

Master Gardener
University of California



The Curious Gardener

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Glorious Dahlias

by Lexy Martin, Placer County Master Gardener

When I first moved to the foothills, I wanted a cutting garden. Having come from deer country to deer country, and early on daunted by our clay soil in Meadow Vista, I planted my cutting garden in a fenced location in raised beds. For the first few years, I experimented with lots of different flowers and along the way, discovered that I love dahlias the most—they are beautiful and last well as cut flowers. If you are looking for flowers that are relatively easy to grow and only need a little extra care to maintain, consider the dahlia.

Dahlia is a genus of bushy, tuberous, herbaceous perennial plants native to Mexico. It is a member of the *Asteraceae* (aka *Compositae*) family of dicotyledonous plants.

Dahlias come in many forms; there are over 50,000 types. They range from dainty pin-cushion size to glorious dinner-plate size. They can be short, medium or tall-stemmed. Some bloom as early as June in the foothills and late blooming varieties may not bloom until September. They can be any color of the rainbow, minus blue.



Photo by Susan Gedney, Placer County Master Gardener

Dahlias grow from tubers. Plant them in April, once danger of frost is passed, in a location that gets morning sun and is protected from hot afternoon sun. They like well-drained, acid soil. When you plant, use bone meal in the bottom of each hole. Plant them about six inches deep, laying the tuber horizontally with the eyes up, leaving about two feet between each one. Cover them in soil and leave them alone until you see leaves. Once they start to grow, put a cage around tall-stemmed dahlias—doing it early will keep them enclosed as they grow so they don't encroach on each other. As their hollow stems can grow quite tall, they need support to keep from falling over once they flower. Alternatively, put a stake in the ground near where you will plant the tuber and then tie the stems to the stake as they grow.

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Do not water dahlias until leaves emerge and grow to two to three inches. If we have a dry spring, an occasional light watering may be necessary. Once they are established, give them a deep watering three times a week. I make sure to deliver water to each of my plants by using one or two micro-bubblers per plant. To lower water requirements, use mulch. Fertilize once a month until September and stop then so the tuber is healthy for winterizing. I used worm castings as my only fertilizer this past year and had the healthiest blooms of the fifteen years I've been growing dahlias.

My dahlias bloom as early as mid to late May as I leave them in the raised beds over winter. If you plant in the ground in early April, you can expect flowers in June, or later if you buy a late blooming variety. When the plant is about 18 inches tall, pinch out the center shoot to promote lower branching, the strongest possible plant with lots of blooms, and the tallest stems for cutting. This practice is known as "topping." For detailed information, go to www.scdahlias.org/howto/index.cgi?howto=topping.

Cut your flowers as soon as they bloom. They will not open further once cut, so let them fully open first. Cut in the morning or late evening when it is cooler and put them in hot water. This pulls water up the stem, which will make your cut flowers last longer. In my experience, leaving flowers on the bushes creates a habitat for spiders, so I remove older blooms. Cutting often stimulates more flowers.

If you plant in the ground, you may get snails and slugs early in the season, so use your favorite control for those. Other potential pests are white fly and mites, and dahlias may suffer from powdery mildew in the hotter months of summer and fall. I typically hose my flowers off once a week to somewhat control these. Use neem oil starting in July through September. Clean out the lower dry leaves if you get a mite infestation. I've even cut my dahlias all the way to the ground in early September to get rid of any powdery mildew and get new fresh, healthy growth and flowers into October! For integrated pest management tips, see www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/FLOWERS/dahlia.html.

If your ground freezes to six inches deep in the winter, then dig dahlia tubers up and store them in a dry box with sawdust and peat. If your ground does not freeze, then cut the stalks down around November and add a few inches of mulch or straw to protect the plants from the cold.

While dahlias need some care, the blooms are absolutely glorious. I hope you love yours as I do mine.



