



THE YOLO GARDENER

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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY THE UCCE, MASTER GARDENERS OF YOLO COUNTY

A New Master Gardener Demonstration Garden

Stephanie Myers, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

The mission of UCCE Master Gardeners in Yolo County is to transfer gardening information developed by the University of California to the general public. To that end we sponsor free public education classes, create and distribute gardening publications, and staff gardening information tables at numerous public events throughout the county.



We also have created demonstration gardens at Woodland Community College, at Davis Central Park, at the UCCE office in Woodland, and at the county offices in West Sacramento in conjunction with other civic organizations. Our latest effort is at the Winters public library.

The Master Gardeners of Yolo County, Winters Joint Unified School District, Yolo County Library, Winters Friends of the Library, and the City of Winters have joined together to create a teaching garden at the Winters Community Library. There will be an open house for the Winters Community Library teaching garden October 12, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The garden designers will be present to provide information on pollinators and on general Master Gardener information.

UCCE Master Gardeners from Yolo County, Anne Scott and Stephanie Myers, were responsible for the garden design, for installation, and for coordinating maintenance with local volunteers. In the early planning stages, we had invaluable design input from Ellen Zagory from the UC Davis Arboretum, and, former and present, UCCE Master Gardeners Patricia Carpenter, Arlen Feldman, and Mary Yaussy.

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Preparation leading up to actual planting was ongoing for a number of months, including crafting an agreement for all parties, removing old landscape materials, irrigation lines, trees, and shrubs, creating a planting design, and finally planting, installing drip irrigation, repairing pathways, and mulching, which was completed April 28, 2019. All of this work could not have been done without the help of friends and community members (Carol and Ed Scianna, Joan Brenchley, Denise Cottrell, Garry Douglas, Matt Lease, Barry Parker, Mary Yaussy, and Charlotte Sommerfeld).

We send a special shout out to Pat Riley, John Hess, and the City of Winters maintenance crew. Pat Riley removed a number of trees and shrubs, ground the stumps, and shredded the materials and hauled them offsite. The old irrigation system was no longer functioning and was removed by Garry Douglas, Anne Scott, and myself and replaced by the John Hess Landscape Construction team, who installed a new drip irrigation system and dry rock drainage beds and refurbished the decomposed granite pathways. The City of Winters maintenance crew installed new irrigation valves and boxes. Oscar Jacobo (lead maintenance for Winters Joint Unified School District) and his crew have provided ongoing assistance with weed spraying and technical assistance on site access and electrical issues.

Winters Friends of the Library provided funds for the garden installation. The City donated recycling funds to purchase outdoor tables, chairs, and umbrellas made mainly from recycled materials.

The following is excerpted from the Introduction and Goals in a Gardening for Pollinators Course taught Spring 2018. It captures our gardens' objectives:

“The horticultural education and outreach program at the UC Davis Arboretum, partnering with ANR Yolo and Solano County Master Gardeners, has embraced the need to create urban, suburban, and home landscapes that require less water and also support local wildlife. Recommendations for plants include both California natives and compatible non-natives from other drought-prone warmer regions. People are looking for plants that support pollinators – creatures that provide the transport of genetic material (pollen) that is necessary for plant reproduction. These special plants not only support pollinators (bees, moths, flies, butterflies, and hummingbirds) but also enhance the natural biological system that assures the reproduction of plants, sustainability of natural areas, and our agricultural food supply. Planting for pollinators brings gardeners more directly in touch with nature. Helping people to create locally sustainable gardens can contribute to the greater goal: a place where humans can thrive along with all the other creatures with which they share the earth.”



The focus of our teaching garden is on the use of low water-use plants and plants that provide year-round habitat for pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds as well as habitat for all wildlife species. The garden is blessed with a large valley oak that provides habitat for a variety of wildlife including great-horned owls, scrub jays, woodpeckers, and tree roosting bats such as the hoary bat. A fifteen-foot high rocket design bat house was built by Pierre Neu and Garry Douglas with input from Rachel Long (UCCE Farm Advisor) and installed with the help of a number of volunteers. Bats are an important part of the wildlife community our garden hopes to support. While bats are critical to agricultural crop insect control, a bat house provides a unique opportunity for an up close look at these fascinating critters. The garden also provides a space where visitors can sit and enjoy the garden, supports educational opportunities for school groups, and provides volunteer opportunities for community members. A variety of workshops will be offered through the master gardeners on interesting topics aimed at engaging everyone with nature.

