

Mountain Native Plants, Historical Introductions and Wildflower Plantings

When: Sat, July 23, 9:30am – 11:00am

Where: Villager Nursery, 10678 Donner Pass Rd, Truckee, CA 96161 ([map](#))

Description: Saturday, July 23, 9:30-11:00am- Mountain Native Plants, Historical Introductions and Wildflower Plantings – 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. Rob and Eric are your instructors for this one.

Native Plants for Your Garden - Obviously, this is another of our passions and a Villager specialty.

Successful gardening and landscaping in the Sierra requires awareness and basic understanding of ecology and of the many interrelations plants have with local factors, including, heavy Sierra snow (or no snow), rapid and extreme temperature swings, absent topsoil and acidic base-rock (the reason most of our soils are acidic), soil structure and microbial life, high-altitude sun, low humidity, large and small herbivores (local and migratory), roof designs, and (not insignificant) snow blowers and plows.

Our **native plants have obviously adapted** (*evolved*) to tolerate the conditions mentioned above. At the Villager we, as botanists, have developed many landscaping techniques after observing native plants in the wild. Walking through the native environments (microclimates / niches if you like), that surround us, will help you as a **mountain gardener**. By knowing the microclimates in your own garden you improve your ability to choose the plants that will succeed. Remember that, in nature, plant survival is insured by “**mass attempts**”. For every million seeds produced in nature, few ever germinate. Of millions of seeds that eventually germinate, few survive to maturity to produce seed again. “Survival of the fittest” sometimes... “**Survival of the luckiest**” ... most of the time.

By the time a determined seedling perennial is 3 inches tall it has a root system, from which it draws water and nutrients, that is many times larger than the top of the plant (a root-to-foilage ratio of, say, 100:1). In our gardens, we do our best to improve on the odds of nature but we unfortunately start with the disadvantage of having plants with root systems smaller than the tops (a reversed root-to-foilage ratio). We have to give all plants, even natives, some care for the first few seasons to help them become “established”.

In the northern Sierra Nevada, we sit at the edge of two large climatic regions. On the west we have a Mediterranean climate. The Pacific coast gives us almost all of our moisture in the winter, we have very few summer storms and the prevailing wind is westerly. The eastern slope of the Sierra is in a "rain shadow" and the semi-arid to arid Great Basin has a high desert climate. By the time winter storms pass east over the Sierra crest, much of the water has been "squeezed" out of them.

Local climate variations occur within these broader regions. Latitude, altitude and proximity to lakes play crucial roles in defining variations. Local climate may depend upon direction of exposure, slope, location on a slope, ravines, ridge tops, vegetation, rock formations, streets, buildings, soil depth, soil type and many more great and minute features. As we define variations with greater specificity we define "microclimates". Every town and every yard has microclimates. Microclimates may be as "micro" as the south facing wall next to your front door or as large as the west-shore of Lake Tahoe.

It is, generally, easier to grow a wider selection of native perennials on the western side of Truckee (Tahoe Donner) than on the east side (Glenshire). Snow is excellent mulch that protects plants from the climatic extremes we experience. Under deep snow, at the soil surface, temperatures are usually just above freezing. Without snow cover, plants are exposed to drying sun and wind and extremely cold temperatures.

The essential tools you will need for determining your relative microclimate are a Weather Radio (or more frequently: www.wrh.noaa.gov/Renol) and a **max/min. recording thermometer** to

compare your readings with the predicted temperatures for near-by weather stations. By regular comparisons, you'll soon be able to predict temperatures at your home.

The frost-free period of a region is usually considered the growing season. In Truckee there are years with fewer than 10 frost-free days in the entire 365-day year. Truckee's "**average last date of frost**" is ~mid-July. The average first frost is ~mid-August. At Lake Tahoe on the other hand, there may be years without any frosts in June, July and August.

In a broad sense, the **gardening season may last from mid-March through late November** considering soil preparation, rockwork, weeding, raking, top-dressing, mulching and all the other seasonal gardening business. You might plant dormant trees, shrubs, perennials and hardy seeds in March if snow has melted and the soil has softened (thawed). We have had excellent results planting into late December in some warm years (though it is usually better earlier in the fall).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) made a map of the United States based on average minimum temperatures and assigned **Plant Hardiness Zones** according to these findings. The USDA map does not consider temperature swings, late frosts, high altitude sun, moisture, or other factors that may affect a plant's survival in a given location. Truckee is listed as USDA Zone 6 yet few Zone 6 plants will survive. The USDA zones are useful as a guide however, when selecting plants for Truckee. **By selecting plants listed as hardy to USDA Zones 4, 3, 2, or 1 you're usually safe.** There are still quite a few zone 4 plants that only make it in protected locations here.