*Photo by Lexy Martin,
Placer County Master Gardener*



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- McNeilan, Ray. *Dahlia Culture*. Oregon State University Extension Service. FS 95. April 2000.
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Insect Trivia

1. How many eggs can a termite lay in one day?
300
3,000
30,000
2. What is the proper name for insects and creatures with hard, outer-body casings and jointed legs?
Arthropods
Insects
Mammals
3. Where are grasshoppers' ears?
Thorax
Head
Abdomen
4. How long can a locust fly, flapping its wings nonstop?
90 minutes
9 hours
9 days
5. What insect does not lay eggs?
Aphid
House fly
Cricket
6. How many sets of eyes do most adult insects have?
One
Two
Three
7. Which of these bugs is the noisiest?
Mosquito
Fly
Cicada
8. Which of these do not live a colony?
Ants
Termites
Crickets
9. How many glowworms would it take to equal a 100-watt lightbulb?
8,000
80,000
800,000
10. What should you do if you find a butterfly inside your house in winter?
Put it outside.
Kill it.
Put it in the shed or garage.

Answers on page 6



Heuchera 'Lillian's Pink', Lillian's Pink Coral Bells

by Lynora Sisk, Placer County Master Gardener

I'm sure many of you may remember the old nursery song; "White Coral Bells, upon a slender stalk, lilies of the valley deck my garden walk, oh, don't you wish that you might hear them ring, that will happen only when the fairies sing." Gardens can be magical and we're fortunate in California to have a native pink coral bells (*Heuchera* 'Lillian's Pink') that is sure to light up your shady border or garden.

Coral bells are a perennial and grow in clumps where often the crowns rise up and out of the soil. You can either apply mulch around the crowns or dig them out to divide and replant. They also develop a large tap root which makes their water needs low. Grow this All Star in shade to part shade and protect from hot afternoon sun. Coral bells bloom in spring and once the flowers are spent you should cut them back. I've actually had them re-bloom after cutting. During the winter, remove the dead or damaged foliage to make way for new spring growth.

This California native attracts hummingbirds and bees. The foliage is very colorful and interesting. I have cut the leaves, leaving a long stem, and use them in flower arrangements. You can see 'Lillian's Pink' growing at the UC Davis Arboretum in the Arboretum Terrace Garden or the Mary Watis Brown Garden. Maybe, if you listen carefully, you'll get to "hear them ring."

You might also be able to purchase 'Lillian's Pink' at the UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery Plant sale. Public plants sale dates are April 2, April 23 and May 14. Check the Arboretum website for more information. http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant_sales_and_nursery.aspx

Enjoy the magic of *Heuchera* 'Lillian's Pink' and happy gardening.

References:

- UC Davis Arboretum website: http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_18.aspx
- Heims, Dan. "2012: Year of the Heuchera". National Garden Bureau. n.d. Feb. 22, 2016. http://ngb.org/year_of/index.cfm?YOID=31

Growing in a Greenhouse – Sanitation and Lighting

Part 3 in a series by Bonnie Bradt, Rob Chase and Michael Kluk, Nevada County Master Gardeners

Sanitation

Maintaining cleanliness in the greenhouse is one of the most economical and effective ways to ensure healthy plants. A dirty greenhouse provides the perfect environment for plant pathogens and pests to get established. Benches, floors, tools, clothing, weeds, hands, soil, standing water, trash, diseased plants, irrigation systems, and cooling systems all have the potential to harbor diseases and insects. Addressing each of these potential problems with a “think clean” mindset will give you the best chance of maintaining a healthy greenhouse environment.

Some greenhouses are easier to clean than others. The best options are: expanded steel or other hard surfaced benches, concrete or gravel floors with good drainage, metal house framing, well-sealed/screened doors, vents and a clean water supply. Equipment should hang off the floor. Shoe brushes, or a footbath, should be provided outside the door and approaches should be mud-free.

