



UC Master Gardener
University of California
Agriculture & Natural Resources

COUNTY BOUNTY

UC Master Gardeners of
Santa Barbara County

September 2026



"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." – Alfred Austin

We hope that you and your gardens are handling the heat wave. If you utilize the **Water Wise data**, you've noticed recommended changes in watering.

This month, we're focusing on vegetable gardening and hot weather gardening advice.

A special shout-out to Master Gardener Nancy P, who is moving to Chicago. A lot of you got to know her at the SB Farmer's Market.

Your UC Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County -
Picture courtesy of MG Becca.

Upcoming Classes - South County & Zoom



Garden Talk on Zoom Edible Landscaping

An edible landscape doesn't have to look like a vegetable garden. Don't get me wrong, it can if you want it to, but you don't have to confine your edibles to a single area in your yard.

- Choosing Varieties and Sites
- Edible Ground Covers
- Edible Flowers with a Caution

Date: Monday, Sept. 14th
Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Location: Zoom



Workshop Planting a Fall Garden

Some gardeners get a bit jealous when they hear we live in zones 10a,b or 11a. We get to plant fall veggies and ornamental gardens. During this workshop we will be exploring:

- Managing Water
- Improving Soils
- What and When To Plant

Date: Saturday, Sept. 12th
Time: 10:00 - 12:00
Location: Mesa Harmony Garden



Learning Lab Ground Cover & Companion Planting

This is a hands-on learning event during which management techniques for Ground Cover & Companion Planting, with focus on adding appropriate plants around newly planted trees and plants.

Unlike the regular **Workshops** at Mesa Harmony, the **Learning Lab** sessions do not include a formal lecture - only informal

Registration Required

[Register Here](#)

510 Dolores Dr, Santa Barbara
Registration Required

[Register Here](#)

Photos Courtesy of MG Gene and
Deposit Photos

discussion, demonstration, and
hands-on learning.

Date: Saturday, Sept. 19th

Time: 9:00 - 12:00

Location: Mesa Harmony Garden
510 Dolores Dr, Santa Barbara
Registration is Not Required

Upcoming Classes - North County



Vegetable Gardening For True Beginners

This is a 4-week class being held in The Santa Ynez Botanic Garden.

This popular beginner-friendly series will cover the essentials of successful vegetable gardening, including

- Site Selection
- Soil & Composting
- Irrigation
- Pests Control
- What, When & How to Plant

Note: Attendees should plan on attending all 4 classes.

Dates: 9/19, 9/26, 10/3 & 10/10

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: 151 Sycamore Dr., Buelton, CA
Santa Ynez Botanic Garden in River View Park.

Registration Required
image courtesy of UCMG

[Register Here](#)



California Natives Right Plant, Right Place

Join us as Santa Barbara Master Gardeners explore the Right Plant, Right Place framework.

We'll cover key factors for selecting plants that align with your landscape goals and garden conditions, illustrated with real examples.

Alongside Master Gardener lecturers, you'll hear from native plant specialist Carol Bornstein and landscape architect Puck Erickson, co-founder of SYVBG. FYI: These two powerhouses in the native plant world are a special addition to this day of learning.

Date: 9/26

Time: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: 151 Sycamore Dr., Buelton, CA
Santa Ynez Botanic Garden in River View Park.

Registration Required
image courtesy of SYBG

[Register Here](#)



Photos Courtesy of
UCMGR

**Have You Thought or Dreamed About
Becoming A Master Gardener? We are
accepting applications for our next class.**

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY

[Sign Up for Class Info Here](#)

Tips For Gardening In Hot Weather

UC Master Gardeners recommend protecting plants and yourself during extreme heat by focusing on water, shade, and timing of work.

- **Protect Yourself First**

- Work early or late — garden in the cooler morning or evening to avoid peak heat.

- Stay hydrated — drink plenty of water, wear lightweight loose clothing, a brimmed hat, and work in shade when possible.
- **Water Smart**
 - Morning watering — water early in the day to reduce evaporation and allow plants to absorb water before heat intensifies.
 - Deep watering — water trees and shrubs deeply but less often to encourage deep roots and drought tolerance.
- **Avoid fertilizing before heat waves** — new growth is sensitive to drying out.
- **Shield Plants from Heat**
 - Shade cloths or umbrellas — use temporary shade to protect sensitive plants from direct sun.
- **Group container plants** — clustering them can create a microclimate that retains moisture and reduces temperature swings.
- **Watch for radiant heat** — especially on concrete or metal surfaces, which can scorch plants.
- **Mulch for Soil Protection**
 - Apply 4–6 inches of medium-shred bark mulch to insulate soil, reduce evaporation, and keep roots cooler.
- **Special Care for Vulnerable Plants**
 - Newly transplanted or young plants need more frequent watering and extra shade during heat stress.
- **UC ANR IPM Home & Landscape** — offers quick tips, plant problem tools, and seasonal checklists for heat-adapted gardening.

By combining cool work hours, deep and early watering, shade, and mulch, you can help your garden survive and thrive even in extreme heat.

Information Courtesy of UCANR



photos courtesy of MG Lisa

Information and Help Tables

You have questions, and we are here to help find answers.

- DT Farmers Market 9/12 - 9 am- 2 pm
- Alice Keck Park Butterfly Garden - 9/9 & 9/24
- SB Botanic Gardens - 9/12 - 1- 3 pm
- Mesa Harmony Gardens - 9/12, 9/19
- Help tables at all live workshops and events.

Plus... our helpline volunteers love answering questions. Drop them an email at anrmgsb@ucanr.edu or call them at our **new helpline number**, 805-803-1802.

For more info about this program.. [Click Here](#)