The library is located at 708 Railroad Avenue in Winters, CA and is open to the public during regular library hours but not when school is in session and available anytime for special use by school groups. 

Sage Advice

David Studer, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

In a few months the weather will be cooler and, if it rains a bit, the ground will be softer and easier to dig. It's the ideal time to plan a garden now so that you'll be ready to plant later in the Fall. Maybe this Summer, you put a lot of effort into removing some or all of your lawn and are looking for something attractive and water wise that blooms nearly year-round to replace it.

I have a suggestion: visit the U.C. Davis Arboretum website (<https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>) and search the Arboretum Allstars database for "sage". The results include five members of the genus salvia. The largest genus of the mint family--California white sage (*Salvia apiana*); 'Winnifred Gilman' Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*); autumn sage (*Salvia greggii* and *Salvia x jamensis*); mint bush sage (*Salvia microphylla*); and hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*). I included the Latin names here in parenthesis so that you'll know which salvias we're talking about when you go to the garden center. Common names can often be so confusing.

I'm going to interrupt our story here briefly to talk about mint. Often, people hear "mint" and think, "Mint! good grief! not mint. Mint is invasive. My aunt Dotty planted mint and it took over her entire garden in less than a week!" While mint may have taken over Aunt Dotty's garden, sage is not that kind of mint. The sages we are talking about here are more perennial shrubs. Some get big, sure, but most can be gently pruned to maintain a compact form.

Ok, back to the list of sages from the Arboretum Allstars above. If you read the descriptions of each of these sages you'll discover that they all tolerate some sun or partial shade; have low to moderate watering requirements; attract hummingbirds and beneficial insects like bees, and butterflies; and have a variety of colorful blooms and growth habits that will add interest to your garden. A garden of sages will provide blooming interest almost year-round.



California white sage blooms white in the Spring. This California native is a small shrub with pale gray/green foliage that provide a good contrast to other darker green plants in the garden. It would also stand out at night if you like to stroll the garden by moonlight.

Winnifred Gilman Cleveland sage, another small shrub and California native produces blue/violet flowers in ball like structures along maroon stems. Prune off the old flower stalks in the Summer after the blooms have faded.



Autumn sage another small shrub blooms big in the Spring and again in the Fall with some Summer flowers. It is native to southwest Texas and into the Chihuahuan desert. The Allstars mentioned above have a bright red bloom but *Salvia greggii* comes in many varieties including 'Coronado pink' with a deep pink bloom and a pale pink and white variety I saw on *Wikipedia* called 'Teresa'. I have a 'Tangerine Ballet' variety of autumn sage in my garden that is a pleasant peachy/orange color.



Mint bush sage (*Salvia microphylla*) blooms bright red all year round. This native of southeastern Arizona and the mountains of Mexico requires very little pruning and works well under native oaks. It naturally hybridizes with and comes in many colorful varieties including 'Hot Lips' that has a striking red and white bloom.

Hummingbird sage is native to southern and central California. It has a sprawling habit and spreads by rhizomes into a patch about four feet wide so give it some space. It produces pinkish flowers on upright stems in Winter and Spring.



I would like to include two other sages to this list that I've had success with: Mexican bush sage, (*Salvia leucantha*); and Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*). These both have the same drought tolerance and attraction for hummingbirds and beneficial insects as the other sages mentioned above. However, unlike the other sage in this article, that only require a gentle pruning to maintain their shape and size, Mexican and Russian sages should be cut back nearly to the ground in Winter to keep them looking their best. (I leave about a foot of stem on the Russian sage.)



Mexican sage can get over four feet tall and just as wide so give it plenty of room. It has a slow creeping habit that may need to be controlled as time goes on. The white flowers bloom from fuzzy blue/lavender bracts in the Fall and last well into Winter if the weather is mild. This provides nectar to hummingbirds and beneficial insects when other blooms have faded. Frost can take its toll on Mexican sage but rarely enough to kill it in our area. Leave the frost damaged stems in place until late Winter, then cut it back as mentioned above and it will reemerge in the Spring. You may even see a few new shoots as you cut down the old stems.

Some Russian sages grow just about as big as the Mexican sage, but you can find varieties like 'Little Spire' and 'Blue Lisservy' that should stay around two feet tall and about one foot wide for smaller spaces. You may have noticed by the Latin name that Russian sage is not part of the salvia genus, but it is still a member of the mint family. The Arboretum Teaching Nursery staff has also nominated Russian sage 'Little Spire' as a "rising star"--plants that have similar gardening value to the Arboretum Allstars. Russian sage has tiny silvery purple blooms that appear as if a pale lavender cloud settled on the garden. In full bloom, the buzz from foraging bees--both native and European honeybees--can be described as nearly a roar. I have also noticed that small birds (Bush tits?) enjoy the seeds throughout the Winter so, I wait until the middle of March to cut it back.



