

# High Sierra Gardening Seminars and Workshops with Mountain Gardening Experts since 1975.

**Educated, trained and experienced botanists, licensed landscapers, certified arborists, horticulturists and garden professionals teach these seminars and lead the workshops.**

The owners and staff of Villager Nursery have decades of personal and vicarious mountain gardening experiences to share. "We've killed thousands of plants in our own gardens so that our clients won't have to". Before beginning your own experiments in Mountain Gardening, learn from the trials and errors of others.

**Seminars** are held at Villager Nursery, 10678 Donner Pass Road. Pre-registration is requested but drop-ins are usually welcome. *We like to have an idea of the number of attendees for class hand-outs and occasional samples.* Most classes are free of charge. **Workshops have materials fees. Registration is required for ALL workshops.**

We have been known to cancel or re-schedule if the weather is unbearable. Dress warmly and please bring loads of questions, pictures, ideas and samples of plants for identification (after each class). The setting is informal and we always have fun. We have benches to sit on but you are welcome to bring your own folding chair.

Our ongoing classes run nearly weekly from May-Nov. If you'd like a class schedule, e-mail a request to [info@villagernursery.com](mailto:info@villagernursery.com) or please Check on-line @

[www.villagernursery.com/calendar](http://www.villagernursery.com/calendar) for additional information and sign-up.

## Seminars and Workshops - Spring / Summer 2010

**April 17 - Saturday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm (Sierra College Truckee Campus): Successful Mountain Gardening for Truckee and Tahoe** - This class is NOT at the Villager and requires pre-registration and tuition at the College. "Our spectacular surroundings offer many rewards as well as some unusual challenges. Every gardener or aspiring gardener, at any skill level, will find something encouraging or newly informative from this very short course in high Sierra gardening methods, practices, resources and materials. *This is a VERY short course - overview of mountain gardening - for more information please attend Villager Classes.*

**April 28 - Wednesday, 5:30-7:00 pm: Growing Vegetables and Berries in your Mountain Garden and on your Deck, (aka - Organic Veggies and Berries in Truckee, aka - How to Produce Food in a Mountain Climate... with no frost-free days)** - Growing vegetables is a little challenging in this climate but the owners and staff along with hundreds of friends and clients, have wonderful gardens every year. Come away from the class with tips, techniques and ideas for successful cold-climate vegetable and berry production. *We have specialty tomato seeds grown for us in three sizes and the nursery has all the organic seeds, soils and nutrients available.*

**May 1 - Saturday, 10:00-11:30 am: Post-Winter Garden Revival** After the apocalyptic ravages of Sierra cement, rogue plow drivers and voracious mammals, there's much that can be done to salvage wrecked plants. We'll discuss nuts, bolts, splints, stakes and masking tape to bring your woody trees and shrubs back from crushing winter defeat. Often lawns and groundcovers only need a little TLC to revive with vigor. One of our instructors is an ISA Certified Arborist. *You have our sympathy and understanding, some trees and shrubs suffer every winter. We have some specials on pruning tools.*

*Saturday mornings are busy in the nursery so we switch to mostly Thursday evenings...*

**May 13 - Thursday, 5:30-7:00 pm: Container Vegetables and Prolific Tomatoes in Truckee - Workshop** - This is a workshop and seminar for container vegetable gardening. A small materials fee (\$25) covers a hands-on tomato planting, Ocean Forest potting soil and Fox-Farm fertilizer. **Class size is limited to 15 - please pre-register at 587-0771 or online <http://www.villagernursery.com/calendar>**

Vegetable and Tomato aficionados and novices are welcome. Container gardening techniques, organic methods, hand pollination, soil types, common problems, etc. *Bring your own success stories to share with the class. It's really not that difficult, 4 pots yield a great deal of food.*