The Sunset Western Garden Book describes 21 specific climate zones between the Sierra foothills and the coast. There are only 2 broad zones for the mountains, the northern great basin and the Rockies. Most of the plants listed as "Zone 1", "1A", "A1" or "All Zones" will not survive in Truckee. The **Sunset Northeastern Garden Book** has climate zones 44 or 45 for the mountains of northern Vermont and the northern plains into Canada. This book is far more useful for choosing plants that will thrive in Truckee.

Native plants from riparian (stream-side) habitats are usually the easiest to grow in landscapes, having root systems better adapted to disturbance and to irrigation. Dryland species have much more temperamental root systems, susceptible to root rot, slow to adapt, and often dependent upon specific soil microbes for survival.

If you are looking for native plants because they are the easiest or most drought tolerant plants to grow, I would invite you to notice the beautiful **apple trees, hawthornes, roses, lilac shrubs, hop vines** and **Bouncing-Bet** thriving throughout downtown Truckee without care for 50-100 years.

If you have native plants in your garden and want to protect them, **water carefully.** There is a delicate balance of microbes in our native soil that is easily disturbed by excessive water. We recommend occasional "simulated afternoon thundershowers" be a guide for supplemental water. If they are riparian species then, by all means, water with reckless abandon. By the way we also recommend "simulated large browsing herbivores" as a guide for summer pruning native shrubs.

Often, plants of the same Genus (i.e. Penstemon) or even the same Family (i.e. Ranunculaceae) will share similar requirements. Look for plants of the same groups and observe their soil, light, exposure and moisture requirements. Look for ornamental plants from environments similar to ours (the Rocky Mts., the Alps, Siberia, Himalayas). From these comparisons, from literature and from lots of experimentation we create a larger (and more refined) plant palette for our Sierra gardens every year.

Landscape Species List for Truckee

This list does is not all-encompassing. It is intended to provide a small palette of reliable native and naturalized plant materials which are usually available at the Villager Nursery and which will thrive in Truckee. Some of the plants listed are only available in small sizes and some should only be planted in small sizes. Many should be considered for use in native landscapes as eventual successional species for many years from now.

Truckee contains a wide array of microclimates, soil types, and weather extremes (including temperatures, moisture retention and snow loads). Be sure to ask the Villager Staff about water requirements, wind tolerance, light requirements, soil needs, cold-hardiness, and ultimate growth for your specific location. We want everyone's plants to thrive. Please ask for a copy of our Planting Instructions if we forget to give you one.

Availability in Pot

x L = landscape suitable (transplants well and/or survives well in the landscape) and open for debate...

Trees		Scientific Name	Common Name
Conifers			
x	L	Abies conolor	White fir
x	L	Abies magnifica	Red fir
x	L	Calocedrus decurrens	California incense cedar
x	L	Juniperus occidentalis	Sierra juniper
x	L	Pinus contorta murrayana	Lodgepole pine
x	L	Pinus edulus	Piñon pine
x	L	Pinus flexilis	Limber pine
x	L	Pinus jeffreyi	Jeffrey pine
x	L	Pinus lambertiana	Sugar pine
x	L	Pinus monticola	W. White pine
x	L	Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa pine
x	L	Tsuga mertensiana	W. Mt. hemlock
Trees			
Deciduous			
x	L	Populus tremuloides	Quaking aspen
x	L	Populus trichocarpa	Black cottonwood
Shrubs			
Prostrate			
		Arctostaphylos nevadense	Pine mat manzanita
x	L	Ceanothus prostratus	Squaw mat
x	L	Juniperus communis	Dwarf juniper / Alpine carpet juniper
x	L	Symphoricarpos mollis	Creeping snowberry
Shrubs			
Upright			
x	L	Acer glabrum	Mt. maple
	L	Ageratina occidentalis	Western Eupatorium
x	L	Alnus tenuifolia	Mt. alder
x	L	Amelanchier alnifolia	Serviceberry
x	L	Arctostaphylos patula	Greenleaf manzanita
x	L	Artemisia tridentata	Basin sagebrush
x		Castanopsis sempervirens	Bush chinquapin
x		Ceanothus cordulatus	Mt. whitethorn
x		Ceanothus velutinus	Tobacco brush
x	L	Cercocarpus ledifolius	Mt. mahogany
x	L	Cornus sericea	Red-twig dogwood
x	L	Ericameria nauseosus	Rabbitbrush
x	L	Eriogonum umbellatum	Sulfurflower

