

The Curious Gardener

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Planting to Attract Pollinators

Part 3 of the "Lawn Gone" Series

by Peggy Beltramo, Placer County Master Gardener

In our Spring 2017 issue we described the process one Placer Master Gardener used to turn her former front lawn into a "pollinator paradise". Summer 2017 Curious Gardener covered how to eliminate your grass. This issue will discuss how to attract pollinators to your new yard.

You have eliminated your lawn, now it is time to choose plants to replace the grass. Remember the first law of choosing plants: the right plant in the right place. Consider sun and shade, heat, soil type and available water. Do your research and choose plants that please you. Don't forget to consider the size of the mature plant; not that cute little four inch size! A map of your garden area can help you choose the correct number of plants for your space.

Lawns are thirsty. Your new plantings don't have to be, but if you choose some drought tolerant plants and others that want water more often, consider hydro zones—different irrigation valves for different plant needs. (See resources for irrigation tips on the next page.) Many California native plants need little summer

water, but remember that when you are establishing a new garden, all the plants will need regular water the first year. Planting in the fall lets Mother Nature do most of the watering during the rainy season.

California native plants are a great choice for attracting pollinators too. The plants and insects have co-evolved to share resources. Plants provide the nectar and pollen to feed the pollinators and the birds and insects provide pollination services as well as entertainment and movement in your garden. While more and more of our landscape is turning into agricultural zones and housing tracts, pollinators

Continued on next page



Bee on *Symphyotrichum* sp. (Aster).
photo by Elaine Applebaum



*Monarch on Salvia clevelandii,
Cleveland sage.
Photo by Elaine Applebaum*

Resources

Selecting Pollinator Plants

California Bee-Friendly Garden Recipes. UCANR Publication 8518. anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8518.pdf

Placer County Master Gardeners Pollinator Links.

pcmg.ucanr.org/2017_Calendar/California_Natives/

Find plants native to your address. California Native Plant Society. calscape.org

Bee Smart App. Pollinator Partnership. pollinator.org/beesmartapp.htm

Drip Irrigation

Ask a Master Gardener: Drip Irrigation. pcmg.ucanr.org/files/166242.pdf

Questions & Answers About Drought & Water Conservation. UCANR Center for Landscape and Urban Horticulture. ucanr.edu/sites/UrbanHort/Water_Use_of_Turfgrass_and_Landscape_Plant_Materials/

Drought Irrigation Tips. The California Garden Web. cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Drought/_Drought_Irrigation_Tips_/

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are being pushed to extinction. By choosing plants mindfully, we can provide way stations to maintain pollinator habitat. Our neighborhood gardens can form a patchwork, quilted together, to provide the needed resources for pollinator survival.

Many pollinators prefer to concentrate on one type of flower at a time, so it is suggested that you plant several plants of the same type to create a swath of flowers at least three feet by three feet. Additionally, plan a variety of plants to provide nectar and pollen from season to season. Many plant lists are organized by season of bloom to assist with these choices.

In addition to food, wildlife also needs a water source. A shallow saucer with stones to provide landing spots will keep small critters safe while drinking. You can also provide a “puddling spot” for butterflies—a damp spot of dirt or a saucer of mud or damp sand. Butterflies absorb minerals as they drink. If you put in a bird bath, float a few corks to allow insects a life raft.

If you have room, plan for layers in your yard. In addition to food and water, pollinators need shelter and perching sites. Shrubs can protect from wind and rain, provide hiding spots from predators and allow a lookout for a mate or a rival. Some native insect pollinators nest in bare soil or hollow cavities. Pithy stems of plants can be left in the garden to become housing. Pull back some mulch to allow the ground nesters to build housing also.

With plan in hand, now you can choose your favorite plants. The resources list at left has a number of websites that tell you what to plant to attract pollinators. Remember that annuals can add a boost of color in your summer garden. See the BotLat column on page 6 for two easy, favorite annual pollinator plants to add in the spring. They are easily grown from seed. For even more plant ideas, see page 8 for a list of Arboretum All-Stars that attract hummingbirds. Sit down with paper and pencil and assign plant names. Soon your new yard will be filled with color and activity. Happy planting!



