blooms of California fuchsia

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If your property receives a mix of sun and shade, consider planting several ground covers to bloom throughout the year. Pinemat (*Ceanothus prostratus*) has fragrant whitish blue flowers that bloom from late winter to early spring and appeal to butterflies. Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) has fragrant white flat flower clusters in spring and summer with occasional flowers in fall and winter; USDA zones 3-9. Foothill penstemon (*Penstemon heterophyllus*) has bluish purple tubular flowers that bloom mid-spring to early summer and are attractive to hummingbirds; USDA zones 6-10. Lastly, California goldenrod (*Solidago velutina* ssp. *californica*) has golden yellow flower spikes throughout the summer and into fall; the flowers appeal to butterflies.

There are two ground covers to consider for the sunny parts of your garden. Sulfur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*) has bright yellow clusters appealing to butterflies throughout the summer and into fall; USDA zones 3-8. California fuschia (*Epilobium canum*) is semi-evergreen with orangish red tubular flowers that bloom mid-summer to mid-fall and attract hummingbirds; USDA zones 8+.

For the shady parts of your garden, consider spring-flowering ground covers. Creeping barberry (*Berberis aquifolium* var. *repens*) has fragrant yellow flowers followed by edible blue tart berries in the summer; USDA zones 4-8. Crevice alumroot (*Heuchera micrantha*) has creamy white flowers which attract hummingbirds; USDA zones 4-9. Creeping sage (*Salvia sonomensis*), pictured below, has fragrant light blue flowers also attracting hummingbirds; USDA zones 8-10.

You now have nine options for native ground covers that attract birds, butterflies, hummingbirds, and bees to your garden in addition to being evergreen, attractive year-round, low growing, wider than taller, and fast growing! A website created by the California Native Plant Society, [Calscape](http://calscape.org), provides detailed plant descriptions as well as nurseries for purchasing.



Photo by Marianne Calhoun

References

- Calscape. California Native Plant Society. <http://calscape.org>
- Darke, Rick and Doug Tallamy. *The Living Landscape: Designing for beauty and biodiversity in the home garden*. Timber Press. 2014.



Photo by Julie Lowrie

Unusual Edibles: Space 36 Lotus “To Infinity And Beyond”

by Julie Lowrie, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Although Richard Branson and Jeff Bezos may have recently traveled to the edge of outer space, seeds for the Space 36 Lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera* 'Taikong Lian 36') beat them to the punch, having been hybridized in outer space in 2009! Asian lotus, such as the Space 36 Lotus cultivar, is [an important cash crop grown in many Asian countries](#) due to its edible parts, like rhizomes that can be eaten as a fresh vegetable containing starch, protein, and vitamins, and seeds as dessert or medicine that can be eaten fresh or dry matured. According to Imana Pal and Purnima Dey in their [A Review on Lotus \(Nelumbo nucifera\) Seed](#), “Virtually, all parts of the lotus plant are used: the rhizome is used as food, seed as medicine, thalamus as fruit, leaves as plate (thali), stalks as pickle, petals for colour extraction, and tender leaves as food after being blended with vegetables.” Apart from its edibility, lotus has multiple uses, including “flowers as religious ornaments, and several parts as raw materials to produce cosmetics” according to the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#). The Space 36 lotus cultivar is a hardy perennial for both Placer and Nevada Counties, making an eye-catching accent plant in your garden, and sporting large rounded green to blue-green leaves suspended up to six feet above the water by its petioles with beautiful, short-lived, changeable pink-hued, white petaled blooms. Large green seed pods replace the blooms, changing to brown and downward looking as they mature, allowing for its large, black seeds to fall to the ground.

Mammalian Pests in the Garden: Control Them, Live with Them, or Both.