I focused here on the ornamental and wildlife benefits of sages but there is a lot more about sages to explore. I didn't mention culinary sage (*Salvia officinalis*) at all or how fragrant sages can be in the garden. I hope I have piqued your curiosity and you'll go explore these things on your own.

Sages for the ages: these are a few of my favorite things. Happy gardening



The Merits of Using Salvaged and Upcycled Materials in Your Landscape Projects

Michael Kluk, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

The Japanese phrase “wabi sabi” means, generally, to embrace the imperfections of the world around us and to appreciate the character, charm, and uniqueness of things as they age. When applied to garden design, it highlights many of the reasons you may want to incorporate used materials in your landscaping efforts. Whether the wabi sabi philosophy appeals to you, you enjoy the challenge of finding creative ways to use salvaged materials, you want to reduce your environmental footprint by reusing and upcycling re-claimed materials, or you simply hope to save a buck, employing used materials in your landscape makes sense.

There are two primary ways used materials can be brought into your landscape. One is to simply use a design element in its present form. An old bench under your tree immediately creates a unique, comfortable look with an established sense of place that a new bench cannot duplicate. Or you can construct an element from used materials. A bird feeder or a new gate can be made from salvaged materials that started out looking nothing like its final form. In either case, you can choose the degree of “age” you want to express. Your old bench need not look like it lived in the back of a shed for the last 20 years. A coat of paint will freshen it up, maybe help compliment the other colors in your garden yet still not look like it just came from a big box store.

Another advantage of using salvaged materials is that it can inspire creativity. The small patio pictured here uses both old concrete pavers and bricks salvaged from a fireplace. There was not enough of either to cover the intended area. You may or may not like this particular look, but it does have a design element missing from a patio constructed with a single material. Garden sculpture created from used materials is a completely open creative exercise.

Challenges of Using Reclaimed Materials

Working with used materials does present some challenges. While there are many sources, as listed below, acquiring used materials is generally not as easy or convenient as going to the store to purchase new items. You may need to wait a while until the material or item you want shows up. You may need to store materials while you collect enough for the project you have in mind. Of course, nothing says your project must be created entirely of used materials. It may make perfect sense to purchase some new materials to mix in with the used to move things along. Used materials may not be as uniform or easy to work with as new materials. They may require more preparation. You may not find the same variety available as you would in a store. But with a little persistence, creativity, and flexibility you can develop an attractive, unique, functional, and cost-effective landscape project from recovered and reclaimed materials.

A Few Specific Uses

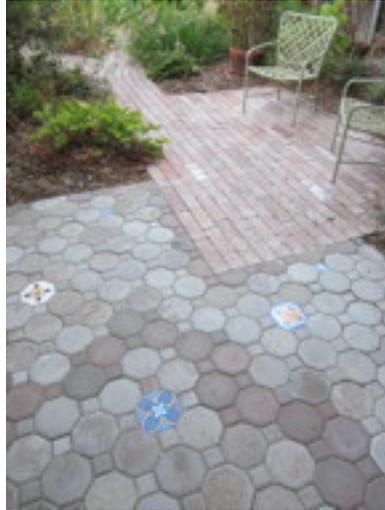
- Used bricks – pathways, patios, retaining walls, raised beds, plant stands
- Broken concrete (often called urbanite) – pathways, patios, retaining walls
- Redwood or cedar fence boards – raised beds, bird houses, bird feeders, accent fencing, and gates
- Poly barrels – water retention, large planters when cut in half
- Dismantled bedframes – trellises, metal posts for any number of uses
- Large cooking pots and similar vessels – plant pots
- Clay pipe – plant stands
- Pallets – tables and benches

- Pressure treated wood and railroad ties – retaining walls, steps (best not to use for raised beds, especially any bed that may hold vegetables)
- Old tires (painted or not) – plant containers, small water features, retaining walls

Specific Examples



Broken concrete (urbanite), old bricks of various types, and a little creativity results in a one-of-a-kind garden path.



Salvaged pavers and fireplace bricks result in a look you otherwise would not achieve.



Plastic deck boards can be framed with salvaged wood to make a rot-proof raised bed.



The bird feeder was constructed from redwood fence boards, heavy screen, used pipe, and scrap rebar. The old funnel on the support keeps squirrels out.