Start with a clean greenhouse. Remove all plants, weeds, debris, and tools. Sweep and hose down the benches and floors. Clear weeds and other debris surrounding the greenhouse. Following label directions, wash and scrub the benches and floor of the greenhouse with any of a number of commercially available greenhouse disinfectants or a 10% bleach solution. Wear protective clothing and provide plenty of ventilation. Bleach corrodes metal, so rinse within 5-10 minutes of application. If possible, clean the glazing of the walls and ceilings as well. Some researchers recommend a secondary wash down with a diluted hydrogen peroxide solution. Most cleaners have associated dangers—FOLLOW DIRECTIONS!

Once the interior of the greenhouse has been thoroughly cleaned, close it up and let it “cook” for several days. The goal is to attain a temperature of 110°F for several hours to effectively “pasteurize” the interior. The season of the year will determine potential greenhouse temperatures, of course. Some plastic, shading cloth, fans or other equipment have heat limitations on their warranties. Act accordingly. Don’t reintroduce pathogens into the clean greenhouse with contaminated water. Test your water source and disinfect all hoses and irrigation equipment.

Nothing goes back into the clean greenhouse but plants (already in their containers), necessary tools to water and maintain them, and debris receptacles that should be removed, emp-



Regularly clear away debris and plant matter where critters can hide and breed. Photo by Bonnie Bradt, Nevada County Master Gardener

ty, and cleaned. Bringing anything else into the greenhouse increases the chance of disease and infestation. Potting soil, containers, and potting tools should be stored, and potting should be done outside the greenhouse. Any used containers should be washed and sterilized before re-use. Pots from diseased plants should be discarded.



A strong water jet can be used to clean off walkways, walls and bench surfaces. Adjustable nozzles can make them useful for gentle watering.

Photo by Bonnie Bradt.

Best practice for working in the greenhouse is to always clean shoes, either with a shoe-brush and hose or anti-bacterial footbath, before entering. Always wash hands before handling plants and after culling plants. Collect and remove plant debris promptly. Remove any suspect plants from the greenhouse immediately. Keep hoses and watering tools clean, keep them off the floor and benches, and hang them up when not in use. Remove any standing water daily. Keep the area inside and immediately around the greenhouse free of weeds. Clean up and remove any spilled soil immediately. Wash tools frequently with soap and water and sanitize with a 70% ethanol solution. Regularly check the greenhouse for tears and leaks in the glazing and screening and repair promptly. Inspect all plants for indications of disease or insects before placing them in the greenhouse. Suspect plants should go into “quarantine” away from

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the greenhouse. Do not bring food and drink into the greenhouse. Do not allow animals into the greenhouse. Do not allow smoking anywhere near the greenhouse. Avoid bright clothing which attracts “hitchhiker” insects.

Weeds, soil and plant debris can harbor pathogens for months and even years in some cases. People, tools and water can transport diseases and pests into and throughout the greenhouse if not adequately cleaned between contacts. Getting into a “Think Clean” mindset and establishing and adhering to some simple sanitation protocols can save time and heartbreak from infestation and infection. “An ounce of prevention IS worth a pound of cure.”

Lighting

All of us know that the plants in our greenhouses need light to grow and thrive, just like the plants in our gardens. They need light, plus water and CO₂, to initiate photosynthesis, the process by which carbohydrates are produced by the plant. But of course, this isn't as simple as it sounds. It never is.

People who study this phenomenon speak of light, especially greenhouse light, in two different ways. The first mode of thought is to consider the type and amount of light that is given off by the source (bulb or sun). Most of the light used by plants is in the visible light range. Red and blue light are the wavelengths most commonly used for photosynthesis (400-700nm wavelength range). Depending upon the type and location of your greenhouse, approximately 50-70% of the incident light from outside will be transmitted into the greenhouse. But that may not be enough.

Alternatively, one can determine how much light is actually reaching the surface of the leaf needing it. The same light fixture can emit the same amount and type of light and work well for one plant and be inadequate for another. Nothing is wrong with the source, but the light is simply failing to reach the target. The bulb could be too far above the plant surface, or the light could be blocked by another plant. Even though younger plants generally need less light than older plants, seedlings will begin to “look for the light” and if they don't find it, the cells within will actually stretch toward any light source and will generate a leggy, thin stemmed, weak plant. Moving a light source closer to your seedling trays or using a more intense light may help avert this undesirable outcome.

