THE YOLO GARDENER

Summer 2023

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

Help Make Our Yolo County Fair Even Better

Diana Gomez-Neves, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County & UCCE Master Food Preserver, Yolo County

One of the major reasons for the existence of county fairs is to display local pride in what the citizens of the county can produce and in showcasing the amazing breadth of their talents. Yolo County is an agricultural county with a long, proud history of producing food not only for California and the rest of the country but the for the whole world as well. Unfortunately, last year the Yolo County Fair had a very poor number of exhibits in the Ag/Floral/Produce Building. So, UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County and UCCE Master Food Preservers, Yolo County met with the Yolo County Fair Board to try increase the number of entries as a better representation to show the whole State the quantity and quality of items that grow here, not only what is produced and harvested but what can be preserved as well.

Approval has been given by the Fair Board to assist Seniors in submitting Ag/Floral/Produce entries into the Yolo County Fair to resolve this problem during entry registration through July 14th. Rooms and permission have been obtained to utilize the Extension Office at: Norton Hall, 70 Cottonwood in Woodland, on:

- Mondays (9:30-11:30 a.m.)
- Thursdays (4:30 -6:30 p.m.) **Norton Hall is Unavailable on 6/29.**
- There also will be a Saturday date on **July 1 from 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

In addition, the UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County First Friday presentation at the Woodland Senior Center will also be utilized for entries on First Friday, July 7 (1:30-3 p.m.).

Continued on next page

Vol. XVII, No. ii

Most Adult Divisions for Stills are set at 2 entries per class per exhibitor. For entry limits see Exhibitor Handbook on Yolo County Fair Website and/or books will be available **for viewing** at time of entries. The website is: http://YoloCountyFair.net (You can also register your entry on line at https://yolocountyfair.fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/17910)

Ag & Floral Cut Flowers – exhibitors are limited to 10 entries total.
4 Cut Flower Classes: See Exhibitor Handbook

Ag & Floral Faux Floral Arrangements are limited to 2 per class.
5 Classes: See Exhibitor Handbook

Ag & Floral Planted Gardens are limited to 2 per class and must be rooted, grown by exhibitor for at least 30 days.
5 Classes: See Exhibitor Handbook

Ag & Floral Tablescapes are limited to 1 per class only 3 per class total. Prize money offered.
2 Classes: See Exhibitor Handbook

Ag & Floral Vignettes are limited to 1 per class, only 3 vignettes per class total and must include Ag and Floral Products together. Prize money offered.
2 Classes: See Exhibitor Handbook

Ag & Floral Wheelbarrow or Wagon Garden are limited to 1 per class only 3 per class total. Exhibitor must provide Wheelbarrow or Wagon. Prize money offered.
2 Classes: See Exhibitor Handbook

Agriculture is limited to 2 per class, any variety or type, placings 1st through 3rd, Best Over All Award will be given.
26 Classes: See Exhibitor Handbook for number of items to be displayed per product.

We look forward to assisting with the entry processes and making our Yolo County Fair much better at representing our talented citizenry in 2023.

Planting Natives in Summer

Tanya Kucak, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

Summer is traditionally the time to plan a native garden, not to plant one. The. hot, dry days are especially stressful to plants that are starting out. But many gardeners plant year-round, for a variety of reasons: more time available on summer evenings than in the dark days of winter, more pleasant to be outdoors in warm dry weather than on cool rainy days, plants were purchased at late-spring plant-sales, or a spot in the garden opens up.

Last year, I successfully planted a yard full of natives in April and May and a few more during the summer. Only a couple of plants didn't make it: a cobweb thistle was demolished by ants and a penstemon got stepped on a few times. I was planting my vegetable garden at the same time. The summer of 2022 was hot! We had many triple-digit heat waves, and the daily highs were more than ninety degrees Fahrenheit from July onward. I watered the natives more infrequently than most experts recommend, partly because I avoided watering during heat waves.

When I did water, I rose at dawn to start trickling a few gallons of water to the drip line of each plant. That, combined with the abundant rainfall several months ago, contributed to the high survival rate.

Planting in summery weather does require more careful attention to each plant, and it's risky to plant natives that are especially sensitive to summer water. A plant that needs "no water after planting" is not a good candidate for summer planting, nor is one that typically goes dormant in summer.

The keys to successful summer planting are mostly common sense:
* Don't plant during a heat wave
* Make sure plants and soil are sufficiently hydrated in advance
* Water deeply at planting time
* Mulch well to limit evaporation from the soil
* Shade the newly installed plant from afternoon and midday sun
* Water infrequently and deeply

Timing matters. It's a good idea to watch the weather forecast and avoid planting on windy days or during heat waves. Last summer, I planted toward the end of the day so that the roots could become acclimated to their new surroundings overnight.