*Pollinators require a shallow water source such as this “puddler.”
photo by Julie Long*



*Skipper on Zinnia.
Photo by Elaine Applebaum*

References

- Master Gardeners of Sacramento County. *Attracting Beneficial Insects to Your Garden.* July, 2015. ucanr.edu/sites/sacmg/files/77452.pdf
- Pawelek, Jamie C., et al. *California Bee-Friendly Garden Recipes.* UCANR Publication 8518. June, 2015. anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8518.pdf



How to Grow Garlic

By Trish Grenfell, Placer County Master Gardener

“Once you taste home-grown garlic, you won’t be satisfied with supermarket varieties,” challenges Fine Gardening editor Ruth Lively in a 2005 issue of that magazine. Might she be correct? A famous seed catalog currently sells 30 types of garlic; I counted them. Time to get to work.

And indeed THIS is the perfect time to prepare to grow garlic (*Allium sativum*) and you don’t need a large space to generate a large yield. The only requirements are a well-drained soil, full sun, adequate moisture, and knowing when to plant and harvest. And weed elimination is vital since they will easily overtake young garlic plants.

Garlic is grown from cloves using large, disease-free bulbs purchased from a certified nursery near you or online. Don’t plant grocery store garlic cloves; they may carry diseases or nematodes and are usually sprayed to prevent sprouting. Buy large bulbs which are more likely to produce large bulbs. And if you want to grow garlic again next year, save your best, largest bulbs as “seeds”. Buy your bulbs this year as soon as they become available in the summer (they sell out) but don’t “crack” them until the day you plant. Individual cloves won’t keep long due to disease susceptibility and dehydration.

Two subspecies of garlic are commonly grown here: *A. sativum* var. *ophioscorodon* (hardneck garlic) and *A. sativum* var. *sativum* (softneck garlic). Hardneck types produce flower stalks called scapes which are good to eat but are removed by most gardeners to concentrate growth on the bulbs. Hardnecks won’t store as long as softneck types but their flavor is more robust. The many hardneck varieties, each with their own unique flavor, are often hot and/or spicy. Examples include: Rocambole, Porcelain, Purple stripe, Asiatic, Turban and many more. The adventure is in growing many varieties.

The softneck subspecies with its milder flavor dominates commercial production and it stores better. The two most popular commercial softneck varieties are ‘California Early’ and ‘California Late’. According to the Western IPM Center (Davis, CA), fresh market growers prefer the ‘Late’ despite its one month longer growing period. There are several subtypes of ‘Late’ and ‘Early’; Artichoke is a common ‘Early’, Silverskin a popular ‘Late’. (Note: elephant garlic tastes like a very mild garlic but is really a leek.)

Prepare soil by adding compost, hopefully it includes well-rotted manure and micronutrients. If it is planting time and soil is not prepared, you can lay the compost on the planted cloves and cover with mulch. Soil is best if pH is slightly acid (between 6 and 7), but garlic will grow in a wide range of soil pH. Don’t add lime unless your soil pH is less than 5.8. There is no need to add phosphorus fertilizer unless a soil test indicates it is necessary. Since garlic is a moderate to high nitrogen user, some horticulturists like to add nitrogen fertilizer at this point. Others wait until shoots appear above ground in spring. Fertilizers used include: alfalfa, blood, or fish meals – or synthetic sourced nitrogen. Do not apply nitrogen during the last 60 days before harvest.

Cloves should be planted early enough in the fall to allow a good root system to develop before the cold forces winter dormancy (The longer you wait, the smaller your garlic.), but late enough to prevent shoot emergence prior to freezing temps. In recent times warm temperatures have often delayed planting; it’s now usually October instead of September in the Auburn area. Plant earlier at higher elevations since temps drop faster there in the fall. Because we can’t fully anticipate the weather, garlic sprouts often emerge a few inches above the soil prior to cold weather, but don’t worry. Unless it gets extremely cold quickly, little damage will result. Applying two to four inches of mulch at planting can reduce this damage and will also help preserve moisture and prevent most weeds. If you miss the fall, early spring planting is okay, but much smaller bulbs will result.