Needless to say, the TYPE of light will be important in determining how close to your plants you need to place your light source. There are several types of supplemental lighting fixtures available for greenhouse use. If you have normal shop light fixtures with fluorescent lights, which emit well into the blue range, the light will be cooler. Their blue end wavelengths will help keep plants from stretching to the light and will not cause overheating of the plant surface, so you can place the bulbs close to newly sprouted seedlings. Lifespan may average 10,000 hours but the large hood fixtures may block a lot of usable outside incident light.

High Intensity Discharge lighting is used in a greenhouse setting because of its high light output and longer

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Shopligh fixtures with fluorescent bulbs can be handily used for supplemental lighting. Chains make them easy to raise and lower. Photo by Bonnie Bradt

Nevada County Master Gardeners Host Spring Plant Sale

This is the time of year Nevada County Master Gardeners are busy planning, propagating and caring for a multitude of young plants for the upcoming annual spring plant sale. This year's sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 7th** from 9:00 am to noon at the Demonstration Garden on the grounds of the Nevada Irrigation District, 1036 West Main Street in Grass Valley.

Just in time for Mother's Day, the Nevada County Master Gardeners will be offering a huge variety of vegetable starts, from arugula to bok choy, cucumber to melon. Several varieties of tomatoes will be offered, including the type most favored at the annual “Bite Me” Tomato Tasting event (last year's winner was ‘Jasper’). Several types of herbs will be available, as well as a multitude of peppers including the very popular padron and piquillo peppers. Ornamentals, annuals and perennials will also be available. This year, the Nevada County Master Gardeners will also offer some nice garden surprises, so plan to attend early for the best selection!

For questions or for more information about any of the Master Gardener events, check our website at <http://ncmg.ucanr.org/> or contact us at our Hotline, (530) 273-0919.

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lifespan—up to 20,000 hours for High Pressure Sodium (yellow) lights and 30,000 for Metal Halide (bluer) lights. Additionally, little shading or blockage of normal sunlight is caused by the fixtures.

Lastly, Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights are becoming more affordable and certainly produce higher light output. Their lights are created by combining separate tiny LEDs, especially in the red and blue range which emit brightly and do not emit heat with the light. The fixture itself does emit heat (out the back?) but there is usually a fan to remove the heat away from the plant surface. These lights can be costly but are coming down in price. Lifespans can be upwards of 25,000-50,000 hours depending upon greenhouse temperature. Since the light maybe much more intense, the fixture may not need to be as close to the plant surface as a fluorescent bulb, which generally means that the emitted light covers a larger surface and can cover more plants. Experiment with your own lighting distances.

In the end, you will need to determine the best compromise in efficiency, cost and success in your own greenhouse environment. You may only need supplemental light to start seedlings or maintain special classes of orchids or veggies, especially if you are growing them year round.

Best of luck and success in your greenhouse adventure.

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Insect Trivia Answers

by Bonnie Bradt, Nevada County Master Gardener

1. Termites lay 30,000 eggs a day, or even more. It is thought that on average, the queen lays an egg every three seconds for maybe 15 years. She can lay perhaps a quarter of a billion eggs during her lifetime. YIKES.
2. Arthropods, which means "jointed legs" in Greek. Insects are a specific type of arthropods. Mammals are totally not any of these.
3. Abdomen. Grasshoppers hear through a membrane in their abdomen called the "tympanum".
4. Nine hours. Locusts often fly with the wind supporting them to save energy
5. Aphids. Although this answer is a BIT confusing. Remember this... in optimal environmental conditions and lacking any predators, parasites, or disease, a single aphid could produce 600 billion descendants in one season. And most of the mother aphids produce live offspring without the need of mating with a male. But very occasionally there are winged adult aphid mating flights and from these matings, eggs are laid. So the answer is "Aphids...MOST of the time".
6. Two—compound eyes on each side of their heads, and little tiny "eyes" called ocelli, on the top of their heads. Of course there are ALWAYS exceptions. Some have eyes that cover their whole head and some actually have eyes out on stalks!!
7. Cicada. They are VERY noisy buggers. Mostly the sound is the mating call of the males, but it can also scare away bird predators.
8. Crickets. Oh yeah, HAS to be crickets. Because ants and termites REALLY live in colonies, like honeybees and bumblebees.
9. 8,000. That is the answer my resource gave. Although I'm not REALLY sure how they managed to calculate THAT one.
10. Put it in the shed or garage. If the butterfly overwinters as an adult, it is thought that his or her best chance for making it through the winter is to be in a cool, safe shed or garage. The butterfly might be too weak or be unable to successfully find a safe hiding place outside, before the outdoor conditions make it impossible for the butterfly to survive.