By Bonnie Bradt, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

Many of us “Foothill Dwellers” love it here, for the enjoyment of the natural world surrounding us. Sometimes however, that natural world comes in the form of critters, large and small, that love the same veggies, flowers, and trees that we do. It’s a tough decision to make, when you and the critters come face to face (metaphorically) in the garden over chewed tomatoes, broken saplings, or disappearing peaches. If you have a garden, it’s going to happen. I promise. At that time, you need to make those decisions.

Most pest control articles deal with insect or “invertebrate” pests in the garden. They are small. They are numerous. They have been dealt with in many presentations and articles from local Master Gardeners. But this one deals with mammalian pests. Although lesser in number than the insects, they can cause massive damage to a veggie or flower garden. To mitigate the damage, you need to take appropriate steps.

It is impossible to discuss in 1,200 words, in-depth control methods for every mammalian pest you may encounter in your garden, so please consult the [UC IPM Pest Notes library](#) (see references) for any critter you are facing. This library is updated constantly, as laws change, and is filled with great ideas for pest control of all types.

First, determine what pest you’re dealing with. In a few instances, you can tell easily. If you see holes dug in pathways or lawns, and you smell that unmistakable odor, it’s a skunk...digging for grubs. If you see flowers or tomatoes or ears of corn eaten completely, about four feet off the ground or higher, it’s a deer. If you see those mounds of freshly dug earth that often appear spaced out in a line across your garden, and plants either disappear or start to wither and when you pull on them, they come out of the ground without roots, it’s a gopher. For a pest control program, you must identify the pest.

It’s not always easy, however, to know exactly what creature is causing your damage. The best way is to actually see them. Keep an eye out with binoculars during the day and a flashlight at night. Or better yet, invest in (or borrow) a “Trail” camera or “Game” camera. They do not cost too much and they are a great tool to photograph anything that moves in your yard. The camera can be on the lookout 24 hours a day, is motion activated, and can take still shots or videos. And it’s lots of fun once you learn to use it, even if

you don’t have pests. You can just “see” what is wandering around when you’re not looking.

Once you’ve determined your target pest, here’s your first decision. There are two basic pathways of pest control. They are “LETHAL” and “NON-LETHAL.” Either the pest ends up dead or alive at the end of your pest control program. You may have strong feelings about this decision, one way or the other. But that choice is sometimes made for you, by the nature of the pest. For example, since it is almost always illegal to shoot, poison, or trap deer that are garden intruders, you must choose a non-lethal control. The recommended methods are the planting of deer resistant plants, exclusion by fencing, individual plant protection, or the use of frightening devices or repellants sprayed on plants. Or perhaps all of the above. See the list of Vertebrate Pest Notes [here](#) and in the references below.

Another example would be squirrels. In our area, there are ground squirrels and tree squirrels. Ground squirrels are considered by the state of California as a non-game animal and therefore do not have legal protection against trapping/killing. Remember, however, that relocating any trapped wildlife is illegal in California without a permit. So they must either be released where they are trapped or euthanized in a legal manner (like gassing or shooting). Ground squirrel burrows can potentially be controlled by fumigation in early spring or when the soil is still moist. Pressurized systems like the PERC system which releases carbon monoxide into the burrows has been shown to be effective for ground squirrel control and is legal in California (see the referenced Pest Note Library). However, shooting, frightening

devices, burrow exploders, and biological control are all considered ineffectual for long-term ground squirrel control.

Tree squirrels present different challenges. The native Western gray squirrel is classified as a game animal and can be taken only during hunting season, with a hunting license. The Eastern fox squirrel (a reddish colored tree squirrel) has been introduced into certain parts of the state and is considered a harmful pest to homes and gardens. It can be trapped and killed, any time, without a permit. But it is illegal to use poison baits to kill any tree squirrel species. Control of tree squirrels is a difficult task and takes a commitment of time

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*Above: Western gray squirrel.
Photo by Dr. Lloyd Glenn Ingles.
Below: Adult California ground
squirrel. Photo by Monica Dimson,
UCCE Orange County,*





For an article on managing deer in the garden see the [summer 2019 issue of The Curious Gardener](#).