A section of old chain becomes . . . a rain chain.



A section of clay pipe makes a nice plant stand.



Broken concrete (urbanite) can be used to make retaining or accent walls



What looks like a window into the neighbor's yard is actually an old mirror bordered by salvaged lumber.



This garden sculpture made from an old chain, bike wheel, and scrap metal, required basic welding skills



Salvaged brick is good for low retaining walls and planters.



The dragon fly and rooster were constructed from scrap metal.

Sources of Used Materials or Items

- Secondhand stores
- Yard sales
- Big Blue Barn at the Yolo Landfill
- Aggie Surplus
- Habitat for Humanity Restores and other used building material outlets
- Craig's List, Freecycle, Next Door, eBay etc.
- Dumpsters at construction sites (ask for access)
- Davis apartment move-out donation stations

The opportunities to use recycled and reclaimed materials in your landscaping projects are varied and essentially endless. Whatever you create will be uniquely yours and do a bit to reduce your environmental footprint as well.

Resources

The Revolutionary Yardscape: Ideas for Repurposing Local Materials, Matthew Levesque, 2010

Sustainable Landscape Construction, 3rd Edition, Kim Sorvig and J. William Thompson, 2018

Special thanks to Bernadette Balics, Ecological Landscapes Design, Davis



Dragonflies and Damselflies

Jack Kenealy, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

A childhood friend of mine from Merced retired recently as a professor of geology at UC Davis. Decades ago, at the beginning of his career, he was flown by helicopter into a very remote area to examine rock formations. Having never flown in a helicopter, I was jealous and even today remember his describing his pilot, a Vietnam War vet, who showed him all the tricks a helicopter could do, including flying backwards. “Nothing flies backwards,” he enthused. I have told that story countless times. “Nothing flies backwards,” I have said emphatically for years. But now I know dragonflies and damselflies can fly backwards!



Top is dragonfly - Bottom is a damselfly

The order Odonata, from the Greek “toothed ones,” in reference to the serrated teeth of these stealth fighters of the insect world, consists of two groups: Anisoptera (dragonflies), and Zygoptera (damselflies). There is a third group which is a “relic” and consists of but two living species, but nearly all the sources I consulted refer to the order as two groups, not three.

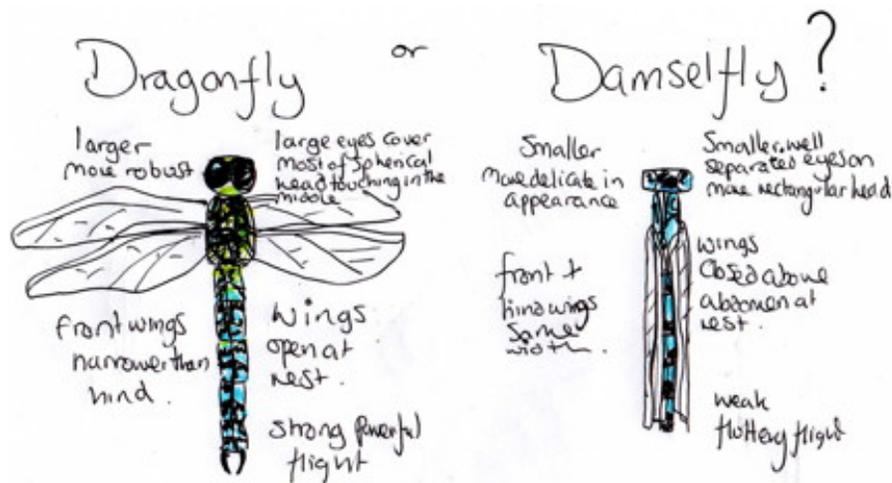
It should come as no surprise that there might be a “relic” within the Odonata order. They are the oldest of flying insects having evolved over three hundred million years ago. Fossils from that period reveal wingspans of as much as two feet. Within the order there are between five thousand and six thousand species which share characteristics distinguishing them from other groups of insects. These include minute antennae, extremely large eyes, two pairs of transparent membranous wings with many small veins, and long slender abdomens.

(www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/arthropoda/uniramia/odonatoida.html)

While both dragonflies and damselflies share the common features of the Odonata order, there are differences as well. Dragonfly eggs are round while damselfly eggs are cylindrical and twice as long as the .5 mm long dragonfly egg. Eggs are scattered over water by the female where they may hatch in weeks or months. The life cycle of a dragonfly consists of the egg, the nymph, and the adult.