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Garlic hung to cure

References

- *Garlic Production Principles and Tips*. Vegetable Research & Information Center University of California Cooperative Extension. January 3, 2017. vric.ucdavis.edu/veg_info/garlicprodtips.htm
- Ophardt, Marianne. *Garlic Gardeners*. Washington State University Extension Garden Tips. November 22, 2012. ext100.wsu.edu/gardentips/category/garlic/
- Scott, Judy. *Garlic Expert: Fertilize and Weed Garlic in the Spring*. Oregon State University Extension Services|Gardening. April 27, 2011. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/garlic-expert-fertilize-and-weed-garlic-spring>

Continued from previous page

Plant the cloves pointed side up. Do not peel off the papery covering. Discard the small cloves and plant the others one half to three inches below the soil surface. The colder the winter, the deeper the cloves should be planted. UC Davis recommends planting one half to two inches deep in its region. Those living at higher elevations of the Sierra might need to plant three inches deep. Leave a minimum of four to six inches in all directions between clove plantings; if space is not a problem, increase the separation. Garlic prefers high soil moisture levels, but not soggy. As mid-June approaches, taper off on the watering.

Insects are not a major problem in the non-coastal areas of California. Risk of disease is minimized if the soil truly drains well, the “seeds” are disease free, weeds are managed, bulbs aren’t damaged, and the planting area has not been used to grow members of the onion family in the last four years.

Fall plantings take about eight months to mature. Harvesting too early results in smaller bulbs, too late will cause cloves to pop out of their bulbs. Some horticulturists tell us to harvest when 1/3 of the plant leaves turn yellow or brown. Others say to always take up a few bulbs in late June (even if all leaves are green) and cut them in half. If the cloves fill the skins, the crop is ready to harvest.

Pulling bulbs out of the ground may crack them, reducing shelf life. Instead use a garden fork to ease them out. Keep the shoots and bulbs attached. Carefully knock off excessive soil and then leave them to cure in a warm, dry, airy place (not direct sun), for three to four weeks.

The work is done and it’s judgment day. Taste buds, prepare for action.

Available September 5, from the Master Gardeners of Placer County: 2018 Calendar and Gardening Guide!

2018 Calendar and Gardening Guide



Unlocking the Secrets to Successful Gardening
Presented by the UC Master Gardeners of Placer County

Unlock the secrets to successful gardening with this 13-month calendar and gardening guide. The calendar is filled with beautiful photos and informative articles to empower gardeners to be successful. Monthly topics include pruning, importance of soil, winter and summer vegetable gardening, irrigation, home orchards, spring bulbs, home vineyards and more.

Features of the 2018 Calendar and Gardening Guide include:

- Monthly “what to plant” and “in season at the market” lists.
- Daily research-based gardening tips to remind gardeners of what to do and when to do it.
- References and resources for more gardening information. QR codes are included for quick access to online resources.

Calendars will be available beginning September 5 at nurseries and businesses in Placer, Nevada, and El Dorado counties, at the Placer County Master Gardener office, and on our website. A list of vendors and how-to-order details are listed online at pcmg.ucanr.org/2018_calendar/. Calendars will also be for sale at the master gardener booths at the following:

- Auburn Fall Home Show (September 29–October 1)
- Mountain Mandarin Festival (November 17–19)
- Auburn Farmers’ Market (1st and 3rd Saturdays, September through October)
- Farmers’ Market at the Fountains in Roseville (every Tuesday, September through October)

“Bite Me” Tomato Tasting and Open House, September 9th

Tomatoes will be in the spotlight at the very popular Nevada County Master Gardener’s “Bite Me” Tomato Tasting and Open House on Saturday, September 9th, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Last past spring, master gardeners spent hours propagating and growing many varieties of tomatoes for the spring plant sale. There were over 50 varieties of tomatoes, including multiple types of heirloom, cherry and paste tomatoes. It is always fun to share the harvest, and at the tasting event, there will be dozens of varieties for attendees to try! A tomato rating sheet will be used again this year to evaluate the varieties. Tasters will give a numerical rating for each tomato tasted and also vote for their favorite tomatoes. Try one, try them all then vote for your favorite to help the master gardeners decide which variety might be sold at the plant sale next spring!



Photo by Emily Jones

And, if tomatoes are not enough, a workshop and tours of the demonstration garden will be provided. The workshop, “Retain the Rain” offers a look at how to collect rain during our wet season. Yes, the drought may be declared over in parts of California but it doesn’t hurt to stay alert and ready for the less plentiful rain years. It’s amazing how little rain it takes to fill up a rain tank, and this workshop will introduce some different ways to save the rain. Learn about infiltration basins, diversion swales, cisterns and rain barrels.

