



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: July 17, 2018
RE: UC Master Gardener Program

Contact Information:

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Modesto, California – University of California Cooperative Extension, Stanislaus County, adds the UC Master Gardener Program to its offerings of research-based educational information to Stanislaus County communities.

During the annual budget process, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors approved the hiring of a Master Gardener Coordinator contract employee to the UC Cooperative Extension department at the Ag Center on Cornucopia Way. With the addition of the Coordinator, the UC Master Gardener Program will be implemented this fall. UC Master Gardener Programs exist in more than 50 counties statewide.

Since 1981, the University of California Master Gardener Program has been extending UC research-based information about home horticulture and pest management to the public. The UC Master Gardener Program is a public service and outreach program under the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, administered locally by participating UC Cooperative Extension county offices. UCCE Farm Advisor Dr. Kari Arnold, the new Pomology and Viticulture Advisor for Stanislaus County, will provide academic oversight for our local program.

UC Master Gardener volunteers impact local communities by preserving and encouraging healthy environments with sustainable gardening, green waste reduction, and water conservation. The UC Master Gardener Program and its volunteers conduct workshops, diagnose plant problems, and speak to community groups. Information is also shared over the phone, in person, and on social media. UC Master Gardener volunteers provide information at local home and garden shows, county fairs, farmers' markets, and many public events such as Earth Day Festivals. Writing opportunities include news releases, gardening articles for newsletters, and on our website. UC Master Gardener volunteers also have opportunities to provide information via educational demonstrations in school gardens, community gardens and garden clubs.

The San Joaquin County UC Master Gardener Program has agreed to incorporate interested Master Gardener volunteers from Stanislaus County into their next training scheduled for January 30, 2019, at the Robert J. Cabral Ag Center in Stockton. The training for new UC Master Gardener volunteers meets every Wednesday for 19 weeks. At the end of the training, the volunteers are tested, receive a graduation certificate, agree to volunteer 50 hours in their county within twelve months following graduation, and 25 hours each year thereafter. Training courses for future volunteers will be held in Stanislaus County, tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2019 at the Stanislaus County Ag Center in Modesto.

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help implement the new UC Master Gardener Program in Stanislaus County. For more information on how to become a UC Master Gardener volunteer or concerning the UC Master Gardener Coordinator position, visit ucanr.edu/sites/stancountymg or email uccestanislaus@ucanr.edu.

Please visit the UC Master Gardener website at <http://mg.ucanr.edu/>

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