Surprisingly, a few basics apply whether the plantings are annual edibles or perennial natives. Assuming the soil is in reasonable shape, the first step is to dig a hole not much bigger than the root ball and fill it with water. Once it drains, fill it again. At my vegetable plot, immediate draining usually indicates a gopher tunnel nearby. Conversely, very slow draining tells me that a plant at that location will become waterlogged unless I fork the surrounding soil and perhaps plant in a mound, so that the root crown is above the soil grade. Watering the hole before planting helps ensure that the plant is not starting out in dry soil that will wick moisture from the root ball.

To plant vegetable seedlings, I gently pry apart the root balls if I see any circling roots. (A notable exception is plants in the squash family -- including cucumbers and melons -- which won't tolerate any root disturbance.) I add compost to the hole, then settle the plant, water it in, and mulch it with straw.

Perennials and woody plants need additional attention. To give the roots a better chance of adapting to the clay soil, I break up the root ball and tease the roots apart, mixing the looser, richer container soil with the denser garden soil taken from the hole. I learned this technique from several landscape professionals. For more details, see the "planting in mud" method described by Krzysztof Kozminski [https://www.cnps-scv.org/images/handouts/Planting-Method-for-California-Native-Plants-kk.pdf] and Linda Chalker-Scott's advice on root washing for woody plants [https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/fragile-roots.pdf]. I don't add amendments to natives. Even if you don't wash away the container soil, do make sure to knock away some of the container mix from the top of the root ball and replace it with garden soil. Container mix dries out much faster than garden soil and could wick moisture from the root ball if it's exposed to air.

For natives that require good to excellent drainage, plant in a berm or mound to ensure the root crown cannot get waterlogged. Water slowly and deeply, in a circle around the plant (the drip line) to encourage roots to grow outward. Depending on your soil, use two to five gallons per one-gallon plant. Then mulch with two to four inches of arborist mulch and pull the mulch away from the main stem of the plant so that moisture will not collect there.

For successful plant establishment, shade the new plants from midday and afternoon sun for at least the first couple weeks, up to a month or so. Protecting plants on the south and west reduces stress from direct sun while they are growing new roots. Anything that can block afternoon sun will help new plants settle into the garden: garden chairs, plastic crates, nursery flats, umbrellas sitting in a pot of rocks, or newspaper clothes pinned

to stakes are some of the things I've used to shade individual plants. For larger areas, floating row cover or screening attached to wire cages works.

In the summer, newly planted natives -- even if they are drought tolerant -- will need to be watered. But natives are susceptible to fungal diseases fostered by warm, wet soil in the top six inches. According to Tree of Life Nursery, "Root rots and other disease organisms are most likely to infect plants in summer, in instances where there is too much water, not enough oxygen, and soil temperatures above 72°F. Frequent shallow waterings often provide the conditions fungal root rots need to attack native plants." Thus, it is important to water deeply and slowly, only when the top three to four inches of the soil is dry, at the drip line to encourage roots to spread outward, and only during the coolest part of the day. The goal is "to promote rooting into deep cool moist soil," ten to eighteen inches deep." In addition to these "infrequent deep soaks," Tree of Life Nursery suggests "refreshing sprinkles": briefly showering the whole garden for five minutes at the end of the day to cool down the plants, up to twice a week. The frequency and amount of watering depends on your soil and the specific plants. The websites of Tree of Life and Las Pilitas nurseries both offer guidelines for watering natives.

Finally, I like to place a "nurse rock" on the south or west side of each native plant. When a large garden space is newly planted with small plants, spaced to allow room for mature growth, the nurse rocks provide "presence" as well as helping to keep the roots cooler. These rocks can also protect small seedlings from being stepped on. I use rocks that are grapefruit to cantaloupe size.

Central Park Gardens

Lane Parker, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

On a narrow half-acre strip of land at the western edge of Central Park in downtown Davis lies Central Park Gardens (CPG), a botanical haven designed to educate visitors and engage at least four if not all their five senses. Yes, it's "Gardens," plural, because this singular Eden is really seven themed gardens, or "garden rooms" daisy chained together. Starting at the southern end, the Rose & Flower Garden leads to the Sensory Garden, which in turn connects to the California Native Garden. Then there's the Meadow, the Beneficial Garden, the Vegetable Garden, and finally the Waterwise Garden.

Rose and Flower Garden
Photo by Lane Parker

Peg Smith is a founding member of the CPG Steering Committee, organized in 2006, that worked with the City of Davis to establish CPG. Later, the Steering Committee transitioned to non-profit status, and this CPG all-volunteer board is responsible for tending to the planning and planting at CPG. Smith trained as a UCCE Master Gardener in 2006, is a co-leader for sections of CPG, and helps organize the volunteer work sessions there. She knows how much work it's taken to transform CPG into the thriving oasis people enjoy today.

"When we started the Gardens," she says, "we had very few lady beetles, native bees, and not a lot of birds—mostly scrub jays…. Many of the original plantings were gone, and the remaining plants were drought stressed."

She also knows the kind of work it will take to usher the Gardens into the future.

So far this spring, the volunteer workdays have involved seasonal upkeep, like weeding the garden paths, pruning shrubs and grasses, deadheading rose bushes, and planting seedlings. But there are numerous horticultural and educational projects and programs planned for the weeks and months ahead.

