



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program

Summer Issue, 2024

Sutter-Yuba Master Gardener Newsletter

Location:

UCCE Sutter-Yuba
142A Garden Hwy.
Yuba City CA 95991
Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Master Gardener Office Hours:

Tuesday: 9 a.m. to Noon
Thursday: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact:

530-822-7515
sutteryuba@ucanr.edu

Website:

<https://ucanr.edu/syucmg>

Facebook:

<https://facebook.com/sutteryubamg>

Donate:

Support our program and make a gift donation online: <https://ucanr.edu/syucmgdonate>

UC Master Gardeners
Learning Garden
Summer
Workshops

When:
Third Saturday of the Month 9am - 11am

Where:
UC Master Gardener Learning Garden, Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds
422 Franklin Avenue, Yuba City, CA 95991

Free! No Registration Required

		
July 20th	August 17th	September 21st

- Managing weeds in your Garden
- Common diseases in fruit trees
- Let's talk summer composting
- What we've learned about using wool at the learning garden.
- What to do with white flies and powdery mildew
- Separation of rhizomes and other flower bulbs
- Harvesting, saving and storing seeds
- Preserving your summer harvest
- What the roots of your vegetable plant tell you about your soil.

Questions: ☎ 530-822-7515 ✉ sutteryuba@ucanr.edu

University of California Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) is an equal opportunity provider.


UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
 Agriculture and Natural Resources UC Master Gardener Program

Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden

How are your tomatoes doing this summer? Would you like information on common tomato issues, including failure to set fruit, sunburn, blossom end rot, fruit cracking, and others? You'll find Publication 8159 from the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources to be a valuable resource. Please contact the Sutter-Yuba Master Gardeners with any questions.

Please click on this link for Publication 8159, [Growing Tomatoes in the Home Garden](#)

Weed Prevention in Your Garden and Lawn: An ounce of prevention goes a long way!

Whitney Brim-DeForest, UC Farm Advisor

What is a weed?

A weed is simply a plant out-of-place, a plant growing where humans don't want it to grow. There is nothing inherently "bad" or "evil" about weeds. And in some instances, a weed in one location is food in another location.

Weeds emerge from what we call the "seedbank," which is simply the soil. Weed seeds, roots (tubers), and other plant parts are found in the soil, and will emerge (grow) when all conditions are correct for their growth. The plant parts and seeds are deposited into the seedbank (soil) from a variety of sources. Sources can be wind, water, animals, humans, equipment, contaminated seed or soil, manure, straw, etc. Some of us accidentally even plant the sources of our woes!

How do we prevent them from getting into our seedbank?

Here are a few tips (that can also help with other pests):

- If you are using tools (lawnmowers, rototillers, weedwhackers, etc.), make sure that you clean them when you move them from one area to another.
- If you hire a landscaper or gardener, be sure to ask them how they clean their tools.
- When buying seed, make sure it is from a clean source (i.e. use certified seed). It should say "certified" on the package.
- If planting plants or propagules from a greenhouse/neighbor, etc., make sure that they are potted in potting soil that hasn't been reused.
- Also, make sure you aren't purchasing or planting invasive plants: https://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/General/Invasive_Plants/
- Soil should be sterile. This means that it should be purchased (from an authorized entity), or you can sterilize it yourself using biosolarization: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74145.html>
- Compost, if correctly made, should already be sterile. Ensure that the compost reaches temperatures of at least 140-160 degrees Fahrenheit to kill weed seeds.
- Straw or other organic mulches should be certified "weed-seed free". A list can be found at: <https://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/prevention/weedfreeforage/>

An ounce of prevention goes a long way to reducing the need for weed control in the garden or lawn. Happy Gardening! Stay tuned for more tips on weed control!

Companion Gardening

Cheryl Hoke, UC Master Gardener

Many of today's forward-thinking gardeners and greenhouse owners already know that certain plants tend to help other plants thrive, but many of us don't really understand the concept. It's called companion gardening, and it is the practice of growing one plant to help another as part of a community. The concept is based on communities of plants that are known to support each other and can save the home gardener a great deal of time and potential heartache. Vegetables, fruits, and herbs are more resilient and, thus, more productive when each member of the community supports the next. Although it may sound like the latest in bio-science technology, companion gardening has been around for centuries, helping farmers and gardeners grow healthier, more prosperous crops. The concept has been practiced by civilizations all over the world, from China, where the Mosquito Fern is used as a companion plant for rice, to the Greeks and Romans, who utilized companion planting to improve the grapes they used to make wine, and Charles Darwin noted that red clover improved the quality of hay. The benefits can be one way, such as when nectar-rich flowers planted around fruiting crops like tomatoes improve insect pollination, or reciprocal, such as when the famous Three Sisters of corn, squash, and pole beans are grown together for mutual benefit.