**May 16 - Sunday, 10-11:30 am: Container Vegetables and Prolific Tomatoes in Truckee - Workshop** (a repeat for those who can't make Thursday evening) - This is a workshop and seminar for container vegetable gardening. A small materials fee (\$25) covers a hands-on tomato planting, Ocean Forest potting soil and Fox-Farm fertilizer. **Class size is limited to 15 - please pre-register at 587-0771 or online <http://www.villagernursery.com/calendar>**

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~~Sarah Cancelled~~ **May 20 - Thursday, 5:30-7:00 pm: Container Flowers, Pots and Hanging Baskets** - decorate your deck, porch or patio with so much color and texture. There are new hardy plants available every year and we love unique and cool plants. This fun class will give you first hand experience. **Space is limited - please pre-register at 587-0771 or online <http://www.villagernursery.com/calendar>**

~~Sarah Rescheduled~~ ~~May 23~~ **May 23 - Sunday, 10-11:30 am: Container Flowers, Pots and Hanging Baskets Workshop** - This is a hands-in-the-soil workshop. Bring gloves and your own container (or purchase one here). Use our finest potting soil, fertilizer and water-holding gel. With an eclectic selection of scintillating plant materials we will help you arrange and create your own unique, living showpiece. A small materials fee (\$25) is applied toward your materials and your choices of plants or pots. **Space is limited - please pre-register at 587-0771 or online <http://www.villagernursery.com/calendar>**

**May 27 - Thursday, 6-7 pm: Organic Landscaping Basics** - "Dirt First!" Rob and Eric will cover the basics of sustainable gardening. Topics will include soils, soil biology, cultural practices, pest prevention, and natural pest control. We'll discuss native and drought tolerant plants. We will also cover organic potting soils, bio-active fertilizers, natural soil amendments and of course... MULCH. These two have degrees and advanced study in Botany, Plant Physiology, Ecology, Entomology, Mycology, Microbiology, IPM, Organic Chemistry, Horticulture and much more. **Please pre-register at 587-0771 or online <http://www.villagernursery.com/calendar>**

*This has been a declared Villager focus since the early 1980's. Eric is happy to be an EX-California Certified Pesticide Applicator.*

**Rescheduled: June 2 - Wednesday, 10-11:30 am: Container Flowers, Pots and Hanging Baskets Workshop** – This is a hands-in-the-soil workshop. Bring gloves and your own container (or purchase one here). Use our finest potting soil, fertilizer and water-holding gel. With an eclectic selection of scintillating plant materials we will help you arrange and create your own unique, living showpiece. A small materials fee (\$25) is applied toward your materials and your choices of plants or pots. **Space is limited – please pre-register at 587-0771 or online <http://www.villagernursery.com/calendar>**

**June 3 - Thursday, 6-7 pm: Compost Tea Brewer Workshop** – We'll provide the materials and show you how to make your very own compost tea brewer. We have been using compost tea to improve soil and plant biology, improve plant vigor, fight insects and diseases, and feel good while doing it. Based on a simple and frequently used design and recipe. We'll also cover basic soil biology. The small materials fee is \$35. **Class size is limited to 10 - please pre-register at 587-0771 or online <http://www.villagernursery.com/calendar>**

*This is cool project. We have seen inspiring results with compost tea.*

**June 6 / 7** - Pick up a Villager Garden Gift Card for your favorite teacher to say “Thanks!”

**June 10 - Thursday, 6-7 pm: Groundcovers and Organic and No-Mow “Eco” Lawns** – A lush green lawn using easier and more effective Earth friendly practices. Avoid the commercially ubiquitous, harmful chemical standard. From size, soil prep, mowing, watering, fertilizing, lawn repair, rodents and weeds all the way to winterizing. Plus a rundown on our favorite, easy to grow and fast to cover, woody and herbaceous groundcovers. *We have been experimenting with natural lawns and mowable groundcovers for 30 years and we have all the seeds and supplies you'll need. [http://www.homesekerstahoe.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=83](http://www.homesekerstahoe.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=69&Itemid=83)*