x	L	Holodiscus discolor var. dumosus	Rock Spiraea
		Holodiscus microphyllus	Cliff spray
x		Leucothe davisiae	Sierra laurel
x	L	Lonicera conjugialis	Twinflowering honeysuckle
x	L	Lonicera involucrata	Sierra twinberry
x		Monardella odoratissima	Mountain pennyroyal
x	L	Physocarpus capitatus	Ninebark
x	L	Potentilla fruticosa	Shrubby cinquefoil
x	L	Prunus andersonii	Desert peach
x	L	Prunus emarginata	Bitter cherry
x	L	Prunus subcordata	Modoc plum
x	L	Prunus virginiana var. demissa	W. chokecherry
x	L	Purshia tridentata	Bitterbrush
x	L	Quercus vaccinifolia	Huckleberry oak
x	L	Rhamnus rubra	Sierra coffeeberry
x	L	Rhamnus alnifolia	Alderleaf buckthorn
x	L	Ribes cereum	Wax or squaw currant
	L	Ribes montigenum	Mountain gooseberry
x	L	Ribes nevadense	Sierra currant
x	L	Ribes roezlii	Sierra gooseberry
x	L	Ribes viscosissimum	Sticky currant
x	L	Rosa woodsii	Wood's rose
x	L	Rubus parviflorus	Thimbleberry
x	L	Salix eastwoodiae	Eastwood willow
x	L	Salix exigua	Sandbar willow
x	L	Salix geyeriana	Silver willow
x	L	Salix jepsonii	Jepson willow
x	L	Salix lasiandra	Yellow willow
x	L	Salix lasiolepis	Arroyo willow
x	L	Salix scouleriana	Scouler's willow
x	L	Salix spp.	Willow species
x	L	Sambucus nigra	Blue elderberry
x	L	Sambucus racemosa	Red elderberry
x	L	Sorbus scopulina	W. mt. ash
x	L	Spiraea densiflora	Alpine Spiraea
x	L	Spiraea douglasii	Western Spiraea
x	L	Symphoricarpos oreophilus	Mountain snowberry
x	L	Symphoricarpos rotundifolius	Roundleaf snowberry
x	L	Symphoricarpos albus	Common snowberry
		Vaccinum occidentale	Western blueberry

Perennials (many would be landscape suitable if available)

x	L	Achillea millefolium	White yarrow
	L	Aconitum columbianum	Monkshood
x	L	Allium validum	Swamp onion
	L	Allium spp.	Wild onion
x	L	Anemone tuberosa	Anemone
x	L	Antennaria sp.	Pussy toes
x	L	Aquilegia formosa	Western columbine
	L	Aquilegia pubescens	Alpine columbine
	L	Arnica spp.	Arnica species
avail as bulb		Brodiaea spp.	Brodiaea
x	L	Balsamorhiza sagittata	Arrowleaf balsamroot
avail as bulb		Calochortus spp.	Mariposa lily
x	L	Caltha leptosepala var. biflora	Marsh marigold
		Calyptidium umbellatum	Pussy paws
avail as bulb		Camassia quamash	Camas
		Castilleja spp.	Indian paintbrush
x	L	Delphinium glaucum	Mountain larkspur
	L	Dodecatheon jeffreyi	Sierra shooting star

x	L	Equisetum hyemale	Horsetail reed
	L	Equisetum spp.	Horsetail
x	L	Erysimum capitatum var. perenne	Western wallflower
avail as bulb		Erythronium spp.	Fawn / Trout / Avalanche Lily
x	L	Fragaria virginiana	Mountain strawberry
x	L	Geum triflorum	Prarie smoke
x	L	Ipomopsis aggregata	Skyrocket
x	L	Lilium pardalinum	Leopard lily
x	L	Lilium parvum	Tiger lily
x		Lilium washingtonianum	Washington lily
x	L	Linum lewisii	Blue flax
x	L	Lupinus spp.	Lupine
x	L	Mimulus guttatus	Yellow monkeyflower
x	L	Mimulus lewisii	Lewis' monkeyflower
x	L	Monardella odoratissima	Mountain pennyroyal
		Paeonia brownii	Wild peony
x	L	Polemonium occidentale	Jacob's ladder
x	L	Potentilla spp.	Yellow cinquefoil
x	L	Sedum roseum	Alpine Sedum
x	L	Sidalcea spp.	Mallow
x	L	Solidago spp.	Goldenrod
	L	Wyethia mollis	Mule ears