Growing plants together that are known to support each other is nature's way of minimizing pest damage, reducing weed challenges, boosting soil fertility, and increasing yields. Key to the concept is understanding which plants grow well together. For instance, tomatoes and basil are natural companions in the kitchen as well as the garden. Basil repels pests inherent to tomatoes, such as thrips, and it tends to disorient moths that lay tomato hornworms. Another example would be planting flowers such as Nasturtium close to kale, cabbage, broccoli, and any crop in the brassica family. The lovely Nasturtium blossoms will lure hungry caterpillars away from crops.

There are multiple benefits to companion gardening. One of the largest is deterring pests. This is a monumental challenge for most novice gardeners. Companion planting can take the place of spraying pesticides in some cases. Attracting beneficial insects is also a key benefit of companion gardening. Planting pollinator-friendly plants in rows within the garden encourages pollinators and pest predators. The African marigold is well known for exuding chemicals through its root system and other above-ground parts that repel pests. Companion planting is used to protect plants from not only insects but direct sunlight as well. Providing much-needed shade can help plants survive the harsh summer heat, thrive, and even flourish.

If you need help understanding companion gardening, the UC Master Gardener organization is here to help. Our hotline office hours are Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and the number is 530-822-7515.

Happy Gardening!



Nasturtium photo credit
Marla Pike, UC Master
Gardener

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Compatible Companions</u>	<u>Incompatible</u>
Asparagus	Tomato, parsley, basil	
Beans	Most vegetables and herbs	Onion, garlic, gladiolus
Beans, bush	Irish potato, cucumber, corn, strawberry, celery, summer savory	Onion family
Beans, pole	Corn, summer savory, radish	Onion, beets, kohlrabi, sunflower
Beets	Cabbage and onion families, lettuce	Pole beans
Cabbage family	Aromatic herbs, celery, beets, onion family, chamomile, spinach, chard	Dill, strawberry, pole beans, tomato
Carrots	English peas, lettuce, rosemary, onion family, sage, tomato	Dill
Celery	Onion and cabbage families, tomato, bush beans, nasturtium	
Corn	Irish potato, beans, English peas, pumpkin, cucumber, squash	Tomato
Cucumber	Beans, corn, English peas, sunflowers, radish	Irish potato, aromatic herbs
Eggplant	Beans, marigold	
Lettuce	Carrot, radish, strawberry, cucumber	
Onion family	Beets, carrot, lettuce, cabbage family, summer savory	Beans, English peas
Parsley	Tomato, asparagus	
Peas, English	Carrots, radish, turnips, cucumber, corn, beans	Onion family, gladiolus, Irish potato
Potato, Irish	Beans, corn, cabbage family, marigolds, horseradish	Pumpkin, squash, tomato, cucumber, sunflower
Pumpkins	Corn, marigold	Irish potato
Radish	English peas, nasturtium, lettuce, cucumber	Hyssop
Spinach	Strawberry, fava beans	
Squash	Nasturtium, corn, marigold	Irish potato
Tomato	Basil, onion family, nasturtium, marigold, asparagus, carrot, parsley, cucumber	Corn, Irish potato, fennel, cabbage family
Turnip	English peas	Irish potato

Source: *Edible Landscaping Handbook, Companion Planting Chart for Home & Market Gardening, pg 15, prepared for the UCCE Master Gardener Program by the California Center for Urban Horticulture, UC/Davis. Original Source: ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas) Companion Planting: Basic Concepts & Resources.*

Master Gardener Learning Garden

Mark Davenport , UC Master Gardener

Know a Master Gardener? They will tell you the title is not an easy one to get and that it requires work, research, and serving the public to keep it. It's about learning more every day to do the job better every day. To me, it's like being a Peace Corps Volunteer but serving from home.

We Sutter-Yuba Master Gardeners have a garden where this learning happens, but the Learning Garden is misnamed. Why? True, we offer classes that are open to the public. Information is passed on, questions are answered. Learning happens. And people visit, and ask, and learn.

But the 23 raised beds in 4,000 square feet of donated Fairgrounds space, the worm bins, the flowers, the compost beds, and the hoses and trellises and shade cloth and several thousand work hours are for something else. They grow food. Year round. As much as possible. The food goes to people who are not living independently and could use an uptick in their diets. Last year: around 400 pounds. This year: a steady but modest delivery of fresh food.