**June 16 - Wednesday 7:00-8:00 - Drought Tolerant Gardening - Tahoe Donner Green Club** Social time at 6:30 pm with the presentation starting at 7:00 pm. Samples of recommended high-elevation, low-water plants for gardens and planters. Show us how easy it is to install drip systems in both the garden and the deck. *Judy Gelwicks / Tahoe Donner Green Club / 530-587-2685*

**June 17 - Thursday, 6-7 pm: Herbs - Perennial, Annual and Container Grown** – Villager Nursery owner Sarah Trebilcock will discuss the many hardy perennial herbs that thrive in our mountain gardens. Easy to grow annual herbs and herbs for containers will also be covered. *The Villager has many varieties of hardy perennial herbs for your kitchen that also beautify your garden and help repel deer.*

**June 19 / 20** - *Bring in Dad and give him a Blueberry or a cool book about California Conifers.*

*back to Saturday classes...*

**July 4 - Saturday, 11-4 pm: Open with limited hours** - Stop by on Independence day to say hello. We'll have a red, white & blue specials for those that ask.

**July 10 - Saturday, 10-11:30 am: Easy Gardening for Second Homeowners** - Enhance your enjoyment of your second home. This is a short course on the absolutely easiest, bomb-proof,

drought tolerant, snow tolerant, rodent and deer resistant, plants and irrigation you can use. Plants for birds, for winter color and for screening the neighbors. No-mow “eco” lawns. Learn the least painful and most fruitful planting techniques and where to get great landscape supplies for free. *We are really lazy and cheap gardeners at heart. We like it beautiful and easy.*

**July 17 - Saturday, 10-11:30 am: Perennials for Color and Texture** - Perennials are a Villager specialty. Ornamentals and attractive natives, soil amendments, fertilization, watering and pests will be covered. Wander with Rob and Eric through the nursery and the 400+ varieties of tough and beautiful flowering perennials. Learn the plants that will bring your garden to life with blooming color, spring through fall, for many years to come. *We offer you THE most fascinating and unique hardy perennial selection in the northern Sierra.*

**July 24 - Saturday, 10-11:30 am: Tough Trees and Shrubs for Mountain Homes** - Shrubs and Trees for shade, spring or fall color, for fruit, or for screening, barriers, accent, edible berries, snow-storage and more. Mountain planting techniques, fertilization and care are topics covered. *There are quite a few native shrubs that thrive in our gardens. P.S. We have killed HUNDREDS of roses in order to offer you the ones that thrive with ease.*

**July 31 – Saturday, 10am-4pm: Lake of the Sky Garden Club 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Garden Tour 2010**  
View 7 gardens, including 2 lakefronts on the west shore of Lake Tahoe. Includes light refreshments, \$20 tickets on sale at local Tahoe/Truckee nurseries after June 15th. Contact Anne Chartier, 530-546-4902, [annechartier@marykay.com](mailto:annechartier@marykay.com) or <http://lakesky.homestead.com/> Garden Tour Sale at the Villager all day (**20% off all plants and composts with a Garden Tour Ticket**). – *This is a fun tour that should never be missed. The Villager is a convenient ticket outlet. Even when the gardens are on balmy Lake Tahoe, there are always ideas for Truckee gardeners to enjoy.*

**August 7 - Saturday, 10-11:30 am: High Sierra Planting Techniques - Specific for our climate and soils or “Planting by the Experts”.** We'll teach you the methods with which our decades of experience and hard earned knowledge have proven to work best in this climate and in these soils. We'll discuss the options and field your questions. **These are local, proven techniques you will not learn in any book.**

**August 14 - Saturday, 10-11:30 am: Drought Tolerant Landscapes & Gardens** - “X”-rated Plants, and Water Aware Gardening in the Sierra Rain Shadow. A selection of the time-tested hardiest and most drought tolerant species plus some very, very simple ways to use less water and grow your plants faster at the same time.

**September 25 - Saturday, 10-11:30 am: Fall Colors for Your Garden** – See the trees, shrubs, and perennials with the most colorful leaves, persistent berries or super-late blooms. We'll cover the chemistry and the natural artistry of a showy fall garden.