Dragonfly and damselfly nymphs, like the adults of the species, are fierce predators. The dragonfly has a unique *labium*, a prehensile lower lip that, faster than its prey can react, allows the nymph to hook its prey. This feature becomes an important tool for the adult as well. The damselfly nymph is thinner than its cousin and has three featherlike gills extending from its abdomen. It shares the labium with the dragonfly.

Most of a dragonfly's life is spent in the larval stage where it molts from six to fifteen times. After about one year of living underwater, the nymph crawls out of the water, perches on a rock, stick, or stem, and waits as its skin cracks open around the abdomen, its legs and wings stiffen, and it flies off as an adult. Adult dragonflies and damselflies live only a matter of weeks, but that time is well spent as these predators eat anything they see and can get their claws around.



From the Blog '[thespacebetweentea](https://thespacebetweentea.com)'

<https://thespacebetweentea.wordpress.com/2012/05/21/the-difference-between-dragonflies/>

hundred mosquitoes in a day making them an effective abatement measure. In addition to mosquitoes, they will eat flies, gnats, bees, and butterflies. A study at Harvard University found that dragonflies can judge the speed and trajectory of a prey target and adjust their flight to intercept the prey, clutching it with their feet, sometimes while flying upside down, and eating the unfortunate victim in the air. The moves they make while hunting are so fast they are invisible to the naked eye. They have an amazing success rate of ninety-five percent while feeding. Finally, one research team determined the nervous system of a dragonfly displays an "almost human capacity for selective attention, able to focus on a single prey as it flies among a cloud of similarly fluttering insects." (<https://www.mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/7-things-you-never-knew-about-dragonflies>).

The amazing flying ability results from the fact that dragonflies have two sets of wings with muscles in the thorax that can work each wing independently of one another. Dragonflies are stronger fliers than the damselfly. In her book, *Dragonflies of California and the Southwest*, Kathy Biggs reveals that dragonflies are hardy creatures who can be captured by pinching their wings, can be put on ice briefly to permit them to be photographed, and then released unharmed.

Finally, dragonflies and damselflies can be invited into the garden by creating a pond or other water feature. Also planting flowers that draw pollinators will also draw dragonflies to feed on them. 🍅

Overwintering Peppers

Tanya Kucak, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

Curious neighbors wondered why I was potting up all the pepper plants in my garden last November. For the past several years I've overwintered one or more of my most robust or interesting pepper plants, but last year I decided to experiment on a larger scale.

Like tomatoes and eggplants, peppers are tropical perennials that can live year-round in warmer climates. Unlike tomatoes and eggplants, peppers can be worth overwintering in northern California. Tomatoes grow like weeds once the weather warms up and are much healthier grown from seed or even from a cutting kept in a warm window. But peppers grow more slowly and can survive dormancy, and an overwintered plant can outperform the same variety grown from seed.

The following questions can help you decide whether it's worth overwintering a particular pepper plant:

- * Is the plant healthy?
- * Did you like the peppers enough to grow it again?
- * Is it a rare or hard to find variety?
- * If you grew it from seed, did it grow slowly?
- * Did it take longer than other varieties to produce mature peppers?
- * Do you have a place to keep the dormant plants?

Many hot peppers are notoriously slow growers, so they are particularly good candidates for overwintering. Hot-pepper aficionados have told me that overwintered plants can start fruiting as much as a month earlier, compared to plants grown from seed, which means they are productive for a longer season. Also, overwintered plants with well-developed root systems produce more peppers at a time. Both of these factors contribute to double (or more) yields.

Here's how to do it.

1. Carefully dig up your plants at the end of the season, before the first frost. Keep some soil around the root ball. Put them in containers and add potting mix (not garden soil) around the root ball. Add mulch on top. Remove any immature peppers so the plants can go dormant. I've pruned my plants only if I needed to make them more compact to fit my space. Be sure to prune above a bud to avoid leaving stubs that can invite disease.



Keep some soil around the root ball, and place in a container with potting mix. Use a pot appropriate for the plant size (one gallon to five gallons) or use a bigger pot but plant two or three plants per pot. Six weeks before you return the peppers to the garden, move them into more light and water them more as they leaf out. Pay attention to the weather and protect them from spring cold snaps. (Photos: Tanya Kucak)



2. Keep the plants in a cool location, out of the rain. I've kept my plants inside a fenced carport, or under the eaves. If a freeze is forecast, be sure to add extra protection. The plants need some light until the leaves have dropped, and then a cool, dark location such as a garage is acceptable.
3. Water the plants every 3-4 weeks, letting them dry out between waterings, but don't let them dry out fully. Make a note on your calendar so you don't forget about them.
4. About six weeks before the last frost date (or six weeks before you would set out your pepper transplants), start preparing your overwintered plants to return to the garden. Give them more light and maybe a little fertilizer. Once you start seeing new growth, also give them more water.