In the ornamental Rose & Flower Garden, the intention, says Smith, is to maintain "an attractive 'cottage' garden feel while continuing to further adapt the garden to a climate-change and drought-tolerant plant selection." When older rose bushes need removing, for instance, they'll be replaced by drought-tolerant varieties. Other plans include introducing annual flowers that are California natives, and annual bulbs that are drought and heat tolerant.

The California Native Garden's perennials must be pruned and divided at the right times each season, while still preserving a natural, wilderness look. And in the Meadow, some of the more pioneering California native grasses are now being removed to allow space to add other plants.

"The major project for Central Park Gardens," Smith says, "is converting the whole garden to drip irrigation, to conserve water and provide water more efficiently to a plant's root system."

Stone Path in Water-wise Garden
Photo by Lane Parker

Another substantial project in the works is an inventory, or "plant list" of all the plants in the Gardens, which will be uploaded to the CPG website so that visitors can learn more about individual plants than what's currently on the identification labels.

"We're going to improve the labeling so that people get more information through QR codes," Smith says. "That's the goal."

Additionally, several public education programs are being created or will resume. Most recently, an "education round table" has begun taking place after each volunteer workday. These educational sessions will focus on either seasonal topics or simply be Q & A periods, "depending on what the day's volunteers have requested," says Smith. And resuming this September will be the public education workshops that began in 2007 but were paused during the Covid-19 pandemic. "One Saturday morning per month from September to May," Smith says, "seasonal topics would be presented by UCCE [University of California Cooperative Extension] Master Gardeners." A Garden Steward program, active in the past, might also resume. "This Garden Steward program has capitalized on the knowledge of our Master Gardener volunteers for both teaching … and leading our community volunteers."

Strolling through CPG, it's remarkable to realize that behind all the maintenance and improvements are the continuing efforts of Master Gardeners and other community volunteers. From gifts of plants and equipment to donations of money and time, CPG has reaped the rewards of passionate civic involvement and commitment.

"The strength of the Gardens comes from the support from people from all walks of life," Smith says, "including the Master Gardeners."

Yet she's found that volunteers at CPG soon discover they're not only giving but also getting something back.

"It quickly becomes a labor of love for anybody who comes down here." To learn more about CPG, including news about current activities and upcoming programs, and how to get involved, visit the website at https://centralparkgardens.wildapricot.org/.

Consider This – Ceiba speciosa

Sue Fitz, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

In the market for a new tree, but tired of being offered the same old trees over and over? Crape myrtles, hybrid sycamores, hackberries, mulberries. Blah, boring. Have I got a tree suggestion for you! Twenty-five years ago, I had a perfect spot in my back yard for a tree. I tried lots of less common things - a mayten, a fringe tree, a forest pansy redbud, an Idesia, a saucer magnolia - but they all died quickly, no matter what I planted. One day I dropped by my favorite exotic plant nursery in Berkeley (The Dry Garden) and whined to the owner about my bad luck in getting something interesting to grow in that spot. He thought about it a minute, then walked me over to his plant storage area, and pulled out from the back, a five-gallon tree that had my eyes bug out on stalks. The sapling was five feet tall, had a caudiform base, with a bright green trunk that was covered in fat brown spines. He called it a silk floss tree or Kapok tree (*Ceiba speciosa)*, and said it was popular in southern California, and might like the heat in the Sacramento Valley. I was in love, it was cheap, and even if it didn't make it through the winter, it would be fun to grow even as an annual. I squeezed it into the car and triumphantly planted it immediately on returning home.

Ceiba in Bloom
Photo by Sue Fitz

Much to my delight, it thrived, but winter approached. This was before the internet, and I couldn't find much information about it, but I had a feeling it wasn't going to like the cold. It didn't help that twenty-five years ago, winters tended to be colder than now, and drops down into the mid-twenties were common. I appropriated a heavy terry robe that my husband had just put into the rag bag, wrapped it twice around the baby tree for the winter, and crossed my fingers. It lost all its leaves, and the tips of the smallest branches died back, but next spring, upon being unwrapped, it popped out new growth and kept on going. After five years I couldn't get the wintertime robe around it anymore, but by then I figured it was big enough to survive the cold without it. It continues to grow about five feet every year, with the last two feet of new growth routinely dying back during the winter.

It has become the star of my garden, anyone who comes into the back yard, bypasses everything else, and walks up to it mesmerized by its total weirdness, thorny, swollen green trunk and all. When it reached twenty feet, it started to bloom. Enormous clusters of five-inch flowers of hot pink decorate the ends of the branches during late summer and early fall. The lawn is carpeted with fallen pink petals, and there are so many bees working the flowers the hum is audible from any point in my large back yard. Currently it's thirty feet tall, and pokes up far enough up above the roof of my house to cause people walking by on the front sidewalk to stop and gawk when it blooms. The tree can set seed pods the size of large mangoes, which split open to reveal fluffy material

that has been used in the past as stuffing for pillows, but mine has only set a couple over the years, and the wind knocked them off before they ripened. Just as well, I wouldn't want to get conked by one of those by accident.