Monarch Butterflies in the News

by Peggy Beltramo, Placer County Master Gardener

Due to loss of habitat and other environmental changes, monarch populations in the United States have dropped dramatically. People are being encouraged to plant milkweed, as it is the only host plant that feeds monarch caterpillars and it also provides nectar for the monarch butterflies.

Introduced milkweed species have caused concern in some parts of the United States. It has been reported in the news that tropical milkweed, *Asclepias curassavica*, in the Southeast U.S. may disrupt monarch migration and increase disease transmission of the protozoan parasite *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE).

There is disagreement among monarch scientists whether planting tropical milkweed may lead to negative impacts on monarch health and migratory patterns. However, in California, researchers at UC Davis report that since tropical milkweed blooms earlier than native California varieties, tropical milkweed is a good plant for providing nectar for pollinators earlier in the spring. Cutting the plants to the ground several times a year will freshen them and reduce the risk of OE infection. Also, in our colder climate, tropical milkweed goes dormant in the late fall and winter, allowing monarchs to migrate as they normally would. If your tropical milkweed is still blooming in November, cut it to the ground.

As Master Gardeners, we encourage gardeners to plant plants that are native to their county, yet there are few nurseries that sell native milkweeds. Milkweeds native to Placer County are: *Asclepias fascicularis* (Narrow leaf milkweed), *Asclepias speciosa* (Showy milkweed) and *Asclepias cordifolia* (Heart leaf milkweed). Those three milkweeds, as well as *Asclepias eriocarpa*, (Woolypod milkweed) are native species in Nevada County. With that in mind, planting tropical milkweed, as well as milkweed that is native to your area, will improve the food sources for monarch caterpillars and butterflies, as well as provide food for other beneficial insects.

Resources

- Altizer, Sonia, et al. "Potential risks of growing exotic (non-native) milkweeds for monarchs." *Monarch Joint Venture*. n.d. 12 Feb. 2016. http://monarchjointventure.org/images/uploads/documents/Oe_fact_sheet.pdf
- Keatley Garvey, Kathy. "The Real Skinny on Migrating Monarchs, Milkweed." *UCANR Bug Squad Blog*. 16 Jan. 2016. 21 Jan. 2016. <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/blog-core/postdetail.cfm?postnum=16499>
- Xerces Society. *A Guide to Common Milkweeds of California*. The Xerces Society, Monarch Joint Venture, NRCS. Nov. 2014. www.xerces.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/CA-milkweed-guide_XercesSoc6.pdf



UCCE Master Gardeners
of Placer County

31st Annual Mother's Day Garden Tour

Sunday, May 8, 2016
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

RAIN or SHINE

Tickets \$20.00 each – Children under 12 free

6 unique and delightful gardens in Auburn

Tickets with maps will be available starting
Saturday April 23 through the day of tour at:

Eisleys Nursery, 380 Nevada St., Auburn
(530) 885-5163

Green Acres Nursery & Supply,
5436 Crossings Dr., Rocklin, (916) 824-1310

Green Acres Nursery & Supply,
901 Galleria Blvd., Roseville, (916) 782-2273

BOTLAT Corner

Find Out What Those Weird Plant Names Mean

by Peggy Beltramo, Placer County Master Gardener

Welcome to the BOTLAT corner. Each issue we will untangle a few words of “Botanical Latin.” You may prefer to use common names, but perhaps, in time, you will come to appreciate the value of the botanical names for your favorite plants. In reality, botanical names may be made up of Latin roots, but they can also come from Greek or another source. We will explore those connections as we examine one or two BOTLAT names each issue.