When I've overwintered only a few well-coddled plants, I've had close to 100% success. This year, I treated my plants with benign neglect, sometimes forgot to water them, and didn't follow my own advice to prepare them for the garden. Still, 7 out of 24 sweet pepper plants and 6 out of 13 hot pepper plants survived.

Tanya Kucak gardens organically. You can reach her at tanyagarden@gmail.com.



Fall Gardening Tips

Peg Smith, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

Fall is the time when we begin to relax in the garden and tend to think there's not so much to do after a 'tidy up' and we look to the spring as the time when we'll think about where we want to refurbish a garden area with new planting or replace an aging perennial. With Yolo County's mild winters this does not necessarily hold true. Fall is truly the prime time to head into the garden to review and reinvigorate. Any perennial planted in the fall will go quietly about the business of producing healthy root growth throughout the fall and winter. By the spring and summer these plants have well established root systems and are better able to support a burst of spring growth and the following summer heat. Some of the more tender perennials planted in the fall may need a little frost protection on the coldest of our winter nights but most will come through with flying colors. You haven't missed the boat if you don't plant in the fall, spring will come, but do consider a detailed fall check of your planting needs and take advantage of the fall sales.

Many of our beneficial insect friends like a somewhat messy garden that gives them shelter over the winter. Lady Beetles over winter under loose leaf layers so you can allow some of the fall leaf drop to remain as winter shelter for our beneficial lady beetles. It is actually the lady beetle nymph, emerging in the spring, that consumes many of the spring arriving aphids. The nymphs are perhaps 'odd' looking but they are of great benefit to the garden.

A carpet of leaves from trees such as sycamore, or oak need to be cleared if they fall densely on the crown of a plant. This blanket of leaves on the crown of a plant combined with heavy winter rains can encourage crown rot.

Fruit tree hygiene is important to control soil and waterborne fungal and bacterial disease. Clean up all old fallen fruit this will reduce the possibility of fungal spores over wintering under the fruit trees to re-infect the spring fruit. Light pruning of dead or crossing branches will help trees weather the fall and winter storms. Follow the IPM recommended dormant spray applications on fruits and berries.

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/CONTROLS/dormant.html>



Lady Beetle Larvae

The year-round vegetable garden is one of the benefits of our Yolo climate. We don't need to shut down vegetable growing for the winter. If you love the brassica family, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower etc. now is the time to plant for a winter crop. If you are growing your own brassicas from seed many of the brassica seedlings are almost indistinguishable from each other so 'label, label, label'. Our Vegetable Planting Guide is a great guide to what and when to plant in any season. <https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/206763.pdf>

If you are not growing winter vegetables, plant cover crops such as fava beans, clover or vetch to replenish the soil nitrogen for better spring yields. Cover crops also reduce the loss of the topsoil in heavy winter rain storms.

Now is the time to scatter seeds for California annuals such as poppies and tidy tips. Rake back any mulch from the dirt, scratch the soil surface to loosen, scatter the seed and lightly rake the area to cover the seed. Water gently so the fine seed is not washed away. Enjoy the show in the spring.

Fall Cleanup

- Remove fallen fruits, vegetables, leaves, spent flowers, and weeds.
- Pinch back plants to allow tomatoes, melons, and squash enough time to mature before frost sets in.
- Remove unproductive plants.
- Take down squash, melon cucumber and tomato supports. Get them ready for planting peas and sweet peas in October.
- Clean garden supports and stakes with a diluted bleach solution before storing them for future use.
- Pick tomatoes when daytime temperatures no longer exceed 65° F. Wrap them in newspaper or place on a windowsill to let them ripen indoors.
- Maintain your compost pile by adding clean garden waste and leaves.
- Control earwigs, snails, and slugs.
- Apply liquid copper to citrus to prevent brown rot.
- Apply the first dormant spray to fruit trees in November. See: <http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/calendars/>
- Apply the first round of liquid preventatives to nectarines, peaches, and apricots in November.