Photo by Bonnie Bradt

Continued from previous page and effort. Any squirrel who is removed from an area will soon be replaced by another. Tolerance (or a dog) is often the only way to coexist.

The most common local type of rabbit pest is the jackrabbit. They are the size of a house cat and are commonly seen in daylight even though their preferred feeding time is at night. Most rabbit damage is less than two feet high. This differentiates them from the deer who tend to cause damage at higher levels. California Fish and Game classifies jackrabbits as game animals but they can be controlled in any legal manner, without a hunting license, if they are causing crop damage. Exclusion (fencing) and repellants are the recommended non-lethal methods for jackrabbit control. Note that fencing

should be buried at least 6-8 inches below the ground as well as three feet or more above ground. The bottom of the buried fence should be bent outward, to keep rabbits from digging underneath the fence. Trapping is difficult for jackrabbits as they avoid entering enclosed spaces. Shooting can be an effective method to remove small numbers of rabbits in a rural setting where use of firearms is legal.

One of the most difficult pests to deal with is the pocket gopher. Earth mounds signal their presence and the earlier in the spring you deal with them, the better, as numbers will increase. They can cause catastrophic damage to a veggie garden. They can destroy roots or pull complete plants down into burrows from below. Best methods of control are exclusion (plant in gopher baskets), poison baits, trapping, or all three. Note: trapping is preferred. You see the target species successfully dealt with and there is no danger to pets and children. But trapping is an art form, and needs practice. Don't give up!

It is not easy to manage damage to a garden by local mammalian pests, but study, practice, and perhaps willingness to share part of your crop will ensure success and peace of mind in the end.



Above: Adult pocket gopher. Photo by Jack Kelly Clark.

Below: Various types of gopher traps. Photo by Roger A. Baldwin.

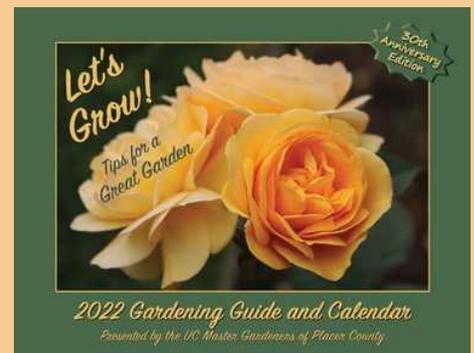


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- UC IPM, Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, Pest Notes. <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/>
- Salmon, T. P., D. A. Whisson, and R. E. Marsh. *Wildlife Pest Control around Gardens and Homes*. 2nd ed. UCANR Publication 21385. 2006.

2022 Gardening Guide and Calendar: Let's Grow! Tips for a Great Garden

UC Master Gardeners of Placer County are pleased to announce that the 2022 Gardening Guide and Calendar will be available in September 2021. The theme for the 2022 calendar is "Let's Grow! Tips for a Great Garden." The calendar is the 30th anniversary edition and presents an abundance of information essential for both novice gardeners and veteran gardeners alike. It includes thirteen articles with beautiful and informative photos. Articles include topics such as growing mandarins and growing avocados in our area. Additional articles include composting with worms, winter rose care and what to plant beneath oak trees. Each month also includes tips on what to plant and what is available at the market. In addition, tips on gardening tasks to be performed are readily displayed by month. Information on climate zones and gardening at varying altitudes is also provided. Reliable sources for more information on many related topics are provided throughout the calendar. Beginning in September, the Gardening Guide and Calendar can be purchased for \$10 on the Placer County Master Gardener (PCMG) website pcmg.ucanr.org. A list of several nurseries selling the calendars throughout Placer, Nevada and El Dorado counties is also presented on the website. For questions on where the calendars can be purchased call the PCMG office at (530) 889-7388. Purchasing the calendar will help ensure successful and rewarding gardening. Enjoy!