The workshop is at 10:30am, followed by guided tours of the Demonstration Garden. There is so much to see and learn about in the garden, including the orchard, native and grassy meadow, and Mediterranean foothill garden.

- Saturday, September 9th, 9:30 am-1:00 pm
- NID Grounds, Demonstration Garden at 1036 W. Main St. in Grass Valley
- More Information: 530-273-0919; www.ncmg.ucanr.org



Citrus Quarantine in Effect



Magnified brownish adult, yellow nymphs, and white wax of Asian citrus psyllids (ACP). Photo by Michael E. Rogers, University of Florida

Tiny pest insects, Asian citrus psyllids (ACP for short), were detected in Lincoln last fall. An additional ACP was identified in Roseville in June of this year. As a result, portions of south Placer County and an adjoining area of north Sacramento County have been declared a citrus quarantine zone. This includes a significant portion of Roseville, as well as sections of Rocklin, Lincoln, North Highlands, Citrus Heights and unincorporated Placer County.

You may not move citrus plant material from any quarantine zone into a non-quarantine zone without a compliance agreement. That goes for plants, leaves and fruit with any stems or leaves.

Information from the California Department of Food and Agriculture:

- **For quarantine questions, call 916-654-0312.**
- Check out the statewide informational website: californiacitrusthreat.org/pest-disease/
- If you suspect you have ACP in your yard, call the **Pest Hotline, 800-491-1899.**

To view quarantine boundaries, type any address into the following website: gis2.cdfa.ca.gov/Plant/Quarantine/ You may get a message of “no results found” or “unable to fetch results from layers”—Just click okay to view the map.

Find CDFA’s treatment plan for ACP in the Roseville area here: www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pdep/treatment/notice/2017/ACP-NOT-Roseville-PlacerCounty-June-2017.pdf

To learn more about Asian citrus psyllids and see photos, go to ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74155.html

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
 ta, orum *n/pl* tilled land, gardens, plantations
 cresco, crevi, (cretum) 3 to grow
 cultus *m* cultivation, labor, tilling; a) to till, cultivate
 b) care, training, education; c) to grow
 florens, tis blooming, flowering
 floreo, ui 2 to bloom, blossom
 flos, oris *m* flower, blossom
 fodio, fossom 3 to dig, to dig up
 folium, i *n* leaf, foliage
 herba, ae *f* grass, herb
 hortus, i *m* garden
 radix *f* root
 viridis, e *f* green
 vita, ae *f* life
 xylum, i *n* wood
 zen

Corner

BotLat

Find Out What Those Weird Plant Names Mean

by Peggy Beltramo, Placer County
Master Gardener



Tithonia and swallowtail butterfly.
Photo by Peggy Beltramo

“What do you mean we
can’t get rid of those weeds in
time? Then go over there and
put some fancy signs with Latin
names in front of them.”

- Walt Disney



Honey bee and lacy phacelia.
Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey

See? Botanical Latin IS important. Walt Disney said so.

Each issue, this column looks at some interesting facts about binomial nomenclature, the “Latin” names of plants. This month, we are looking at two plants that are important for attracting pollinators into our gardens. These two plants are annuals, and are easily grown from seed. The first is *Tithonia rotundifolia*, or Mexican sunflower. The genus (first word) is named for Tithonus, a man favored by Aurora, the goddess of the dawn. The specific epithet (second name) means round-leaved.

Tithonia has many 3 inch “sunflowers” that are orange or yellow on a plant that grows to about four feet by four feet. It is beloved by most pollinators.

The second plant is *Phacelia tanacetifolia*. *Phacelia*, the genus, is a Greek word meaning ‘bundle’, referring to its clustered flowers. *Tanacetifolia*, the specific epithet, refers to leaves that resemble *Tanacetum*, or the tansy plant. *Phacelia* is used as a soil builder, or green manure, and as an insectary plant in agriculture, as well as in home gardens. Both of these plants bloom over a long period of time, increasing the availability of nectar for pollinators.