From Southern Sierra to Southern Cascade Ranges and the White Mountains

("Native" in a slightly broader sense)

x	L	Abies lasiocarpa	Sub-alpine fir
x	L	Acer circinatum	Vine maple
x	L	Betula occidentalis var. fontinalis	Water or Western river birch
x	L	Cupressus macnabiana	Modoc cypress
x	L	Pinus balfouriana	Foxtail pine
x	L	Pinus flexilis	Limber pine
x	L	Pinus longaeva (P. aristata)	Western bristlecone pine
x	L	Pinus monophylla	Single-leaf piñon pine
x	L	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas fir
x	L	Prunus andersonii	Desert peach
x	L	Prunus subcordata	Modoc plum
x	L	Ribes aureum	Golden currant
x	L	Sequoiadendron giganteum	Giant Sequoia
x	L	Spiraea betulifolia	Western White Spiraea
x	L	Viburnum trilobum	American Cranberrybush

Genera with species that are closely related to endemic species and/or appear similar to the native species.

Trees & Shrubs

x	L	Potentilla spp.	Cinquefoil (herbaceous and woody)
x	L	Salix spp.	Willow
x	L	Sorbus spp.	Mt. ash
x	L	Symphoricarpos ssp.	Snowberry

Perennials

x	L	Aconitum spp.	Monkshood
x	L	Allium spp.	Onion
x	L	Anemone spp.	Anemone
x	L	Aquilegia spp.	Columbine
x	L	Arnica spp.	Arnica
x	L	Aster spp.	Aster
x	L	Caltha spp.	Marsh marigold
x	L	Camassia spp.	Camas
x	L	Dicentra spp.	Bleeding heart
x	L	Erysimum spp.	Mat forming wallflower
x	L	Geum spp.	Geum

x	L	Huchera spp.	Coral bells
x	L	Penstemon spp.	Penstemon
x	L	Phlox spp.	Creeping Phlox
x	L	Pulsatilla spp.	Pasque flower
x	L	Sidalcea spp.	Mallow
x	L	Thalictrum spp.	Meadow rue
x	L	Tierella spp.	Foam flower

Traditional / Historical Plants: Natives and introductions with a century or so of use in the Tahoe / Truckee area (Lodges, Taverns, Cabins, Homesteads.)

Trees

x	L	Acer spp.	Maple
x	L	Calocedrus decurrens	Incense cedar
x	L	Crataegus spp.	Hawthorne
x	L	Juniperus scopulorum	Rocky Mt. juniper
x	L	Malus spp.	Apple & Crabapple
x	L	Picea spp.	Spruce
x	L	Pseudotsuga menziesii 'glauca'	Rocky Mt. Douglas fir
x	L	Sorbus aucuparia	European Mt. ash
x	L	Betula occidentalis 'fontinalis'	Western Water Birch

Shrubs

x	L	Clematis spp.	Clematis (vine)
x	L	Cornus sericea	Red-twig dogwood
x	L	Pinus mugo cv.	Mugo pine
x	L	Rosa 'Blaze'	Climbing red rose
x	L	Rosa harisonii	Harison's yellow rose
x	L	Rosa rugosa	Tomato rose
x	L	Rosa spp.	Hedge and shrub roses
x	L	Rubus parviflorus	Thimbleberry
x	L	Spiraea spp.	Spiraea
x	L	Syringia vulgaris	Lilac