***Eriogonum giganteum* St. Catherine's Lace**

By Laurie McGonagill, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Eriogonum giganteum, St. Catherine's lace, truly lives up to its species name. A native of the Channel Islands, this gorgeous evergreen shrub is full of large cluster heads of small white flowers on long stems from late spring through summer, sometimes even extending into fall. Like many buckwheats, this plant seems to be ever-blooming because the blossoms appear fresh as they fade from white to pink to rusty red.

E. giganteum has a mounding habit and usually reaches four feet high and four to six feet wide, although it can get larger. Because of its size, it is a good background shrub. The leaves are oval, soft to the touch, and a silvery light green with pale white undersides. They can grow somewhat sparse along the stem, so pinching back the stems makes the bush fill out a bit. Easy does it, as the shrub is somewhat brittle. If you choose not to pinch back the leaves, you see the attractive light brown bark of branches and trunk.

Pollinators love this plant. Butterflies and other insects swarm to its flowers and birds appreciate its seeds.

Care is easy for the drought tolerant St. Catherine's lace. If you want to spruce up its looks in the hot season, water deeply every two weeks or so. Note: As with any young plant, it needs water for the first year of its existence. It prefers sun, but will tolerate some shade. It likes rocky soil and good drainage, though it will grow in other conditions.

Plant St. Catherine's lace, be patient, and by the third year take your hat off to this stand-out shrub.

Read more about this plant [here](#) and [here](#).

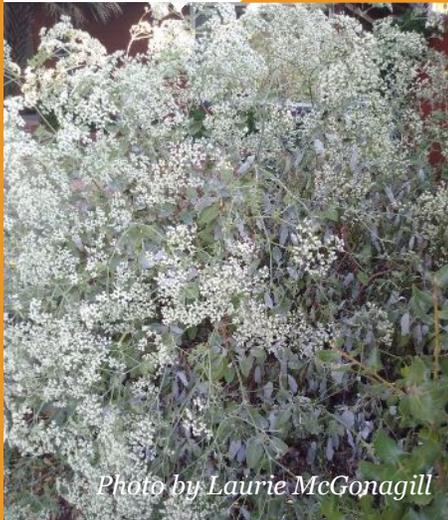


Photo by Laurie McGonagill

Hotline FAQs

**Have gardening questions?
Contact a Master Gardener!**

Placer County
530-889-7388

or [submit a question](#) electronically

Nevada County

Office currently closed. Contact us
through our [Facebook](#) page or
[submit a question](#) electronically

Should I Water my Fruit Trees this Fall?

By Laurie McGonagill, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Oh, the watering dilemma! In a dry fall, it is important to keep fruit trees alive, but we can get them used to much less water.

We should be aware of [how to determine the amount of water our fruit trees need](#), but we can also monitor them weekly. We know the age of our trees and that our soil type can vary even with a small plot of property. We must factor in that significant precipitation for this year in our area ceased in March 2021 and the amount for the water year was approximately half of a normal year—about 16 inches. Factor in also the community and water district mandates to conserve water. We want to keep our trees alive but know that the fruit harvest may be less than normal for a year or more. They may drop leaves and show signs of stress.

A fruit tree, depending on its age, needs about 15 to 45 or more gallons of water per day applied deeply about every three or so weeks. With drought conditions, water use can be curtailed by about 40%. Get the tree used to this by increasing intervals between irrigation and applying less water.

For more information, click on the following links:

[Watering Fruit and Nut Trees](#)

[Questions & Answers About Drought & Water Conservation](#)



Wide IPH Project
Regents, University of California

Garden Ghoulishness

by Ann Wright, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

Halloween is coming, and it's more than just a day to go about in funny, sometimes frightening costumes, eating snack-sized candy bars, and, of course, carving pumpkins! Halloween is also a good day to appreciate some rather haunting, terrifically scary plants! The magnificent plant world contributes to unusual, macabre, strange-looking things that grow.