Plant names are made up of two parts, the genus and the species, listed as *Genus species*. For example, *Salvia mexicana* (Mexican sage). Think of it as a plant’s first and last name, only with the last name (genus) coming first, followed by its first name (species); however, in this case, there is only one “Smith, John” in the whole world, and once John has been named “John,” there can be no other John Smith ever (at least not in the plant world.) Also, by being named Smith, all plants in that genus share common characteristics with all the other Smiths (more on this another time.)

Each issue, this column will look at some interesting facts you can learn about the plants in your yard, by knowing their botanical names and what those words mean.

This month’s botanical names:

Asclepias cordifolia (heartleaf milkweed) from the article about monarchs:

Asclepias is named for Asclepius, a Greek god of medicine and healing, pointing to the plant’s early folk medicine uses.

Cordi, Latin for heart + *folia*, Latin for leaf—*cordifolia* means heart-leaved.

***Heuchera* ‘Lillian’s Pink’** (Lillian’s Pink Coral Bells) from the Arboretum All-Stars Column:

Heuchera is named for Johann Heinrich von Heucher, professor of medicine and botany at Wittenberg University. As Herr Heucher was German, the proper pronunciation is HOY-ker-uh, although it is also pronounced HOO-ker-uh or HYOU-ker-uh.

‘Lillian’s Pink’ is a cultivar name, chosen because it was found as a chance seedling in the garden of Lillian Henningsen. As there is no species name, this plant is probably a cross between two parent *Heucheras*.

That’s it for this column, but keep an eye out for BOTLAT names on plants at the nursery and see what you can learn. For the next few issues, we will look at some valuable information you can gather from a plant’s botanical name and find out more about where this crazy naming thing came from.



Showy milkweed, *Asclepias speciosa*
© Br. Alfred Brousseau,
Saint Mary’s College.



Narrowleaf milkweed, *Asclepias fascicularis*. Photo by Peggy Beltramo,
Placer County Master Gardener



Heartleaf milkweed, *Asclepias cordifolia*. Photo by Keir Morse ©2008

Resources

Christman, Steve. “*What’s in a (Plant) Name.*” Floridata. Jan. 2001. Feb. 2016. http://mobile.floridata.com/tracks/misc/plant_names.html

Pittinger, Dennis R., ed. ***California Master Gardener Handbook.*** Oakland: University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2002. http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/3382_chap02.pdf

UC Davis Arboretum website: http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/allstars_detail_18.aspx

Hotline FAQs

Do you have
gardening questions?
Call the Master Gardener
Hotline in your county
Nevada Co. 530-273-0919
Placer Co. 530-889-7388



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*Scotch broom is a pretty,
but terribly invasive, plant.*

Scotch Broom is Taking Over My Property – What Can I Do?

by Pauline Kuklis, Placer County Master Gardener

Scotch broom is an incredibly vigorous and invasive plant, so you are not alone in your quest to get it under control. Unfortunately, there are no easy remedies, so be prepared for some hard work.

First, evaluate your Scotch Broom infestation.

- How large and mature are your plants?
- Are they on a hillside that is difficult to access, or on flat terrain?
- What climate zone are you in?

The best method of control will depend upon your specific situation, and most likely will include a combination of techniques, such as:

- Using a weed wrench to pull up smaller plants (best done when soil is wet or moist so it is possible to pull up roots).
- Cutting down the larger plants just about the soil level (best done in late summer to discourage seeds from sprouting).
- Allowing goats to graze on the plants (of course, they will eat everything, not just the Scotch Broom).
- Using chemical controls if it seems like they should also be part of the solution. Read carefully about options and be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions. Foliar sprays should be used when leaves are mature (usually mid-spring to early summer).