Perennials

x	L	Alcea rosea	Hollyhock
x	L	Aquelegia spp.	Columbine
x	L	Campanula spp.	Bluebell
x	L	Chrysanthemum maximum cv.	Shasta daisy
x	L	Crocus spp.	Crocus
x	L	Delphinium spp.	Delphinium
x	L	Dianthus spp.	Pinks
x	L	Dicentra spp.	Bleeding heart
x	L	Digitalis spp.	Foxglove
x	L	Fragaria spp.	Strawberry
x	L	Lilium spp.	Lily
x	L	Paeonia spp.	Peony
x	L	Papaver orientalis	Oriental poppies
x	L	Phlox paniculata	Summer phlox
x	L	Rheum rhaponticum	Rhubarb (Siberian)
x	L	Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed susan
x	L	Rudbeckia laciniata	Tall Rudbeckia
x	L	Saponaria officinalis	Bouncing-Bet, Soapwort
x	L	Viola spp.	Violets

The Villager Nursery has Botanists, Ecologists, Biologists and Landscapers on staff with extensive knowledge and years of practical experience to answer your gardening questions any time. Each week we also offer special free classes, as we have for nearly 30 years, to cover specific mountain gardening topics in much greater depth. Our climate is very unique and help from the trials and errors of others is a great benefit. The classes are offered through the Villager Nursery, 10678 Donner Pass Rd. Pre-registration is encouraged but drop-ins are welcome. We will cancel or re-schedule if the weather is unpleasant. All the classes are still free of charge. Dress warmly and please bring a folding chair or stool. You are welcome to bring loads of questions, refreshments to share and samples of plants for identification after each class held at the nursery. The setting is very informal and we always have fun. Go on-line to www.villagernursery.com for additional information.

August 6 - Saturday 10-11:30a: Mountain Native Plants - 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.

August 13 - Saturday, 10-11:30: Landscaping in the Sierra Rain Shadow and "X-rated" Plants-Water Wise Gardening Class in cooperation with the Truckee Donner P.U.D. - We'll cover the very easy ways that you can use less water, pull fewer weeds and enjoy more growth from your plants. The PUD has a load of valuable stuff to give out to attendees. Bring a chair.

August 19 - Friday 5:50-9:30p: Villager Nursery's 30th Anniversary Party- Free Food & Beverages, reminiscences, pictures, Please stop by and hang with us for a minute or two and let us thank you for your 30 years of support. Thank You

August 20 - Saturday 10-11:30a: How to Plant Trees and Shrubs- You will learn methods that our many years of experience have proven to work best in this climate and in these soils. We'll discuss options and field your questions. These are not the techniques you will learn in any books.

August 24 - Wednesday 6-9p: Music in the Park – The Blues Monsters sponsors: Villager Nursery & Silvertip Landscaping

September 3 - Saturday, 10-11:30: Mountain Native and Naturalized Plants (reprise) - Mountain Native Plants - 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. We'll also cover a few of the historically important introduced species thriving in Truckee without care for more than a century. Bring samples for identification.

September 10 - Saturday, 10-11:30: Fall Color in Your Garden – Choose trees, shrubs, and perennials with the most colorful leaves, persistent berries or super late blooms. ..What's the weather for the best display, how to help your plants yield the richest golds and the deepest reds. We'll cover the chemistry and the natural artistry of a showy fall garden.

September 17 - Saturday, 10-11:30: 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. Gardening is ALWAYS about "Next Year". Right now, we have a lot less time to wait until next year.

October 1 - Saturday, 10-11:30: Gardening with Bulbs - Now (October) is the time to plant the ultimate low-maintenance perennials. Learn when bulbs bloom, what to feed them, how to plant them. Learn bulbs for sun and shade, for spreading or seeding. Bulbs that are rodent and deer proof and we'll offer suggestions for planting combinations. Plant now into December for color April – July

October 8 - Saturday, 10-11:30: Fall Color Walk – take a leisurely stroll through downtown and Brickletown to see the trees, shrubs and perennials with the best fall displays. Just for fun. We'll stop for a tasty pastry and coffee. Class size is limited for this one, call to sign-up.

October 16 – Sunday, All Day: Truckee River Day IX – Watershed Restoration Projects - River restoration and projects for adult and children volunteers. Spend all day or part of a day learning about and working on our river. Project leaders will specialize in revegetation, native plants, history, geology, fisheries, and forest health. Call the Truckee River Watershed Council @ 550-8760 if you are interested in leading groups or if you wish to participate. The Villager and U.S. Forest Service Office will have registration forms by mid September.

October 22 - Saturday, 10-11:30: "Winterizing" your garden - What to do to put your garden to bed well so it rises 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.