For instance, take a look at *Hydnellum peckii*, known as bleeding tooth fungus. The name alone is a bit daunting. This unusual mushroom earns the name because of a thick red fluid that oozes through pores on the outer surface of the cap, giving the appearance of blood seeping through its pores! How cool is that? The mushroom is found predominantly in the Pacific Northwest, and in Europe—and can be found among mossy coniferous forests. Although it appears to be highly toxic, it is not—but it is inedible because of the very bitter taste.

What better way to decorate a ghostly haunted mansion other than to include some black bat flowers, blades of blood or perhaps a corpse flower? Wouldn't that be thrilling? The very stunning, but slightly startling, black bat flowers (*Tacca chantrieri*) are from sub-tropical regions and grow from tubers somewhat like yams. Black bat-shaped bracts are similar to petals but the true flower lies within the bracts. These are surrounded by several long, drooping, whisker-like bracteoles giving the appearance of whiskers.

The astonishing corpse flower is very interesting, rare—and, yes—smelly. *Amorphophallus titanum*, also known as the corpse flower or stinky plant, is a tropical plant which grows naturally near rain forests. This special plant is actually on the list of endangered plants, although several may be found at botanic gardens and university conservatories. The titan arum (another name of the corpse flower) earns its name as corpse flower—when it blooms, it smells like rotting meat. The good thing is that the smell attracts



Bleeding tooth fungus.
Photo Credit: Bernypisa [CC BY-SA 3.0], via Wikimedia Commons.



Corpse flower in bloom at the U.S. Botanic Garden. This flower stinks!
Photo credit: U.S. Botanic Garden



Garlic, the stinking rose.
Photo by Evett Kilmartin.

insects and beetles which are important pollinators for this unusual giant flower. It takes years for the plant to bloom. While some bloom every 5 to 7 years, one at North Carolina State University took 13 years to bloom for the first time. In July, 2021 the plant was predicted to bloom again. Brandon Huber, Ph.D., a horticulturalist at the University, named one of the titans “Lupin” for Remus Lupin, a werewolf from the Harry Potter series. The second of Huber's three titans is named “Wolfgang”, and the third is yet to be named. For more information, check the website at [North Carolina State University](https://www.ncsu.edu/lupin/).

Closer to home, but speaking of smelly plants, garlic—also known as the stinking rose—is easy to grow and can be started now for late summer harvest. Folklore suggests that because of its strong odor, garlic wards off evil spirits and repels vampires—a good thing to plant this fall! Garlic (*Allium sativum*) is related to onions, shallots and leeks which are also in the genus *Allium*.

Speaking of Halloween, last fall the UC Master Gardeners of Nevada County recorded a special Halloween soil-building virtual workshop which might be of interest—click [here](#) to see “It's Alive!” or go to the [website](#) and access the recordings via the Workshop Recordings link on the left menu.

References

- Hartin, Janet. *Halloween Plants that will Scare the BOO out of you!* UC Master Gardeners of Glenn County. October 17, 2017. <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=25528>
- Valadez, Donna Navarro. *It's a BOO-tiful Time for Ghouls in the Garden!* UC Master Gardener Statewide Blog. October 28, 2019. <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=38606>

agri-cola, ae *m* tiller of the field, farmer, husbandman
 caulis, is *m* stalk, stem of a plant; cabbage
 colo, colui, cultum 3 to care for; a) to till, cultivate
 farm; b) to tend; *adj.* cultus 3 cultivated, tilled
 (culta, orum *n/pl* tilled land, gardens, plantations),
 cresco, crevi, (cretum) 3 to grow
 cultus *m* cultivation, labor, tilling; a) to till, cultivate
 land; b) care, training, education, civilization
 florens, tis blooming, flowering
 floreo, ui 2 to bloom, blossom
 flos, oris *m* flower, blossom
 fodio, fossom 3 to dig, dig
 folium, i *n* leaf; foliage
 herba, ae *f* grass, herb
 hortus, i *m* garden
 radix *f* root; a) root
 viridis, e green
 vita, ae *f* life
 xylem
 zephyrus