So, if you are tired of the same old, same old, I ask you to consider growing a *Ceiba speciosa* (aka *Chorisia speciosa*) a tree native to the dry uplands of Argentina and Brazil. Deciduous, it has palmate leaves, branches tend to be horizontal, and it forms a swollen base or caudex over time. The most distinguishing feature, as I have mentioned, is the bright green trunk covered with blunt, pointed spines. Actually, they are not true spines, but are called bark or trunk prickles. The flowers look like hibiscus flowers, not surprising, since it is in the Mallow family. It needs full sun, adequate water when young, and I recommend protecting the trunk during the winter its first few years. You will not be bored with the results. I believe the Dry Garden still sells them, or you could pick one up on a trip to southern California, the next time you go down there for a visit.

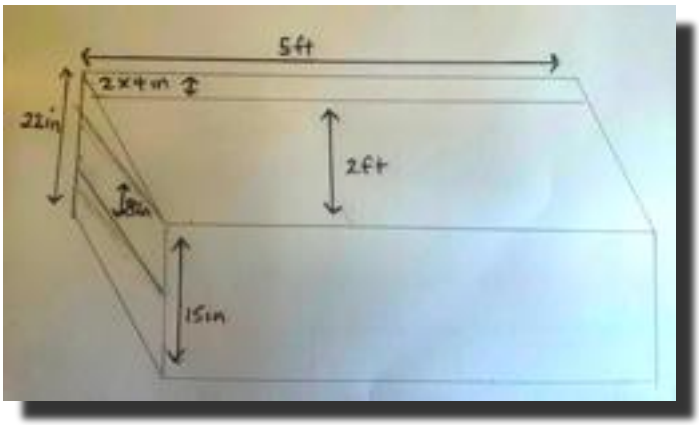
Ceiba prickles
Photo by Sue Fitz

Salad Year Round

Mary Foe, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

Last summer my husband and I built a cold box/frame. I had always wanted a warm place to protect plants from winter freezes and to give seeds a head start for my spring garden. Due to global warming we have not had as many freeze days and winter chilling hours are decreased. My cold box function took a turn, it became a winter greenhouse. I was able to grow lettuce and other salad greens all winter long. I harvested the last kale plant a week ago. The cold box is now renamed "The Salad Box".

The cold frame is a fun summer project I thought some of you might like to try. Below is a schematic of the one we built but it can be any size that fits your space. Our box frame is in a protected area and it faces south. It is important for the frame to have direct sun much of the day to heat up the soil. It backs up against our barn with a four-inch space between the building and the box. The box is made from two by eight Douglas Fir boards. The back wall is elevated to twenty-two inches and the sides slope down to fifteen inches. We lined the inside of the walls with Tyvek to protect the wood from water damage. The frame is open to the native soil and is filled with our garden soil which has been amended with horse manure and hay. My husband and I like to



scavenge and found a wooden framed window with four small panes at a salvage yard. We sanded and painted the frame then hinged it to the two by four that runs along the back of the box frame. We fastened a rope to the south side or "front of the window to enable us to lift and lower the window. There is a hook screwed into the barn wall to attach the rope to. Often it was too hot for the plants with the window shut, they wilted so I had to lift it open during the day then close it at night.

Before the rain in March, I watered the box plants two times a week. I planted lettuce, sorrel, and an assortment of greens. It was delightful to go out and pick. I would pick anything that was pressing up against the window and I was able to pick enough to always keep a bag of lettuce in the refrigerator. If I washed the greens and placed them in a plastic freezer bag, they remained fresh and crisp longer than store bought greens.

I have enjoyed my "Salad box". Now this spring I'm going to use it as a starter box for other vegetables and flowers. This was a fun project. Give it a try!

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and Public Garden

Michelle Haunold Lorenz, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend some time in Santa Cruz with my husband. To prepare for the trip I went on Google to learn what activities were available besides the well-known Boardwalk. To my surprise and delight, I discovered UC Santa Cruz has an arboretum! Once we got settled in our hotel it was time for exploring! Used to using GPS, I asked Siri (Apple's automated assistant) for driving directions. There was no address listed on Google, so I trusted the computer and headed out. The arboretum is on the edge of the UC Santa Cruz campus so we knew the general direction, and Siri said it would take about fifteen minutes to get there. As we wound down the long gravel road, I felt like I was driving off into the wilderness.