For Peach leaf curl – <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7426.html> For Brown rot - <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FRUIT/DISEASE/aprbrownrot.html>

For Shot hole <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FRUIT/DISEASE/shothole.html>

Fertilize and Amend

- Fertilize and amend your garden soil. Add manure and compost to improve soil structure and fertility.
- Apply a layer of leaves, straw, or newspaper to your soil surface to reduce weeds next spring and improve soil structure.
- Amend your soil and add a complete fertilizer if you plant winter crops, flowers, bulbs, or seeds.
- Consider planting a crop of green manure on any open ground to loosen the soil and add nitrogen before planting in the spring. <http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/files/53466.pdf>

Lawn care

- Renovate a poorly performing lawn by de-thatching, aerating, fertilizing, and over-seeding it with either an annual or perennial rye or fescue mix, which will keep it green through the winter.
- Fertilize lawns in early fall with a complete fertilizer (one that contains nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium).
- Fertilize in late fall with a slow-release complete fertilizer.
- Adjust the watering cycle on your lawn. It will require less water in the fall and little or none in the winter.
- Continue to mow weekly and check your sprinkler system. Be sure it is properly adjusted and that all the nozzles are working.
- Remove dead leaves from your lawn regularly to prevent your lawn from expiring from lack of sunlight or contracting fungus infections.
- Fall is the best time to put in a new lawn with either seed or sod.

For complete lawn care see UC IPM Healthy Lawns at <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/TOOLS/TURF/>

Annuals and Perennials

- Continue deadheading and removing dead leaves.
- Divide and transplant bulbs, tubers, and corms.
- If your oriental poppies, iris, agapanthus, and daylilies are becoming less vigorous, fall is the season to divide and replant them.
- Share extra bulbs, corms, and tubers with a friend.
- Enjoy the fall color of perennials. Wait until spring to trim or cut them back.
- Evergreen perennials should not be cut back in the fall. These include rock cress, creeping sedum, creeping phlox, and hens and chicks.
- Roses should keep producing flowers into December, but do not fertilize after September that will encourage shoot growth that will be nipped by the first frost. Deadhead as needed unless you prefer colorful rose hips to develop and provide winter interest.
- Plant fall flowers such as calendulas, chrysanthemums, bachelor buttons, dianthus, forget-me-nots, sweet peas, and violas. Many of these will over-winter and provide lush color in the spring.
- Spring-blooming perennials such as foxglove, columbine, salvia, and daylilies can be planted now.
- Fall is the best time to introduce perennials to your garden.
- Consider planting winter vegetables such as broccoli, lettuce, endive, parsley, garlic, and onion sets. <https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/206763.pdf>
- Take cuttings of your favorite annuals.
- Gradually move frost sensitive potted plants to shadier locations so they will adjust to the lower light levels when you move them indoors.

Trees and Shrubs

- Fall is the best time to plant trees and shrubs.
Suggested Trees for Yolo County <http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/files/53031.pdf> Problem Trees for Yolo County <http://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/181041.pdf>
How to Plant Tree <http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/files/53455.pdf>
Watering and Drought Care of Trees <https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/217955.pdf>

The cooler air temperature and still-warm soil provide ideal conditions for new plant roots to take hold.

- For autumn colors of red, gold, or yellow, choose these trees: Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*), ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*), tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), chanticleer pear (*Pyrus calleryana* ‘Chanticleer’), or red maple (*Acer rubrum*).
- Plant drought-tolerant trees such as valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), or a Japanese pagoda tree (*Sophora japonica*). A new favorite is the Chinese Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus retusus*). You will need to have plenty of room if you are planting the oaks.
- Apply manure and compost to help your trees emerge from dormancy with lush leaves and flowers.
- Plant easy-care and drought-tolerant shrubs such as crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*), California lilac (*Ceanothus* hybrids), heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*), tobira (*Pittosporum tobira*), and western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*).
- Prune and shape trees in late fall.

Garden Keeping

- Sharpen spades, loppers, pruners, and your lawn mower blade. You can use a file or take your tools to a professional sharpener.
- Take your lawn mower to a professional for an annual tune-up.
- Clean, disinfect, and oil your tools, so they will be ready for pruning roses, trees, and shrubs from late fall to early spring.
- Keep birdbaths and feeders clean and full for migrating birds.
- Check out your local farmer’s market or pumpkin patch for a colorful selection of fall decorations, including pumpkins, gourds, dried corn, and fall flowers.
- Keep a journal. Record your watering cycle information, pruning, spraying, and planting information. Make a list of garden improvements and fun ideas.

- Collect seeds from your garden.
- Check out your favorite garden catalogs. It is time to think about ordering next spring's seeds, bare root roses, and garden tools.
For more information on vegetables, ornamentals, fruit trees, and lawn care, visit <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>.