Corner

BotLat

Find Out What Those
Weird Plant Names Mean

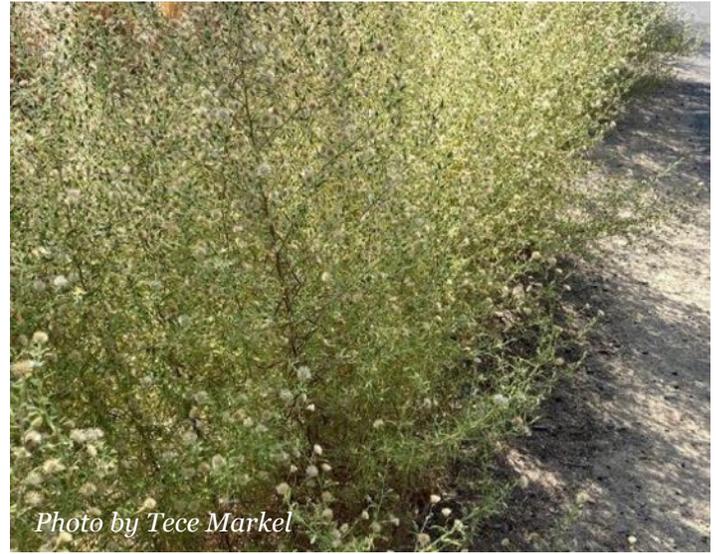


Photo by Tece Markel

by Peggy Beltramo,
UC Master Gardener of Placer County

In 2019, this column discussed [BotLat name changes in plants](#). Here is an update from Dr. Christine Casey, Director of the Häagen Dazs Honey Bee Haven at UC Davis.

“Well, the plant taxonomists have been at it again. So Russian sage, previously known as *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, has been reclassified and is now *Salvia yangii*. Just when we learned to pronounce per-ROVE-ski-uh! And to shake things up even more, rosemary is also now a salvia. It’s understood to be a close relative of Russian sage and has been reclassified as *Salvia rosmarinus*. The correct way to write these is new name (old name). So Russian sage is *Salvia yangii* (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*) and rosemary is *Salvia rosmarinus* (*Rosmarinus officinalis*.” Read the rest [here](#).

You may also remember that [another past column](#) discussed the specific epithet *officinalis*, relating to rosemary’s use in the kitchen. Now that it is renamed, that bit of information is lost; however, as Dr. Casey commented, Russian sage is now truly a sage, in BotLat terms, as well as in common name. A newer [blog post](#) discusses this plant as a top choice low water pollinator plant in trials.

If you are unfamiliar with Dr. Casey’s blog, **The Bee Gardener**, *Bee gardening news and education from the UC Davis Häagen-Dazs Honey Bee Haven*, check the links above and learn all about bees and bee gardens—and not just honey bees, but native bees and other pollinators, as well.



The Invasive Stink that is Growing in Placer

By Trish Grenfell, UC Master Gardener of Placer County
Abridged from [original](#) in Auburn Journal

The Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Natural Resources Agency and other organizations want the public to help eradicate a smelly, non-native weed known as stinkwort, or *Dittrichia graveolens*.

It can kill grazing animals by damaging their digestive systems with seed barbs used to spread the seed. Wildlife who won’t eat this weed are impacted anyway by the loss of their displaced food supply. The plant also causes a severe allergic skin reaction in people who come in contact with its sticky resin. (Gloves are a must during removal.)

Stinkwort is a branching shrubby plant up to 4.5 feet tall with a rank, foul smell. Leaves are long and narrow, pointed at each end, with small teeth along the edges and glandular hairs on the surfaces. Their texture is oily. Small yellow flowers appear from September through December.