October 29 - Saturday, 11-1:30: Harvest Contest & Pumpkin Carving – Bring in, and show off your fruits, vegetables or flowers. Gift certificates will be awarded for the biggest or showiest in each category. Free pumpkin and fun carving for kids under ...whatever from 1-2:30. We also have pumpkins for sale earlier in October. We'll have hot cider and cookies.

November 5 - Saturday, 10-11:30: Paperwhites, Amaryllis and other Holiday Blooms - 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.

Chokecherry Jelly

Prep Time: 1 hr 0 min

Total Time: 2 hr 0 min

Makes: about 6 (1-cup) jars.

3 cups prepared juice (about 4 lb. fully ripe chokecherries)
1 cup water
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
1 box MCP Pectin
1/4 tsp. butter, margarine or oil (optional)
4-1/2 cups sugar, measured into separate bowl (See tip below.)

BRING boiling-water canner, half-full with water, to simmer. Wash jars and screw bands in hot, soapy water; rinse with warm water. Pour boiling water over flat lids in saucepan off the heat. Let stand in hot water until ready to use. Drain well before filling.

CRUSH chokecherries thoroughly, one layer at a time. Place in saucepan. Add water and simmer 15 minutes. Place 3 layers of damp cheesecloth or jelly bag in large bowl. Pour prepared fruit into cheesecloth. Tie cheesecloth closed; hang and let drip into bowl until dripping stops. Press gently. Measure exactly 3 cups juice into 6- or 8-quart saucepot. Add lemon juice.

STIR pectin into juice in saucepot. Add butter to reduce foaming, if desired. Bring mixture to full rolling boil (a boil that doesn't stop bubbling when stirred) on high heat, stirring constantly.

STIR in sugar quickly. Return to full boil and boil exactly 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Skim off any foam with metal spoon.

LADLE quickly into prepared jars, filling to within 1/8 inch of tops. Wipe jar rims and threads. Cover with two-piece lids. Screw bands tightly. Place jars on elevated rack in canner. Lower rack into canner. Water must cover jars by 1 to 2 inches; add boiling water if needed. Cover; bring water to gentle boil. Process 5 minutes. Remove jars and place upright on a towel to cool completely. After jars cool, check seals by pressing middle of lid with finger. (If lid springs back, lid is not sealed and refrigeration is necessary.)

Elderberry Jelly

Prep Time: 45 min

Total Time: 45 min

Makes: about 5 (1-cup) jars.

3 cups prepared juice (buy about 6 qt. or 3 lb. fully ripe elderberries)
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
1 box SURE.JELL Fruit Pectin
1/2 tsp. butter or margarine (optional)
4-1/2 cups sugar, measured into separate bowl

BRING boiling-water canner, half full with water, to simmer. Wash jars and screw bands in hot soapy water; rinse with warm water. Pour boiling water over flat lids in saucepan off the heat. Let stand in hot water until ready to use. Drain well before filling.

REMOVE and discard large stems from elderberries. Crush fruit thoroughly; place in saucepan. Cook until juice starts to flow, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Place 3 layers of damp cheesecloth or jelly bag in large bowl. Pour prepared fruit into cheesecloth. Tie cheesecloth closed; hang and let drip into bowl until dripping stops. Press gently. Measure exactly 3 cups prepared juice into 6- or 8-quart saucepot. (If needed, add up to 1/2 cup water for exact measure.) Stir in lemon juice.

STIR pectin into juice in saucepot. Add butter to reduce foaming, if desired. Bring mixture to full rolling boil (a boil that doesn't stop bubbling when stirred) on high heat, stirring constantly. Stir in sugar. Return to full rolling boil and boil exactly 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Skim off any foam with metal spoon.

LADLE immediately into prepared jars, filling to within 1/8 inch of tops. Wipe jar rims and threads. Cover with 2-piece lids. Screw bands tightly. Place jars on elevated rack in canner. Lower rack into canner. (Water must cover jars by 1 to 2 inches. Add boiling water, if necessary.) Cover; bring water to gentle boil. Process 5 minutes. Remove jars and place upright on towel to cool completely. After jars cool, check seals by pressing middle of lid with finger. (If lid springs back, lid is not sealed and refrigeration is necessary.)