**October 2 (tentative date) - Saturday, 10-11:30 am: Fall Color Walk** - take a leisurely stroll with us through Brickletown and Downtown to see and discuss the trees, shrubs and perennials with the best fall displays. *We'll walk from the nursery and back ~1mi. roundtrip.*

**October 9 - Saturday, 10-11:30 am: Fall Planting** - October is a time to plant, transplant and divide trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials. Collect seed, propagate cuttings, fertilize, mulch, prepare soil and prepare new beds. Ready the garden for next year's growth. *Deciduous trees and shrubs put on as much as 80% of their annual expansive root growth in the fall, after they lose their leaves.*

**October 16 - Saturday, 10-11:30 am: "Winterizing" your garden** - One of the best attended seminars every year. Find-out what to do so your garden will suffer the least and rise as healthy as possible in the spring. Protecting your plants from animals and the weather. Harvesting, cutting back perennials, tying trees and shrubs, mulching, preparing your lawn putting away tools, and more.

MANY MORE FALL CLASSES FOLLOW - PROBABLY... IF THERE IS INTEREST.

**PLEASE, e-mail us with your ideas and requests for seminar and workshop topics:**  
[info@villagernursery.com](mailto:info@villagernursery.com)

**August, weekend morning: Aquatic Plants for Mountain Ponds, Streams and Bogs –**

Learn the native and ornamental species that bring your water feature to life. Mediums, fertilizers, pests, problems and solutions.

**August, weekday evening: How to Plant a Tree or Shrub – Planting by the Experts**

We'll teach you the methods which our many years of experience and hard earned knowledge have proven to work best in this climate and in these soils. We'll discuss the options and field your questions. These are not techniques you will learn in any book, yet.

**August, weekend morning: How to Plant a Tree or Shrub – Planting by the Experts (repeat)-**

We'll teach you the methods which our many years of experience and hard earned knowledge have proven to work best in this climate and in these soils. We'll discuss the options and field your questions. These are not techniques you will learn in any book, yet.

**September, weekend morning: Mountain Native and Naturalized Plants (repeat) –** Learn to choose the best and easiest native plants for many situations. Learn how to protect and enhance your existing native plant populations. Gather some seed collecting tips and ideas for wild berry jellies and jams. Bring samples for identification after the class. We'll also cover a few of the historically important introduced species thriving in Truckee without care for more than a century.

**October, weekend morning: Fall Color Walk –** take a leisurely stroll through downtown and Brickletown to see the trees, shrubs and perennials with the best fall displays.

**October, weekend morning: Bulb Planting -** Now is the time to plant the ultimate low-maintenance perennials. Learn when bulbs bloom, what to feed them, how to plant them and more. Suggested planting combinations and bulbs that are deer-proof. Plant now for color April - July

**October, weekend morning: Gardening in the Fall -** Fall is a time to accomplish a great deal in your garden before another long winter. October is a time to plant, transplant and divide trees, shrubs, bulbs and perennials. Collect seed, propagate cuttings, fertilize, mulch, prepare soil and prepare new beds. Ready the garden for next year's growth.

<p><b>November, weekend morning: Paperwhites, Amaryllis and other Holiday Blooms -</b> Indoor Bulb Forcing of Amaryllis, paperwhite, hyacinth and Crocus... Plus Christmas Cactus and Poinsettia. How to make things bloom indoors. Post bloom and re-bloom care. Light, water and fertilizer requirements. Special tips and fun facts. Get the most out of your flowering plants.</p>
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**November, weekend morning: Care for living Christmas Trees** – Selecting the best species for gardens in truckee and the toughest species that will survive time indoors. Care and feeding before, during and after Christmas. Planting tips, alternatives such as donations to parks and more. What makes blue spruce blue?

**November, weekend morning: Creating your Own Fresh Wreaths** – Select a variety of unique foliage and stems from your garden and from the wild to build full, fragrant holiday decorations. Save money and have fun. Sarah will demonstrate the simple techniques she has used for more than 30 years.