Replanting After Conifers Die

The U.S. Forest Service estimates that since 2010, more than 102 million drought-stressed and beetle-ravaged trees have died across 7.7 million acres of California forest. If you are among the many who have lost trees, click here for a brochure on what to plant after tree loss. pcmg.ucanr.org/files/266774.pdf

Many thanks to UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra for this necessary information.



Hotline FAQs



Do you have gardening
questions?

Call the Master Gardener
Hotline in your county

Placer Co. 530-889-7388

Staffed Tuesdays, Wednesdays and
Thursdays,
9:00 am to noon

Nevada Co. 530-273-0919

Staffed Tuesdays and Thursdays,
9:00 am to noon

Why Are My Oranges Splitting?

by Pauline Kuklis, Placer County Master Gardener

Citrus fruit commonly splits during the fall as a result of environmental conditions that stress the tree. Splitting can be caused by rapid changes in humidity, temperature, inconsistent watering and/or over-fertilization. Certain varieties, such as navel oranges, are more susceptible to splitting, and the quantity of fruit that is affected will vary from year to year. The best way to minimize fruit loss due to splitting is to irrigate and fertilize properly, adjusting your watering schedule based on weather conditions. During especially hot weather, over watering can cause the fruit to absorb too much water too quickly, causing the rind to split. Instead, water lightly for several days to allow the tree and fruit to absorb water more slowly. Too little water can also cause fruit to split, so proper watering is important. It is also best to avoid large applications of fertilizer. Instead, use smaller amounts of slow release fertilizer throughout the growing season. This will help avoid a sudden growth spurt that can increase splitting.

The bottom line is that you can minimize citrus splitting by providing your citrus trees with the best possible care. Refer to the following sources for more information on the proper care of your citrus:

homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/8038.pdf

ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FRUIT/CULTURAL/citruswatering.html

ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FRUIT/CULTURAL/citfertilization.html

ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FRUIT/citrus.html



Nevada County Fall Plant Sale September 23

Nevada County Master Gardeners are busy starting and growing plants for the fall plant sale, scheduled for Saturday, September 23 from 9:00 am to noon, at the demonstration garden. Cool season vegetables and ornamentals will be offered for sale. A more comprehensive plant list will be posted on the NCMG website, but some of the plants for sale include:

- Arugula, lettuce, spinach, Asian greens, Swiss chard, escarole

- Kale, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower

- Herbs of all sorts

- Milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis* and *A. speciosa*)

- Spanish lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*)—great for attracting pollinators

- Various grasses and ornamentals



Rhodophiala bifida, Red Argentine Amaryllis

by Lynora Sisk, Placer County Master Gardener

Have you ever planted bulbs for fall blooming? What a treat the red Argentine amaryllis brings for autumn color. *Rhodophiala bifida* is a UC Davis Arboretum All Star because it's not only heat and drought tolerant but is very easy to care for. Its dark red trumpet-shaped flowers bloom in late summer/early fall and that eye popping red attracts hummingbirds.

Rhodophiala bifida is slow to naturalize and spread but can be propagated by dividing mature clumps of bulbs. The plant produces most of its foliage during the winter and spring, going dormant during the summer heat and then bringing their dazzling color in the fall. They need very low to low watering, so plant this hardy bulb where it won't be subject to over watering.

This amaryllis is one of many varieties that were introduced to the United States from Uruguay and Argentina. The Texas variety called Oxblood Lily was introduced there by German settlers and Texans are so fond of it, they have classified it as a "Texas heirloom plant." Grown in its natural environment of northeast and central Argentina and Uruguay, the flowers can be red, dark red, pink or white.

You can see the Argentine amaryllis at the UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery in the Ruth Risdon Storer Garden. You may also be able to purchase it at the Arboretum's Fall Plant Sale open to the public on October 21 and on November 4 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. For more information check out the Arboretum website: <http://publicgarden.ucdavis.edu/plant-sales>.

Enjoy the color and coolness of the fall season.