Gooseberry Jam

Prep Time: 45 min

Total Time: 2 hr min

Makes: about 10 (1-cup) jars

5-1/2 cups prepared fruit (about 2-1/2 qt. fully ripe gooseberries)

1 box SURE.JELL Fruit Pectin

1/2 tsp. butter or margarine (optional)

7 cups sugar, measured into separate bowl (See tip below.)

BRING boiling-water canner, half-full with water, to simmer. Wash jars and screw bands in hot, soapy water; rinse with warm water. Pour boiling water over flat lids in saucepan off the heat. Let stand in hot water until ready to use. Drain well before filling.

REMOVE blossom and stem ends from fruit. Finely chop or grind berries. Measure exactly 5-1/2 cups prepared fruit into 6- or 8-qt. saucepot.

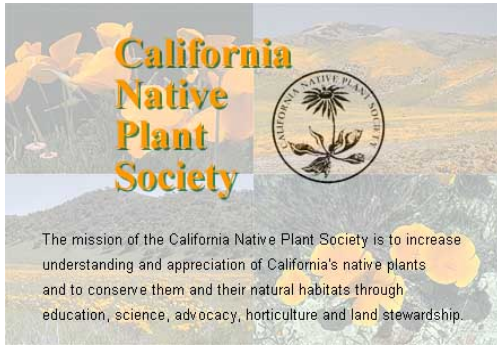
STIR pectin into fruit in saucepot. Add butter to reduce foaming, if desired. Bring mixture to full rolling boil (a boil that doesn't stop bubbling when stirred) on high heat, stirring constantly.

STIR in all sugar quickly. Return to full rolling boil and boil exactly 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Skim off any foam with metal spoon.

LADLE quickly into prepared jars, filling to within 1/8 inch of tops. Wipe jar rims and threads. Cover with two-piece lids. Screw bands tightly. Place jars on elevated rack in canner. Lower rack into canner. Water must cover jars by 1 to 2 inches; add boiling water if needed. Cover; bring water to gentle boil. Process 10 minutes. Remove jars and place upright on a towel to cool completely. After jars cool, check seals by pressing middle of lid with finger. (If lid springs back, lid is not sealed and refrigeration is necessary.)

Why Grow Native Plants?

(from California Native Plant Society)



Promote Biodiversity

Human development through agriculture and urbanization has drastically reduced native plant communities in California. By growing native plants in our gardens, we are restoring some of the natural biodiversity of our area. Many species are dependent on the habitat provided by native vegetation and taken in aggregate, home plantings can enhance the wildlife populations of an area.

Reduce the use of water

Native plants are adapted to the unique climatic conditions of their growing area and once established they require minimal supplemental irrigation. When we grow plants found in our resident plant community, we use far less water than traditional garden landscapes. Using drought tolerant natives in our California gardens conserves a scarce natural resource and saves money on water costs; it's a sensible choice.

Reduce the use of pesticides

Many native plants are not severely effected by insect pests and diseases that afflict traditional ornamentals. Often, natives have adapted defense mechanisms to pests common in their habitats or have a high tolerance for pest damage. As a result, less pesticide is required to maintain native plant gardens in good condition. Decreasing or eliminating pesticide use in the garden also promotes biodiversity, reduces our exposure to toxic substances and saves money. Again, natives plants are a sensible choice.

Enjoy a low maintenance garden

Spend more time enjoying your garden and less time maintaining it. Natives tend to grow more slowly than traditional ornamentals and require less work at garden chores such as mowing, pruning, fertilizing and dividing. California native plants are adapted to a wide variety of growing conditions and fine native plant choices exist for virtually any garden environment. The biodiversity promoted by a native plant garden will reward the owner with satisfying experiences of discovery and observation, not only of the plants themselves, but a host of other species... birds, insects, mammals, etc. A good native plant garden complements the indigenous habitat and by growing plants found in our resident plant community, we bring in all sorts of nearby creatures dependent on that habitat. In a small but significant way, we as native plant gardeners begin to help sustain an ecosystem and secure a connection with the natural world that is infinitely more satisfying than mowing the lawn.

Contact California Native Plant Society

Browse the web site at : www.cnps.org

e-mail to: cnps@cnps.org

fax to: **916-447-2727**

phone to: **916-477-2677**

to join or to send them a letter via U.S. mail:

California Native Plant Society
1722 J Street, Suite 17
Sacramento, CA 95814



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