It is rapidly spreading in disturbed areas such as roadsides, pastures, fields, burn scars, gravel yards and areas near water. It thrives in California’s hot, dry summers. Add in the recent fire and extreme heat events, and we now see stinkwort outcompeting the more desired forage species on rangelands.

Resource agencies urge public cooperation in reporting stinkwort locations to them and landowners. If you find this weed on your property, take action.

“People can also pull, cut, mow or chemically treat the plants on their own properties. It’s critical to remove the plants before they can go to seed and spread,” [instructs Laura Brodhead](#), an ecologist with the Bureau of Land Management. However, you must catch the seeds by bagging the entire plant during flowering season.

Take action ASAP!

Arborists, BIG and small

by Nicole Harrison, UC Master Gardener of Placer County

Arboriculture is a broad industry and there are different types of Arborists with different qualifications. The term 'Arborist' is broad. Most industries have a term like this that has a broad meaning. Think Doctor or Lawyer—it tells you something but not enough to hire the right one. You still need to know their specialty. Choosing the right arborist for your trees is half the battle.

Tree Removal and/or Pruning Companies

There are many local tree companies. These companies may be licensed by the State of California to do business, but they do not necessarily know any of the science of tree growth and/or response to canopy pruning and root impacts. These companies are qualified to remove trees that are no longer valuable in the landscape, such as dead or dying trees. You should remember when you discuss your trees with these companies that there is no guarantee the information they give you is accurate.

ISA Certified Arborist

An [International Society of Arboriculture](#) Certified Arborist is someone who has been trained and tested to have specialized knowledge of trees. You will still want to check references and make sure the arborist you are talking to isn't just out of school. Experience is required!

Some services provided by arborists:

- *Health and Structure assessments*—to help homeowners take better care of their trees
- *Risk Assessments*—decisions about whether or not a tree will damage your property. There is a specialized course for this process "Tree Risk Assessment Qualification." Any arborist offering advice about pruning and/or removal due to a risk of failure should have this qualification.
- *Development Reports*—Property development rules are different in every jurisdiction. An arborist that provides these services will be able to help you identify which trees should be preserved and provide a replacement/fee plan for submittal with grading or building plans.
- *Municipal Arborist*—Management of our urban canopy as a whole. Address issues such as how many trees are over mature and declining vs. how many young trees are growing to take their place. Often they are intimately involved in making local regulations and working at the cities and counties in the planning departments.

Consulting Arborist

An [American Society of Consulting Arborists](#) Registered Consulting Arborist is someone who has been trained and tested to have specialized knowledge of trees and trained to provide high quality reports and documentation. Most of the consulting arborists have been in the industry for a long time and many provide services for disputes and damage claims.



*An arborist using a tomograph, a tool used to detect decay and assess the interior health of a tree.
Photo by Denise Britton.*

Nevada County Demonstration Garden Celebrates 30 Years



by Ann Wright, UC Master Gardener of Nevada County

The Demonstration Garden came alive July 14th with music, dancing, food, games and a hefty dose of fun to celebrate 30 years in our beautiful Demo Garden! The garden was established in 1991 on over two acres of property on the Nevada Irrigation District grounds. Birthday and celebration balloons adorned the Pavilion. Tables were set with lovely flowers, and peach place cards for all attendees. Master Gardeners had names of plants taped to their backs, with the goal of guessing what plant adorned their sunny-afternoon shirts and summer dresses. Teams were set to play garden-related "Pictionary" and a scavenger hunt was organized; several lucky gardeners found special garden art rocks, hand-painted by our own Teri McConnell. What a great way to gather again after a long separation, and to celebrate a special birthday!

In other garden news, the hoop house has been the scene of lots of plant propagation with a fall plant sale in mind. Shade was added to help with these blistering hot days. It is hoped that solar panels will be added to the hoop house at some point in the future. The cottage will soon get a face lift with new siding; one wall will be dedicated to a hand painted mural being planned by Master Gardener Jo Hathcock.