References

- *All-Stars Plant Details*. UC Davis Arboretum. n.d. arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_31.aspx
- *Oxblood Lily*. Cypress Basin Master Gardeners Texas Agrilife Extension. n.d. txmg.org/cbm/oxblood-lily-2/
- *Rhodophiala*. Pacific Bulb Society. May 26, 2017. pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/Rhodophiala

Other All-Stars for Hummingbirds

Rhodophiala bifida is just one of two dozen Arboretum All-Stars that will attract hummingbirds. To see them all, go to arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant_search.aspx, click "show/hide more criteria" then select "Hummingbirds". Here are a few of the results:

Acca sellowiana (*Feijoa sellowiana*) – pineapple guava
Aquilegia eximia – serpentine columbine
Arbutus 'Marina' – Marina madrone
Callistemon 'Violaceus' – purple bottlebrush
Echeveria 'Imbricata' – hens and chicks
Epilobium canum – California fuchsia
Hesperaloe parviflora – coral yucca
Heuchera 'Rosada' – rosada coral bells
Kniphofia 'Christmas Cheer' – Christmas cheer poker plant
Lonicera standishii – winter honeysuckle
Penstemon heterophyllus 'Margarita B.O.P.' – foothill penstemon
Ribes viburnifolium – evergreen currant
Russelia equisetiformis – coral fountain
Salvia greggii and *Salvia x jamensis* – autumn sage
Salvia microphylla – mint bush sage
Sprekelia formosissima – Aztec lily



Butterfly on oregano

The Multi-Purpose Herb Garden

Article and photos by Annette Wyrick, Placer County Master Gardener

What are edible, low maintenance, beautiful, and attractive to pollinators in your garden? Herbs!

One of the primary uses of herbs is to flavor food. If you grow your own, you know the convenience of stepping outside to harvest fresh herbs when you need them. There is a selection of varieties available. See Table 1 for some common herbs. A couple of my favorites are 'hot and spicy' oregano for tomato based sauces and 'lemon' thyme for salmon. Herbs can also be harvested and dried for later use. For more information on harvesting, drying, and storing herbs visit <http://extension.illinois.edu/herbs/tips.cfm>.

There are annual, perennial, and even shrubs that are used as herbs. Every plant requires care and certain growing conditions to perform optimally. In general, herbs are easy to grow. Most will thrive in well drained soil and 6-8 hours of sun per day. A soil test is recommended to determine type and quantity of amendment to add to your soil. A light application of fertilizer may be enough for the entire growing season. Adding mulch to the top of the soil will help conserve moisture, keep roots cool, and minimize weeds.

After cultural conditions are met, it is easy to maintain the growth of herbs. If you tend to snip your herbs as you use them, you are pruning them. New growth will occur where the pruning cut was made. Deadheading spent flowers is another form of pruning that will encourage more growth and flowering. Harvesting herbs to dry requires pruning a majority of the plant. How much and when to prune for a large harvest depends on the type of herb plant. Annuals may be harvested by cutting the whole plant to the ground. Perennials may be reduced by half, but be cautious of pruning during high temperatures and drought. Avoid pruning in fall, which may stimulate new growth that will be injured with the coming cold temperatures. Shrubs such as rosemary and bay laurel are sensitive to drastic pruning. Pruning to bare wood of these plants may delay growth or cause decline. Many herbs spread by rhizomes and may be propagated by dividing the plants. To propagate these, carefully dig up the plant during winter dormancy, cut it in half and replant. Some will spread aggressively, such as mint, and it would be wise to place these in their own planter. Herbs grown in a container will need more care. Irrigation and nutrients may be needed more frequently than for plants grown in the ground. Arranging herbs with complementary or contrasting flowers and foliage in a container will provide a beautiful focal point

in the garden and can be kept within easy reach of the kitchen for harvesting.

The less aggressive spreading herbs can be used beneficially in the garden as a ground cover. You may add them to planting beds to fill in gaps between other plants. Their foliage will shade the soil and crowd out potential weeds. Remember to plant herbs with the same cultural requirements as existing plants. As a ground cover, herbs can add beauty to your garden with their various foliage colors, fragrance, and flowers.

Table 1: Common Herbs

| Annual | Perennial | Shrub |
|----------|---------------|------------|
| Basil | Cone Flower | Bay Laurel |
| Chives | Fennel | Lavender |
| Cilantro | Lemon Verbena | Rosemary |
| Dill | Mint | Sage |
| Marjoran | Oregano | |
| Parsley | Thyme | |



Some herb flowers are attractive to beneficial insects. When harvesting herbs for cooking, remember to leave some stems to develop flowers for the pollinators. The flowers are a source of pollen and nectar. Bees are attracted to flowers of mint, basil, lavender, oregano, and thyme. Butterflies will visit flowers of sage, oregano, and sweet marjoram for nectar. Dill and parsley are butterfly larval host plants.

