

How Does Your Garden Grow?



News from UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County

July 2016

From The Editor

This edition of the newsletter features our wonderful Certified Farmers Market, as well as advice on garden tasks and information about coming events.

Who doesn't love July? It's time to start reaping the rewards of all that hard work.

Happy Gardening!

Odile Morrison
Newsletter Editor

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CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market

The second season of the CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market is in full swing at the UCCE Master Gardeners of Calaveras County Demonstration Garden.

The market is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 4 to 7pm from May to September.

It features a wide variety of products from local farms right here in Calaveras County.



This is a family event with members of the Calaveras band playing jazz, swing and Dixieland and free activities for kids in the Children's Garden.

Your next chance to visit the market is August 10, with another market on September 14.

This event is sponsored by Mark Twain Medical Center. [Continued....](#)



Help Control this Invasive Plant: Yellow Starthistle

[More information](#)

July Garden Tasks

Tips on what to do in the garden this month.

[More information](#)

Next Open Garden

July 23, 2016
10am to 2pm
Topic: Vegetable Gardening
Plant Sale 10am - noon

[More information](#)

Garden To Do List for July

- Water after midnight and before 10am to reduce the chance of fungal infection and to conserve moisture.
- Pinch off the top pair of leaves on all chrysanthemum shoots longer than 5" to keep plants bushy and produce more flowers.
- Cut spent berry canes to the ground; tie up and fertilize new canes.
- Cut canna stems to the ground as they finish flowering; new stems will continue to appear.
- Prune fruit bushes again.
- Harvest vegetables promptly to encourage continued production.
- Dig and divide overcrowded irises and bulbs when the foliage dies off.
- Remove spent flowers of daylilies, roses, and other bloomers as they finish flowering.
- Fertilize roses.
- Cut back lavender after flowering to promote a second bloom.
- Trim faded crape myrtle flowers for more fall bloom.
- Pick up dropped fruit to prevent brown rot. Clean around trees.
- Pick caterpillars off vegetables and flowers. Spray with Bt if needed.
- Spray off aphids with water or use insecticidal soap.
- Pull weeds when they first appear.



What to Plant in July

Flowers: Direct seed annuals, such as alyssum, celosia, sunflower, zinnias, and marigolds.



Vegetables: At higher, cooler elevations, direct seed summer squash, bush beans, summer savory, and kohlrabi.

If fruit isn't setting on your melons and squash, use a soft brush

to hand-pollinate the flowers and increase production. Use the brush to gather pollen from male flowers, then brush it onto the female flower. (Female flowers have a tiny embryo fruit at the base of their petals.)

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Next Open Garden 23 July, 2016

Each month Maggi Blood sends a press release to local newspapers. This article is based on the release for July.

The Calaveras County Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden will be open on Saturday, July 23 from 10AM – 2PM. No plant sale this month.

The Demonstration Garden is located at the County Government Center, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas.

Growing your own vegetables is a sure way to provide your family with local organic food. The process is simple and rewarding. Our topic this month will focus on vegetable gardening and the tips and tricks you can employ in your own backyard.



Master Gardeners will answer home gardening questions as well as assist in identifying and diagnosing plant and pest problems.

Harvest Time!

The orchard and vegetable garden at the UCCE Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden are in full production right now. We recently harvested almost 40 lbs of plums from one particularly productive tree.



We are currently harvesting cucumbers, summer squash, beans, tomatoes and eggplant. The peppers will be ready in the next week or so and the blackberries along the back fence are delicious.

CalaverasGROWN Certified Farmers Market

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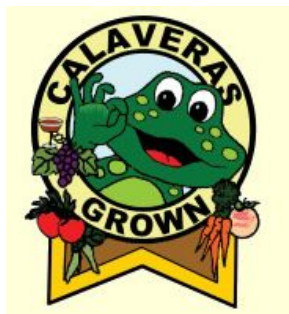


Products include fresh vegetables & herbs, olive oil, honey & jams, mustards, eggs, baked goods, fresh

flowers, ornamental, vegetable and herb plants, soaps, lotions, body butters.

Before a farmer can sell at a Certified Farmers Market, Calaveras County's Agriculture Department checks to make sure that the farmer actually grows the produce the farmer is selling. The consumer is guaranteed that what they are buying is grown locally.

Our vendors are all CalaverasGROWN members: Metzger Farms, Krietlich Family Farms, Cave City Vineyards, Mangini Ranch Olive Oil, Hobby Horse Farm, Wild Geese Garden Herbs, Calaveras High School, Murphy's Mustard Co., Mountain Ranch Jam Co. and Alimento Farm.



For more information contact the Market Manager, Odile Morrison (209) 256-6506 odmo@comcast.net.



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Yellow Starthistle is an Invasive Plant in California



Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) is one of the most serious rangeland, grassland, and wildland weeds in the northwestern United States, impacting native plant diversity, altering water cycles, and poisoning livestock.

Yellow starthistle is native to Eurasia and was introduced to California around 1850 via South America. It is now common in open areas on roadsides, rangeland, wildlands, hay fields, pastures, and waste areas.

Recent reports indicate that yellow starthistle infests between 10 and 15 million acres in California.

Disturbances created by cultivation, poorly timed mowing, road building and maintenance, or overgrazing favor this rapid colonizer. It forms dense infestations and rapidly depletes soil moisture, thus preventing the establishment of other species. It is also poisonous to horses, causing a nervous disorder called "chewing disease" (nigropallidal encephalomalacia), which is fatal once symptoms develop. Horses are the only animal known to be affected in this manner and should not be allowed to graze on yellow starthistle.

[Read the full article](#)