

Master Gardeners at the 2012 El Dorado County Fair

By Kathy Ruiz

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The El Dorado County Fair begins Thursday, June 14th and runs through Sunday, June 17th. In keeping with this year's fair theme, "The Grapest Show on Earth", Master Gardeners will be putting on a show of their own with presentations on popular gardening topics that are sure to engage the interest of El Dorado County gardeners. In addition to the presentations, the Master Gardeners will host an information booth to answer gardening and garden-related questions. You'll find the booth and the presentations in the Floriculture Building. The presentations, many of which include demonstrations of techniques or methods, cover a wide range of topics. Some topics, like Beginning Beekeeping and Gardening with Deer, will be repeated on different days. The complete schedule is listed below.

On Thursday, June 14th, explore the fascinating art of raising bees at the **Beginning Beekeeping** presentation. Learn how to **Attract Beneficial Insects** to your garden and watch the good bugs help get rid of the bad ones. Tired of mowing, raking and fertilizing your lawn? Learn all about **Lawn Alternatives**.

On Friday, Master Gardeners will kick off the presentations by **Demystifying Drip Irrigation Systems** for you. Let the experts tell you all about designing, implementing and using water conserving drip irrigations systems in your garden and landscape. Don't pay high prices for limp, flavorless herbs from the grocery store. Master Gardener Jan Keahey will show you how easy it is to **Grow your own Culinary Herbs**. Want to attract **Hummingbirds** to our garden? Learn what to plant to attract them at this presentation. In the **Wildlife Gardening** presentation, learn how to create an environment that is attractive to birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and more while you spend less time on maintenance; leaving you more time to enjoy your garden.

Saturday's presentations will start off with **Growing Pumpkins**. Learn the best way to grow pumpkins, perhaps even some of the giant ones you read about. Discover **Gardening with Deer**. This presentation goes beyond the usual solutions that include lists of deer-resistant plants and high fences and provides insights into Black-tail deer behavior and how to improve your chances of having a successful garden. Consider **Sustainable Gardening**. Whether you want to design a new garden or transform an older yard, Master Gardener Kit Veerkamp will provide tips for landscaping and gardening in an environmentally friendly way that saves you money too. Learn now to grow **Citrus** in marginal areas. **Beginning Beekeeping** will also be offered on Saturday.

On Sunday, learn to successfully propagate your favorite flowers by sowing and nurturing seeds at the **Propagation** presentation. Explore the art and science of using worms to produce "gardener's gold" in the **Vermiculture** presentation. Master Gardeners will show you an interesting technique for making your own plant containers at the **Hypertufa** presentation. **Beginning Beekeeping** and **Gardening with Deer** will be offered again on Sunday.

Thursday, June 14th

TIME	TOPIC
3:00 p.m.	Beginning Beekeeping
4:00 p.m.	Attracting Beneficial Insects
5:00 p.m.	Lawn Substitutes

Friday, June 15th

TIME	TOPIC
1:00 p.m.	Demystifying Drip Irrigation Systems
2:00 p.m.	Growing Culinary Herbs
3:00 p.m.	Beginning Beekeeping
4:00 p.m.	Hummingbirds
5:00 p.m.	Wildlife Gardening

Saturday, June 16th

TIME	TOPIC
12 noon	Pumpkins
1:00 p.m.	Gardening with Deer
2:00 p.m.	Sustainable Gardening
3:00 p.m.	Beginning Beekeeping
5:00 p.m.	Citrus in Marginal Areas

Sunday, June 17th

TIME	TOPIC
12 noon	Propagation by Seed
1:00 p.m.	Vermiculture
2:00 p.m.	Hypertufa
3:00 p.m.	Beginning Beekeeping
4:00 p.m.	Gardening with Deer

Master Gardeners will also be on hand during the entire fair until 9 p.m. to answer gardening questions. A wide variety of gardening information will be available. Popular University of California publications will also be available for purchase.

The next free public education class is on Saturday, June 23rd, and will cover "Pets, Pesticides and Poisonous Plants" in the Veterans Memorial Building at 130 Placerville Dr. in Placerville. The class starts at 9:00 a.m.

Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, by calling (530) 621-5512. Walk-ins are welcome. The office is located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. For more information about our public education classes and activities, go to our Master Gardener website at http://ucanr.org/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/. Sign up to receive our online notices and e-newsletter at <http://ucanr.org/mgenews/>. You can also find us on Facebook.