***Leucospermum* 'Sunrise'**

All Photo by Michelle Haunold Lorenz

There were no signs and little indication we were heading in the right direction, but finally, about a quarter mile down the road, there was a sign that said Arboretum Parking, so we headed that way. It was a wide-open gravel parking lot with several cars already there. I had read that it cost $10 to go in, but there was nothing obvious showing where we should pay; no parking attendant, no gate, and no people visible anywhere. Finally, we noticed a small metal cylinder with slit in it. Could this be the payment hub, I wondered? Sure enough, as we walked closer there was a small sign that indicated that was where we paid. It was so low-tech, I almost laughed, not at all what I was expecting. We slide a $20 bill into the rusted slot; there was no "receipt" or "paid" slip, just the good old-fashioned honor system. The clear

plastic box marked "maps" was empty, so we just started walking along one of the dirt paths toward the Australian Garden section, as indicated by a wooden sign on a post.

Founded in 1964 as part of UC Santa Cruz, the arboretum is a vast area encompassing 135 acres overlooking the Monterey Bay. With multiple microclimates, soil types, and a varied topography, the arboretum is home to plants that thrive in a Mediterranean climate including plants from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and California. These locations are also considered biodiversity hot spots, the most biologically rich and critically endangered ecosystems in the world.

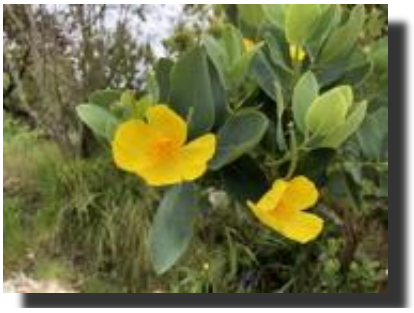
The arboretum functions as a living museum, featuring more than three hundred plant families and hundreds of individual species, with emphasis on education, preservation, and studying to further knowledge and understanding of the various plants represented around the arboretum.

***Telopea oreales* 'Fireball'**

Just walking around the arboretum is like entering another world. We meandered through the Australian section, marveling at the unusual plants that looked like they were creations of Dr. Seuss. The bright pink Rose Coneflower, *Isopogon formosus,* with its eye-catching tufted ball and bulbous cones appearing on the same low-slung tree, the upright fluffy brush of the *Banksia praemorsa* looking very much like a cleaning utensil poking out of the branches, and the brilliant red spikes of the *Telopea oreales* 'Fireball' were some of the treasures that immediately caught our eyes. Everywhere you turned, the dry tumbled atmosphere, rich with fallen rocks, scampering lizards and blazes of color, and cartoon-shaped trees and shrubs beckoned one forward on the gravel pathways.

Since we didn't have a map, we just followed our eyes and interests until we both needed to use the facilities. We meandered downhill towards the educational buildings just south of the parking lot to use the clean but primitive facilities. Thankfully we ran into an employee and asked for a map, which she graciously ran back inside to grab for us.

We continued, map in hand to the South African garden and again were met with many unusual eye-catching plants, including the frilly neon-orange *Leucospermum* 'Sunrise', looking somewhat like a sea anemone, with its large three-inch balls of bloom scattering the wide shrub, masses of lilac colored Wild Aster, *Felicia fruicosa,* and other bright blooms.



Tree Poppy
Dendromecon harfordii

From there we headed downhill to the California Native Garden where a giant Tree Poppy, *Dendromecon harfordii,* stood guard. Many of the plants in this garden were familiar as they have become more available to the California home gardener looking to use more drought-tolerant species, but it was still nice to see them

Cream Spike Agave
Agave applanata

Finally, we headed over to the Succulent Garden and the Aroma Garden, again where many of these plants were familiar to me, including the gorgeous Cream Spike Agave, *Agave applanata.*

The walk ended at a little gift shop featuring items from local artists as well as a large greenhouse filled with plants for sale, most propagated right there from the arboretum specimens.

We spent about two and a half hours wandering in the hot sun looking at plants. I would recommend bringing water and wearing a hat and sunscreen

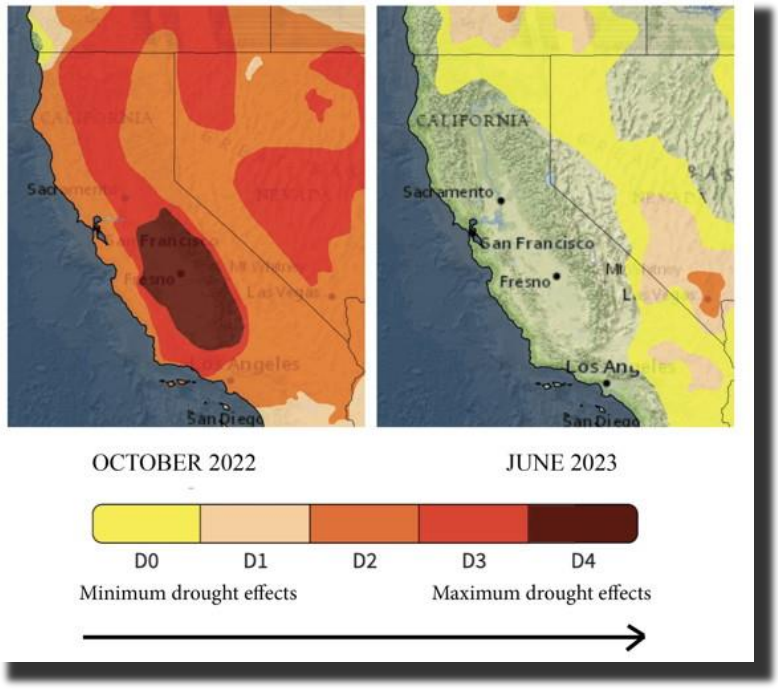
due to the exposed location of the arboretum with little shade. There is a large picnic area to the far east of the garden, so bring a picnic lunch to make a day of it. It is truly a different world from the Davis Arboretum and worth a visit.