The California Invasive Plant Council, UC Davis IPM and Oregon State University Extension websites contain valuable information that can help you tailor your plan to get Scotch broom under control. If you take the time to select the best methods for your infestation, your hard work should be rewarded. Good luck!

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- Oneto, S. R., J. M. DiTomaso and G. B. Kyser. ***Pests in Gardens and Landscapes: Brooms.*** UCANR Publication 74147. July 2009.
- Siemens, Tanya. "**Scotch Broom Smackdown!**" *Oregon State University Extension Service*. Oregon State University. n.d. 17 February 2016. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/question-of-the-week/scotch-broom-smackdown>

Garden Faire

Presented by
UC Master Gardeners of Placer County

Saturday, April 2

Gold Country Fairgrounds

10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Tickets \$5.00 at the door
(children 12 and under free, with an adult)

Free parking

Gardening with Herbs Rose Loveall-Sale

The Buzz about Bees: Attracting and Observing Bees in your Garden Robbin Thorpe

Accenting the Patio with Container Gardens and Color Rhonda Butcher

- Kids Corner with rock painting, coloring pages, gardening Q&A with prizes.
- Master Gardeners to answer questions and provide information
- Informational and vendor displays
- Door prizes and a silent auction



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**; Placer County events in **yellow**

March

March 19

9:00-10:00 am

**Vegetable Gardening 101:
Amending Your Soil and Starting
Seeds**

10:00-11:00 am

**Eureka! Mining Gardening Gold:
Composting Tips**

Placer County Demo Garden

Cancelled in event of rain

March 19

10:00 am-noon

**Foothill Vegetable Gardening
Series: Compost is the Garden-
er's Best Friend**

Nevada County Demo Garden

April

April 2

10:00 am-3:00pm

1st Annual Garden Faire

Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn

April 2

10:00 am-noon

Water Wise Gardening

Nevada County Demo Garden

April 9

10:00 am-noon

How to Build Raised Beds

Nevada County Demo Garden

April 9

8:30-10:30 am

Intermediate Composting

Roseville Utility Exploration Center

1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville

April 16

9:00-noon

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

9:00-10:00am

**Getting Started with Your
Vegetable Garden**

Placer County Demo Garden

April 16

10:00am-noon

**Irrigation Logic in Times of
Drought**

Nevada County Demo Garden

April 23-24 10:00 am-4:00 pm

**Visit Nevada County Master Gar-
deners at the Home & Garden Show**

Nevada County Fairgrounds

April 30

9:00 am-noon

**Container Gardening for Herbs,
Vegetables, Flowers and More**

Nevada County Demo Garden

Visit Master Gardeners Tables at Local Farmers' Markets

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

8:30 am to 1:00 pm every Tuesday,
starting May 3, near Whole Foods at
the Fountains, **Roseville**

8:00 am to noon 1st and 3rd Satur-
days, starting May 7, at the Old Town
Courthouse parking lot in **Auburn**

May

May 7

9:00 am-noon

Spring Plant Sale

Nevada County Demo Garden

May 8

10:00 am-4:00 pm

**31st Annual Mother's Day
Garden Tour**

Six Gardens in Auburn

May 20-22

**Visit Placer County Master Garden-
ers at the Spring Home Show**

Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn

May 21

10:00am-noon

Pollinators: Natives vs Honeybees

Elks Lodge, lower level meeting room

109 S. School St., Grass Valley

May 21

9:00-10:00 am

**Creating a Pollinator-friendly
Landscape: Why, What and How**

10:00-11:00am

**Eat Locally: Growing Food in
Containers**

Placer County Demo Garden

June 18

9:00-10:00 am

Beyond Zucchini and Tomatoes

10:00-11:00am

**Add Zest to Your Yard:
Citrus Tree Growing**

Placer County Demo Garden

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 University of Washington. 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

530.889.7399

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