



May 2014

# GREEN Page

## The County's University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners Offer a Garden Tour and More

Care to see a lovely, edible landscape? How about a no-mow lawn? San Joaquin County's UCCE Master Gardeners present the 2014 Garden Tour on Sunday, May 18th from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer questions, identify plants and provide sustainable gardening solutions. Enjoy complimentary pastries and a garden-themed craft faire! For information, or to purchase tickets online, visit the [UCCE Master Gardener website](#). You'll find that this website offers a wealth of information, tips, photos and links! Learn water conservation techniques, how to grow a vegetable garden, or apply and be trained to become an official master gardener yourself!



### Water Conservation

We have all seen it in the news. California is experiencing one of the worst droughts on record. Fortunately, there are many simple ways to conserve this precious resource. Here are just a few from the Association of California Water Agencies to get you started. Check out the [Save our Water website](#) for even more water saving ideas whether in or outdoors!

#### Outdoors

- ◆ Water early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler.
- ◆ Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- ◆ Choose a water-efficient irrigation system.
- ◆ Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool.
- ◆ Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.

#### Indoors

- ◆ Install aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets to reduce flows to less than one gallon per minute.
- ◆ Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- ◆ Collect the water you use while rinsing fruit and vegetables. Use it to water house plants.
- ◆ Turn water off when brushing teeth or shaving.
- ◆ Plug the sink instead of running the water to rinse your razor and save up to 300 gallons a month.
- ◆ When washing your hands, turn the water off while you lather.



### Water-Smart Landscaping

If you are planning to do any landscaping this spring or summer, consider opting for a water-saving design. Did you know that lawns use significantly more water than native plants? You'll find a wealth of tips from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for designing and maintaining a beautiful water-smart landscape. Check out [EPA's WaterSense page](#) for details.