Red Wiggler worms feeding on coffee grounds and kitchen scraps, recycled pallet wood, donated mulch from recycled yard waste, and a few hard-working people is how it started, but more is needed from more people. More volunteer hours, more sweat, more broken and dirty fingernails because the garden is growing, just as the need for more food is growing.

In a year's time our gardening space will double and include a production greenhouse and electricity to operate it, and almost a tripling of our raised bed growing space. This is phenomenal growth. It will need phenomenal human time and effort to succeed.

To you, our boosters, our subscribers, our casual observers and usual suspects, thank you.



We planted bright yellow Gladiolus blossoms this year to attract pollinators into the garden.
Photo credit: Mark Davenport

(Additional photos on Page 6)



Part of the Garden's third broccoli crop.
Photo credit: Mark Davenport



A shade cloth over a raised bed of tomatoes at the Learning Garden. Photo credit: Mark Davenport



First harvest delivery: zucchini, cucumbers, winter squash, onions, and garlic. Photo credit: Mark Davenport

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources | UC Master Gardener Program

UC MASTER GARDENER PRESENTS

SUMMER GARDEN STROLL

AT YOUR LOCAL UC MASTER GARDENERS' DEMONSTRATION GARDEN.

Come take a summer stroll with local UC Master Gardeners to see, learn and ask questions about...

Dates: July 3rd, August 7th, September 4th
Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Location: UC Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, 442 Franklin Ave, Gate 7

- Companion Planting
- Soil and pest management
- Hot/Cold composting or Vermicomposting
- Gardening vertically, raised beds or no till row

FREE worm tea to attendees until the bucket is empty

QUESTIONS: 530-822-7515 | sutteryuba@ucanr.edu

Free UC IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Webinars for 2024

These are a series of webinars that are free and open to the public. Advance registration is required in order to receive the webinar logon details. These webinars are hosted by UC experts and are held the third Thursday of every month to help learn about pest identification, prevention, and management around the home, garden, and landscape.

August 15, 2024—*Back to School Pests*

September 19, 2024—*Improving Professional Ant Control Services*

October 17, 2024—*Spooky Insects (Halloween special)*

November 14, 2024—*Rat Management*

Copy and paste URL to learn more and register: <https://ucanr.edu/sites/ucipm-community-webinars/>

Advice to grow by ... Ask us!

If you have a plant or gardening question, contact us or us or drop by the office with a sample. Check our website or Facebook for workshop announcements.

Farmers' Market Booth

Please plan to visit the Sutter-Yuba Master Gardeners at our booth at the Yuba City Farmers' Market, May 11 through October. Our booth is available from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday. It's a great way to meet local Master Gardeners and to ask your gardening questions. We also have a variety of "Pest Notes" to help with common questions and pests (examples include lawn watering, tree trimming, ants, earwigs, brown marmorated stink bug, etc.). Each of the Pest Notes has been developed by University of California experts based on UC testing, research, and knowledge.

Other places to find us:

Harmony Market | August 20
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Harmony Health, 1908 North Beale Road,
Marysville

How to reach the Sutter-Yuba Master

Gardeners:

- Yuba City Farmers' Market
- Via email at sutteryuba@ucanr.edu
- Via telephone at (530) 822-7515
- During our office hours at 142A Garden Hwy., Yuba City
 - Tuesdays 9 a.m. to noon
 - Thursdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Office Hours

The Sutter-Yuba Master Gardeners have office hours every week. Tuesday morning, 9-a.m. to noon. Thursday afternoon, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

These are the times when we are available to help with gardening questions you may have. What is this bug? What is causing my tomato plant to wilt? How much water for this squash?

Samples do help with identification and diagnosis, and the office hours are a great time to bring the samples and questions to our group.

If you can't make it into the office, please send us an email outlining your question or concerns. If you can also provide a picture, that helps with diagnosis, as well. Our email address is sutteryuba@ucanr.edu

Our Mission:

"To extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives."

- UC Master Gardener Program Mission Statement

It is the policy of the University of California (UC) and the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) not to engage in discrimination against or harassment of any person in any of its programs or activities. UC ANR's complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <http://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/215244.pdf>. Inquiries regarding UC ANR's nondiscrimination policies may be directed to: UC ANR Affirmative Action Compliance & Title IX Officer, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Division, 2801 Second Street, Davis, CA 95618; (530) 750-1397