Herbs offer beauty for the garden with minimal care and provide flavorful additions to a meal without the need to travel to the grocery store. These versatile plants even attract beneficial insects to the garden. These could be the perfect plants!

References

- *Herb Gardening*. University of Illinois Extension. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 2017. extension.illinois.edu/herbs/directory.cfm
- Kenny, Pat and Heather Whirley. *Eat, Prey, Love*. Montgomery County Master Gardeners. University of Maryland Extension. 2017.
- Smith, Kerry and Wendy Ulrich. *Growing Herbs*. Alabama Cooperative Extension ANR-1164. Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities. June 2013. www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1164/ANR-1164.pdf



Events Calendar

Nevada County Demo Garden
1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley
(on NID Grounds)

Placer County Demo Garden
11477 E. Ave., Auburn
(Senior Garden, DeWitt Center)

- ▶ Nevada County events in green boxes
- ▶ Placer County events in yellow boxes

September

September 2

10:00 am - noon

A Homeowners Guide to Seed Saving

Nevada County Demo Garden

September 9

9:30 am - 1:00 pm

"Bite Me" Tomato Tasting & Open House

10:30 - 11:30 am

Detain the Rain workshop

11:30 - 12:30 pm

Tours of the Demo Garden

Nevada County Demo Garden

September 16

10:00 am-noon

Growing Great Soil: From Lasagna Gardening to Cover Crops

Nevada County Demo Garden

September 16

9:00 - 10:00 am

Lasagna Gardening

Placer County Demo Garden

September 20

11:00 am-1:00 pm

***Open Garden Day:
Tour the Garden and
Ask a Master Gardener***

Placer County Demo Garden

September 23

9:00 - noon

Fall Plant Sale

Nevada County Demo Garden

September 29 - 30

Visit Placer County Master Gardeners at the Fall Auburn Home Show

Friday: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Gold Country Fairgrounds

1273 High St., Auburn

September 30

10:00 am-noon

Using Native Plants to Attract Birds to Your Yard

Nevada County Demo Garden

October

October 1

Visit Placer County Master Gardeners at the Fall Auburn Home Show

Sunday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Gold Country Fairgrounds

October 14

10:00 am-noon

Fear the Rust: Garden Tool Maintenance

Nevada County Demo Garden

Visit Master Gardeners at Local Farmers' Markets

8:00 am to noon Mid May–Mid Sept. at the Saturday Growers Market, North Star House, **Grass Valley**

8:30 am to 1:00 pm every Tuesday, May to October, near Whole Foods at the Fountains, **Roseville**

8:00 am to noon 1st & 3rd Saturdays, May to October, Old Town Courthouse parking lot in **Auburn**

October 21

Seasonal Gardening Workshops:

9:00 - 10:00 am

Basic Composting

10:00 - 11:00 am

The Benefits of Planting California Native Plants

Placer County Demo Garden

November

November 4

10:00 am-noon

The Art and Science of Pruning Fruit Trees

Grass Valley Elks Lodge*

* During inclement weather months, Nevada County workshops may be located indoors at the Elks Club lower level meeting room, 109 S. School Street, Grass Valley

November 17 - 19

Visit Placer County Master Gardeners at the Mandarin Festival

Friday 11:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Sunday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Gold Country Fairgrounds

1273 High St., Auburn

Listen to Nevada County Master Gardeners & Friends Talk Radio:

Listen live on Saturdays from 10:00 am until noon at KNCO 830AM

Or, visit the KNCO website <http://www.knco.com> and click on "Listen Live"

Call in with questions to (530) 477-5626 or (530) 477-KNCO
Miss the show? Download a podcast.

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 70's 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 Associations began soon thereafter in 1983.

Over 30 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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Placer County Master Gardener

Have a Gardening Question?

Call our Hotline

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530.889.7388

Nevada County Residents

530.273.0919

Master Composter Hotline

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Online subscriptions are free to residents of Placer and Nevada Counties.

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