The Arboretum is supported 100% by donations and volunteer labor makes maintaining this vast preserve possible. For more information, visit the website https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/about/index.html

Summer Garden Tips 2023

Peg Smith, UCCE Master Gardener, Yolo County

What a difference a wet winter makes. In October 2022 much of the west was under water restrictions for farming and household use and reservoirs were at well below normal levels. After more than twenty inches of winter rainfall and a deep snowpack with a cool spring, drought conditions have changed significantly. But, as Californians, we cannot presume that next winter will provide a similar boost to our water supply. Always being water conservation aware is needed as much in years of water bounty as in years of drought so that we are 'banking' water supply for the next period of low rainfall.



What a difference just eight months make in drought conditions!
Maps from: *https://www.drought.gov/data-maps-tools/us-drought-monitor*

We have been teased this spring with only a few days in the 90s but summer is coming and good water management in the heat is the goal. Established plants and lawns should not need watering every day. A lawn can be regrown within a season, but trees from young to old will take many years to replace. The established tree canopy has many functions one of the most important is shade.

The EPA notes that:

"Trees and vegetation lower surface and air temperatures by providing shade and through evapotranspiration. Shaded surfaces, for example, may be **20–45°F (11–25°C) cooler than the peak temperatures of unshaded materials**."

The most effective way to help trees survive the drought conditions is by deep watering. Slowly delivering the water into the soil at the edge of the circumference of the tree leaf canopy allows deep penetration of the water down through the roots. Applying water close to the trunk will not provide much benefit to the tree as the roots that actively uptake the nutrients and water are concentrated in the soil under the outer edge of the leaf canopy. For deep soaking, placing drip irrigation or a soaker hose around the circumference under the leaf canopy edge is the most effective delivery method. A simple

method to deep soak is a water filled five- gallon bucket with holes in the bottom, the water will slowly seep into the ground without runoff. The bucket can be moved and refilled until the circumference soil of the tree is deep soaked.

If your soil is heavier clay, there may be water run-off from any of these methods before the tree is deep soaked. Turn off the watering, allow the soil to absorb the water and then soak again. Several short cycles of watering will then allow for the absorption needed to thoroughly deep soak a tree.

For most mature ornamental plantings, including trees, watering is best done in the morning hours, a periodic deep soaking on a regular schedule, weekly or bi-weekly, early in the morning will carry most plants through the heat. Some less drought tolerant, younger plants or vegetables will appear wilted with the onset of intense afternoon heat. Particularly plants in the squash family (cucurbits - squash, cucumber, melons). Before adding more water to 'give them a lift' check the soil to see if it is nicely damp. If the soil is damp the plant is most likely unable, because of the heat, to pull up enough moisture from the soil to counterbalance the amount of water the plant is losing through its leaves by evapotranspiration. Allow the plant to recover overnight and check wilt and soil dampness again in the morning. Eager gardeners can tend to overwater drooping plants. Plants don't do well with too much or too little of a good thing - water. They will appear wilted because of too much water as well as appear wilted because of too little water. To be healthy a plant requires around its roots an approximate combination of 25% air, 25% water and 50% soil. If we over or under water the plant will wilt and be stressed.

Drought Care For Trees https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/217955.pdf
Water Conservation Irrigation Practices https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/362908.pdf

Most plants should be in by now before the summer heat. If you add any plants to the garden in summer, they will benefit from your providing temporary shade until the plant has had a chance to settle and acclimate. The root ball that provides nutrition and water to any new planting is at first only the size of the container from which it came. The first two to three years for new perennial plants establishes the future health of your plants. The soil area around new plantings should be kept moist, but not soggy, so that roots can penetrate out into the surrounding soil to provide strength and nourishment. New plantings should be checked daily and watered on an 'as needed bases.' Adjust your watering or irrigation system to water more frequently until plants are established. As the plants mature the frequency and length of the watering cycles can be extended to give less frequent but deeper watering for good root development.

