



**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



## Welcome to our UCCE Master Gardeners of San Bernardino County Monthly Newsletter

Dear UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Newsletter Recipients,

It is hard to believe that August is upon us! We hope that your gardening and other outdoor activities are helping you escape 'cabin fever' as the pandemic continues. Being outside increases one's emotional as well as physical health so enjoy some fresh air!

Our August 2020 Master Gardener newsletter highlights **upcoming free Zoom classes** linked below. Topics include growing vegetables and fruit at home, planning your fall garden, maintaining sustainable landscapes, implementing fire-safe landscape practices, saving and storing seeds to ensure their continued viability, **'Ask a Master Gardener'** time to have your gardening questions answered, and many more interesting topics. Please enjoy as many of these learning opportunities as you can, and feel

free to share them with friends, family and your neighbors. All are welcome!

We're proud to feature **Master Gardener Brenda Spoelstra** as this **August 'Spotlight' volunteer**. Brenda has spent the majority of her volunteer time teaching youth enrolled in the Micah House after school program in Redlands (along with their families) how to grow their own food and even learned Spanish to enhance her teaching skills! **Master Gardener Coordinator Maggie O'Neill's blog** describes what being a Master Gardener is all about and how to apply to the upcoming training course, and **UC Cooperative Extension Environmental Horticulturist Janet Hartin's blog** reports on ways mulch enhances tree growth and health (in most cases!) even with irrigation off. All three blogs are linked below.

Speaking of the Master Gardener program, if you want to help others learn how to grow their own food and landscape more sustainably, we are accepting **applications through August 31 for the 2020/2021 UC Cooperative Extension San Bernardino County Master Gardener course which will be offered online via Zoom**. The class will be enhanced by outdoor assignments and activities that can be accomplished at home. Classes are 'live' on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am- 12:30 pm October 3, 2020 through March 6, 2021 (no classes on October 31, November 28, December 26, and January 2). Graduation requirements include attending class regularly, passing open book midterm and final exams, and co-presenting a 15-minute talk to your classmates on a horticulture topic of your group's choice. Please note that the goal of the program is to extend credible, objective gardening and landscaping information to the public and that each accepted applicant is required to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours back into the program by June 30, 2022. While the information provided will surely improve your personal gardening skills, outreach back to local communities is the major goal of the program.

**Note: All potential applicants must attend a Zoom information session that explains the program's mission, goals, and requirements.** It is a great opportunity to get your questions about the program answered, as well. Click on the dates below to link to the desired Zoom information

sessions (all are the same, select only one):

[August 8th Saturday 2:30 to 3:30 pm](#)

[August 19th Wednesday 9:00 to 10:00 am](#)

[September 12th Saturday 9:00 to 10:00 am](#)

[September 17th-Thursday 6:30 to 7:30 pm](#)

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## Where To Find Us This Month

UCCE San Bernardino County Master Gardeners will be providing free online Zoom classes (**a link will be provided to those who RSVP**) that will include guidelines and tips for gardeners in all climate-zones of the county (valley, desert, and mountain) with time for questions. With some added downtime, this is the perfect opportunity to green up your brown thumb!

- **Aug 6<sup>th</sup> Thur. 2:30 to 3:30 pm “August in your Garden”** Join Master Gardeners who will go over the gardening tasks that need to be done in August to keep your garden happy and healthy, covering “what to prune, what to fertilize and what to plant.” <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489882>
- **Aug 6<sup>th</sup> Thur. 6:30 to 7:30 pm “Ask a Master Gardener”** Take advantage of this opportunity to have all your home gardening and landscaping questions answered. Whether you are in the mountains, deserts, valleys or somewhere in between, we are here to help! [http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/Calendar\\_of\\_Events/?calitem=489883&g=61944](http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/Calendar_of_Events/?calitem=489883&g=61944)
- **Aug 8<sup>th</sup> Sat. 9:00 to 10:00 am “Seed Saver Series: Plant Breeding 101”** This month’s seed saving class will be about plant genetics and plant breeding. It will cover the basics you need to know to get viable seeds or play around with cross breeding your varieties. This class will also help you plan the spacing of your plants for seed saving purposes, so that you minimize or encourage cross breeding, depending on what your goal is! <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489886>