Garden Fun

- Make a fall wreath and table decorations from dried or fresh garden cuttings. Grape vines wrapped around a circular form make an ideal basis for a seasonal wreath. Use a hollowed-out pumpkin or gourd as the vase.
- Plant spring bulbs for a fresh look come March or April after we have a rainy winter.

Fun Fall Events

- Master Garden Public Education, check out the free public workshops offered by the Master Gardener Program in Yolo County. A detailed calendar is included in this newsletter. Please check the Master Gardener- Yolo County website for updates as dates and times may change. <http://yolomg.ucanr.edu/>.
- Master Gardener and Woodland Community College Demonstration Garden Open House and Plant Sale 9:00 AM – Noon, October 5 and 12 from 9AM – Noon
- Central Park Gardens Open House and Plant Sale, October 26, 9AM – 1PM. The garden will be staffed with Yolo County Master Gardeners to answer your questions about the sale plants and the plantings in the seven themed gardens that make up Central Park Gardens. <https://centralparkgardens.org/>
- Sacramento Farm-To-Fork Festival 2019, September 27 & 28 <https://www.farmtofork.com>
- UC Davis Arboretum events and plant sales <http://publicgarden.ucdavis.edu/plant-sales>
- Fair Oaks Horticulture Center http://ucanr.edu/sites/sacmg/Plant_Clinics
- Village Feast 2018, Davis September 29 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-village-feast-2019-tickets-59209184264?aff=erelexpmlt>



**Questions about your garden?
We'd love to help!**

UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County Hotline.....(530) 666-8737

Our message centers will take your questions and information. Please leave your name, address, phone number and a description of your problem. A Master Gardener will research your problem and return your call.

E-Mail..... mgyolo@ucdavis.edu

Drop-In..... Tuesday & Friday, 9-11 a.m.
70 Cottonwood St., Woodland

Web Site <http://yolomg.ucanr.edu/>

Facebook.....UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County



UC MASTER GARDENERS - YOLO COUNTY PUBLIC WORKSHOP SCHEDULE October 2019

Dates and times subject to change.

Please check at <http://yolomg.ucanr.edu/> for updates.

Workshops are open to the public and are free.

Workshops are held in several different venues throughout the county.

Check the venue address for those in which you are interested.

DAVIS

Date	Time	Topic	Venue
Saturday, October 19	9:30 – 10:30 AM 11:00 - Noon	Messy Gardens Can be Healthy Gardens Succulents in the Garden and as Gifts	CPG*
Sunday, October 20	2:00 – 4:00 PM	Gardening Forum and Q&A	Davis Library**
Sunday, October 27	2:00 – 4:00 PM	Fall in the Year-Round Kitchen Garden	Davis Library**

*CPG (Central Park Gardens) on B Street between Third and Fourth Streets, Davis, CA 95616

**Mary L. Stephen, Davis Library, Conference room, 315 E 14th Street, Davis 95616

WOODLAND

Date	Time	Topic	Venue
Saturday, October 5	9:00AM – Noon 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Annual Fall Open House and Plant Sale Fertilize Right and Choosing the Right Plant and Seeds	WCC*
Saturday, October 12	9:00 AM – Noon	Annual Fall Open House and Plant Sale	WCC*
Saturday, October 26	11:00 AM - Noon	Year-Round Kitchen Gardening	Woodland Library**

*WCC Woodland Community College, Building 400, 2300 E. Gibson Road, Woodland, CA95776.

** Woodland Library, Leake Room 250 First St, Woodland, CA95695

ESPARTO

Date	Time	Topic	Venue
Saturday, October 12	10:30 – 11:30 AM	Lawn Removal	Esparto*

*Esparto Regional Library, 17065 Yolo Avenue, Esparto, CA95695

WINTERS

Date	Time	Topic	Venue
Saturday, October 12	1:00 – 5:00 PM	Open House for the New Teaching Garden at the Winters Community Library	Winters*

*Winters Branch – Yolo County Library, 708 Railroad Ave., Winters CA95694



U.C. Cooperative Extension
UCCE Master Gardeners of Yolo County
70 Cottonwood Street
Woodland, CA 95695

The Yolo Gardener – Fall, 2019

Send a Letter
to an Editor!

email: mgyolo@ucdavis.edu

Please put: *Yolo Gardener* in the subject line

or

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This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the University of California Master Gardener Program of Yolo County and is freely distributed to County residents. It is available through the internet for free download:

<http://yolomg.ucanr.edu/>

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