Slugs and snails have done their damage and are again hidden by the time most of us are out and about in the morning. Keep up the control of these voracious feeders by replenishing beer traps frequently. Slugs and snails are not connoisseurs and will succumb to the cheapest non-alcoholic beer. To make a beer trap use a shallow container such as a cat food tin or pint yogurt container, sink it into the ground, then fill about two-thirds full with beer, clean up your overnight catch in the morning and replenish the beer as needed. Also, for the control of slugs or snails various brands of commercial pelleted products containing Iron Phosphate are available from most garden nurseries or stores and can be scattered on the soil or mulch surface

Management of Slugs and Snails http://ipm.ucanr.edu/QT/snailsslugscard.html

Take care of your own gardening health by working in the early hours of the day or in the shade, drink plenty of water and take rests to survey your good gardening work. Summer is a good time to think of what you would like to tackle in the Fall. Gardens grow and change with time; they are certainly not a one and done project. Taking the time to develop a plan to improve a garden in small bites rather than massive projects makes garden ambitions 'doable'. Look at other gardens such as Central Park Gardens, UCD Arboretum, Woodland Community College demonstration gardens and Winters Library demonstration gardens also other drought tolerant home gardens that appeal and see if there are additional plants that will complement what you have created.

- **Water**

Be aware if your city applies water restrictions and do your part to save water. Remember to place plants with similar water requirements together in your garden to maximize watering efficiency.

Gardening with Hydrozones Effectively
https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=27809

Conserve water. Keep your plants happy and help to keep the weeds at a minimum by adding mulch to your garden. Four inches of mulch will inhibit weeds, conserve water and keep a plant's roots cooler. Also, if you are not currently using drip irrigation consider converting your watering system to drip to conserve water.
Gardening with limited water tips-http://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/184804.pdf

Several native bees are ground dwellers so always set aside an area of un-mulched dirt to encourage them to stay and reproduce in your garden. Bees need water, a shallow water filled tray with a few rocks for the bees to rest on will attract many of our native bees and the basic honeybee to your garden.
Bees in the Landscape http://ceyolo.ucdavis.edu/files/143001.pdf

- **Pests and Diseases**

Prevention is the easiest way to minimize plant damage. Stroll through your garden several times a week to scout out potential problems. Regularly check the leaves and flowers for evidence of pests and diseases. Typically, the hot summer heat increases pest activity. If you have a pest or disease problem that you are unable to identify, take a good a quality photo and email it to the UCCE Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners-Yolo County will respond to any questions received from the phone line or emailed to mgyolo@ucdavis.edu. Another invaluable resource you can consult to help identify the pest or disease in a plant is www.ipm.ucdavis.edu for an extensive list of articles and photos for the correct treatment.

Whitefly, spider mites and katydids enjoy feasting on many kinds of plants. Thrips and horntail wasps disfigure roses, and leaf miners and hornworms chew tomatoes. Blasts of water and handpicking (hornworms) early in the morning will deter most infestations.

If the spring weather has caused an increase in powdery mildew on susceptible plants, it is usually not necessary to treat with fungicides. The warmer summer temperatures will help reduce this problem. If the problem does remain the UC Integrated Pest Management website will provide step by step help to a 'least toxic' solution to the problem. What do we mean by 'least toxic'? Least toxic means the method recommended to reduce or control a plant disease or pest that will introduce the least harmful components and effect to the eco-system and environment. It does not mean 'least toxic' to the disease or pest. Least toxic solutions are effective methods of reducing commonly found problems for gardeners.
Powdery Mildew http://ipm.ucanr.edu/QT/powderymildewcard.html

- **Weeds**

Get them small and get them often! This has been so true this year after our wonderful winter rains. Many of us have been a little overwhelmed with the speed and proliferation of weeds. Weeds are opportunistic and will grow wherever there is space or moisture. A cottage garden approach with taller plants at the back of a bed and then various height plants down to ground cover will mature into a garden that has little space for weeds to take over. To prevent weeds establishing, mulch around plants to smother out new weed growth. Larger weeds are more easily and completely dug out when the soil is moist.

- **Lawns**

Follow your city watering guidelines for what days watering is permitted. Grass can survive with less water than you think. Set the mower blade at a higher setting and recycle the clippings by using a mulching mower or mixing them into the compost. Grass clippings add nitrogen when decomposed. Deep watering lawns on a

regular, but less frequent timing, will encourage deeper root growth that will help grass survive the summer's heat. Considering removing the lawn? Check out this site for the technique that works best for you. https://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Beyond_Lawn/

- **Fruit**

If you (or the squirrels) haven't thinned your fruit trees and vines, they can still benefit. Thin fruit trees (apple, peach, cherry, apricot, and grapes), so that there is six inches between each fruit or cluster. This may seem drastic, but your fruit will be larger, more flavorful and it will greatly reduce the risk of broken limbs and branches because of the weight of the fruit.

Fruit Load

Limb Breakage
Photos by Peg Smith

Major limb loss

Fruit Trees: Thinning Young Fruit https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/361668.pdf

Mature fruit trees need a deep soaking every week during crop production. Grapes do best with deep water to a depth of around 18 inches and then allow them to dry to a depth of about 6 inches between watering. Birds can be deterred by using netting and by placing shiny objects in the canopy. There are commercial, bright reflective tapes available. Old CDs work as bird deterrents when strung from tree branches.