Fruit trees are producing an abundant supply of fruit, some of which is donated to a local food bank.



Events Calendar

In the midst of the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the top priority of UC Master Gardeners is the health and safety of our communities.

Please Visit Our Websites for the Most Up to Date Information

Nevada County: ncmg.ucanr.org

Placer County: pcmg.ucanr.org

Placer County Virtual Workshops

September

September 11

10:30-11:30 am

Wild Wanderers - plants that have a mind of their own

pcmg.ucanr.org

September 25

10:30 – 1:30 am

Roses – How to Grow and Maintain Them

pcmg.ucanr.org

October

October 9

10:30 – 1:30 am

Lawn Replacement

pcmg.ucanr.org

October 23

10:30 – 1:30 am

Spring Bulbs

pcmg.ucanr.org

October 30

10:30 – 1:30 am

Composting & Mulching (replay)

pcmg.ucanr.org

November

November 13

10:30 – 11:30 am

Growing Citrus in the Foothills (replay)

pcmg.ucanr.org

Nevada County Master Gardener Events

Please Check Website for Details

September

September 11

9:00 – 11:00 am

It's Alive! Soil Building

ncmg.ucanr.org

September 18

9:00 – 11:00 am

How to be a Backyard Carbon Farmer

ncmg.ucanr.org

October

October 2

9:00 – 11:00 am

Dahlia Mania: Step by Step Guide to Growing Beautiful Dahlias

ncmg.ucanr.org

October 16

9:00 – 11:00 am

Living with Deer as a Foothill Gardener

ncmg.ucanr.org

October 23

9:00 – 11:00 am

No Sun, No Problem! Gardening in the Shade

ncmg.ucanr.org

October 30

9:00 – 11:00 am

The Art and Science of Pruning Fruit Trees – Part 1

ncmg.ucanr.org

Fall Plant Sale

The Fall Plant Sale will be held **Saturday, September 25 at 9:00 am!**

Fall is a great time to plant flowering plants, perennials and cool-season vegetables. Join Master Gardeners of Nevada County LIVE and in-person at the Demonstration Garden, 1036 W. Main Street (on the NID Business Grounds). Click [here](#) for a list of flowers and [here](#) for a list of veggies that will be available for sale.

November

November 6

9:00 – 11:00 am

The Art and Science of Pruning Fruit Trees – Part 2

ncmg.ucanr.org

Nevada County Master Gardeners and Friends Talk Radio:
Listen live on Saturdays from 10:00 am until noon

at KNCO 830AM

Or, live stream at

<http://www.knco.com>

About Master Gardeners

Our mission as University of California Master Gardener volunteers is to extend research-based gardening and composting information to the public through various educational outreach methods. We strive to present accurate, impartial information to local gardeners so they have the knowledge to make informed gardening decisions in regard to plant choices, soil fertility, pest management, irrigation practices, and more.

The Master Gardener volunteer program was started in the early 1970s at the Washington State University. Farm Advisors became overwhelmed by all the incoming calls from home gardeners and homesteaders so they trained volunteers to answer these questions and the "Master Gardener Program" was born. The first University of California Master Gardener programs began in 1980 in Sacramento and Riverside counties. The Nevada County and Placer County Master Gardener Programs began soon thereafter in 1983.

Over 35 Years of Serving Placer and Nevada Counties

Production Information

The Curious Gardener is published quarterly by the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Placer and Nevada Counties.

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UC Master Gardeners of Placer County

Have a Gardening Question?

Call our Hotline

Placer County Residents
530.889.7388

Nevada County Residents
Nevada County office closed due to COVID-19 testing site. Contact us through our [website](#) or [Facebook](#)

Master Composter Rotline
530.889.7399

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How to Subscribe

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All information presented pertains to the climate and growing conditions of Nevada and Placer Counties in California.

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