- **Aug 8<sup>th</sup> Sat. 2:30 to 3:30 pm “Master Gardener Training Class Information Session”** This is one of two August information sessions where you can learn about the Master Gardener program and will have a chance to ask questions about its purpose and your role as a Master Gardener volunteer if you decide the program’s for you! Attendance at one of these four sessions is required for acceptance into the training class that will begin October 3, 2020 (via Zoom online). <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=488589>
- **Aug Tues 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 7:30 pm “Fire Safe Landscaping”** Master Gardeners will go over what makes a landscape more “firesafe” and teach you how to create defensible space around your home, helping you reduce the risk of fire through fire safe landscaping techniques. <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489887>
- **Aug 13<sup>th</sup> Thur. 2:30 to 3:30 pm “Growing Great Peppers!”** Having trouble with your peppers? We are here to help! We will give a presentation that covers tips and tricks to success and then be ready to answer your questions and help you with your challenges! <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489888>
- **Aug 14<sup>th</sup> Fri. 4:00 to 5:00 pm “Demo: Growing Plants for Cutting”** This month’s gardening demonstration will be about starting plants from cuttings. We will show you how to succeed and what to avoid! <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489889>
- **Aug Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> 9:00 to 10:00 am “August in your Garden”** If you weren’t able to attend this class earlier in the month, here is a second opportunity to listen as Master Gardeners go over gardening tasks that can be done in August to keep your garden happy and healthy, covering “what to prune, what to fertilize and what to plant.” <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489884>
- **Aug 15<sup>th</sup> Sat. 2:30 to 3:30 pm “Ask a Master Gardener”** Take advantage of this opportunity to have all of your home gardening and landscaping questions answered. Whether you are in the mountains, deserts, valleys or somewhere in between, we are here to help! <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489892>
- **Aug 19<sup>th</sup> Tues. 9:00 to 10:00 am “Master Gardener Training Class Information Session”** This is one of two August information sessions where you can learn about the Master Gardener program and will have a chance to ask questions about its purpose and your

role as a Master Gardener volunteer if you decide the program's for you! Attendance at one of these four sessions is required for acceptance into the training class that will begin October 3, 2020 (via Zoom online). <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=488592>

- **Aug 20<sup>th</sup> Thur. 2:30 to 3:30 pm “Citrus Updates”** Learn how to keep your citrus happy and healthy and get up to date on citrus greening disease in our area. <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489890>
  - **Aug 20<sup>th</sup> Thur. 6:30 to 7:30 pm “Ask a Master Gardener”** Take advantage of this opportunity to have all of your home gardening and landscaping questions answered. Whether you are in the mountains, deserts, valleys or somewhere in between, we are here to help! <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489923>
  - **Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> Sat. 9:00 to 10:00 am “Planning your Fall, Cool Season Vegetable Garden”** It's time to start planning your cool season, fall veggie garden. Learn about site selection, preparing your soil, managing pests and more. <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489924>
  - **Aug 27<sup>th</sup> Thurs. 2:30 to 4:00 pm “Sustainable Landscaping and Composting”** Sustainable landscaping can be beautiful and water efficient! Learn how to maintain a healthy, water wise garden and basics of composting in this class. <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489925>
  - **Aug 29<sup>th</sup> Sat. 9:00 to 10:00 am “Fire Safe Landscaping”** Master Gardeners will go over what makes a landscape more “firesafe” and teach you how to create defensible space around your home, helping you reduce the risk of fire through fire safe landscaping techniques. <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489926>
  - **Aug 29<sup>th</sup> Sat. 2:30 to 3:30 pm “Ask a Master Gardener”** We will start off with a short talk on summer fruit tree care and then answer all of your gardening questions, so log on if you want to learn about caring for your fruit trees through the summer and ask us questions about your garden too! Take advantage of this opportunity to have all of your home gardening and landscaping questions answered. Whether you are in the mountains, deserts, valleys or somewhere in between, we are here to help! <http://mgsb.ucanr.edu/?calitem=489928>
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# Monthly Master Gardener Spotlight

By: Brenda Spoelstra, MG

Building Healthy Communities

[Keep Reading](#)



## Coordinator's Corner

By: Margaret O'Neill

Environmental Education and  
Master Gardener Coordinator

Calling All Gardeners!

[Keep Reading](#)

## Janet's Jottings

By: Janet Hartin

Area Environmental Horticulture Advisor

Applications of Organic Mulch Results in  
Enhanced Tree Growth and Water Savings

[Keep Reading](#)



## UCCE MG Helpline

Our helpline is still open!

Email or phone the Master Gardener Helpline

[mgsanbern@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgsanbern@ucanr.edu)

(909) 387-2182

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## Who We Are

[UCCE Master Gardeners](#) are trained volunteers who provide unbiased research based information to the gardening public. Areas of expertise include drought-resistant sustainable landscapes and food production in home, community and school gardens. Master Gardeners reach over 35,000 San Bernardino County residents annually. Other UCCE programs in San Bernardino County are the [Master Food Preserver Program](#), [Youth/4-H](#), [Expanded Food and Nutrition Education \(EFNEP\)](#), commercial horticulture, livestock and natural resources. Learn more about our programs here: <http://cesanbernardino.ucanr.edu>

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