How you care for your fruit trees during the summer months will help determine the fruit production of the next season. Deep soak fruit trees throughout the summer. Drip irrigation or soaker hoses installed towards the edge of the leaf canopy are the most efficient ways of deep watering for fruit (or any other) tree. Fertilize (follow the label directions) or top dress around the fruit tree with a layer of compost or humus.

Summer pruning of fruit trees is for shaping to give strength to branches for the next year.
Fruit Trees: Training and Pruning https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/361669.pdf

The Cherry Maggot (*Drosophila suzukii*) has invaded home cherry crops for the past several summers. The maggots are not discovered until the cherries are ready to harvest. There are several methods of reducing or eliminating this pest. The most environmentally friendly method is to use Spinosad with 4-6 tablespoons of molasses per gallon of water. For a complete discussion of this pest problem visit https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74158.html

- **Vegetables and Herbs**

The most popular vegetable (technically a fruit) is the tomato. It usually grows effortlessly and is happiest when it is deep watered 2 times a week. This helps reduce cracking, ridging and blossom end rot. Tomatoes will shut down blossom production when the temperature is in the 100s. Keep an eye out for small black droppings (frass) of the tomato hornworm. Look around and above where you see the frass and hand pick any tomato hornworms you find. The hornworms will damage both the leaves and the fruit.

Tips to Grow Tomatoes Successfully https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/217956.pdf
What is Wrong With My Tomato Plant https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/217957.pdf

To keep summer vegetable crops such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplant producing throughout the season, harvest regularly, and continue inspecting for pests. For annual vegetables consistent harvesting is important. An annual vegetable grows, blooms, produces fruit, seed ripens and the plant dies. If the day length and temperatures are within a plant's 'happy zone' as we continue to harvest, the plants will be stimulated to produce more fruit. Winter squash should be left to mature until fully developed and ripened, then should be stored in a cool dry place until used. In August, pinch back the plants to help the existing fruit to ripen before the cooler weather arrives. Harvest herbs just as the flowers begin to form for the most intense flavor. If your harvest is bountiful, dry your herbs, by hanging them upside down in bunches for future use.

Surprisingly now is the time to begin thinking about your fall/early winter vegetable harvest. Fall/early winter vegetables, such as broccoli, cabbage and Brussel sprouts need to be seeded in late July then transplanted in August/September for your fall/early winter vegetable garden. Shelter these seedlings from the intense summer sun and any particularly hot Fall days. Shade cloth draped over a simple support frame will keep these plants strong and healthy to produce in the early winter.

Vegetable Planting Guide https://ucanr.edu/sites/YCMG/files/206763.pdf

- **Flowers**

Flowers need to be deadheaded to encourage repeat blooming. Continue to fertilize your flowers, especially heavy feeding roses, every six weeks through October. For a full October bloom, prune your roses back by 1/3 in August. If you prefer the beauty of rose hips, then refrain from pruning your roses in August.

Potted plants and hanging baskets will develop well if given a weekly feeding of liquid fertilizer. They also require more frequent watering during the summer.

Tall herbaceous plants such as cosmos, dahlias need to be staked or supported.

Prune spring blooming shrubs after the blossoms drop. Spring blooming vines such as lavender trumpet vine and clematis should be pruned after the blooms have faded Fertilize after pruning to encourage bud set for next spring.

It is not too late to plant quick blooming summer seeds, such as sunflowers and cosmos. You can also plant summer blooming bulbs, such as cannas.

Continue to harvest your vegetable and herb crops on a regular basis, to promote and prolong summer's bounty.

Try planting some new flowers, herbs, and vegetable varieties. You may discover that you have a new favorite to add to your tried-and-true plantings.

Tend to your summer garden regularly and it will provide a season of bountiful rewards and be a welcoming summer retreat.

California Gardens

With the heavy winter rains and cool spring weather our home gardens and local public gardens have responded with wonderful displays. As we often travel in the summer months here are some local gardens to visit and a source for other California gardens.

The UCD Arboretum, https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu
Central Park Gardens, centralparkgardens.org

UC Berkeley Botanical Garden https://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu,
McKinley Park Rose Garden https://www.cityofsacramento.org/ParksandRec/Parks/Park-Directory/Central-City/McKinley-Park
Winters Library https://yolocountylibrary.org/locations/winters/teaching-garden/
Woodland Community College https://waterwisewoodland.weebly.com/wcc-demonstration-garden.html,

https://www.visitcalifornia.com/experience/must-see-gardens-california/
https://www.proflowers.com/blog/15-best-botanical-gardens-california/

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Like us on Facebook: UCCE Yolo County Master Gardeners.

Check our website for FREE gardening publications:
http://ucanr.edu/yolomg.

Email questions: mgyolo@ucdavis.edu

Telephone: 530-666-8143.
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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
Web Site ..... http://yolomg.ucanr.edu
Facebook.....UCCE Master Gardeners, Yolo County

U.C. Cooperative Extension
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Send a Letter
to an Editor!

email: mgyolo@ucdavis.edu

Please put: *Yolo Gardener* in the subject line

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http://yolomg.ucanr.edu/

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