

Submitted to The Union by the South Yuba River  
Citizens League

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## Cannabis cultivation workshop planned to protect South Yuba River

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### KNOW & GO

What: Growing Green for the Yuba: An all-day workshop about environmentally responsible cannabis cultivation

When: 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, March 19

Where: Shady Creek Event Center, 18601 Pathfinder Way, Nevada City (on the San Juan Ridge)

Tickets: \$25 (includes lunch) in advance/\$35 at door; tickets at [www.yubariver.org/marijuana](http://www.yubariver.org/marijuana)

unregulated cannabis cultivation. The overuse of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides pollutes the water and poisons wildlife. Illegal water diversions result in dry creeks. Deforested and poorly graded land damages habitat for native fish and wildlife. So-called "trespass grows" on public lands have wreaked havoc on the landscape.

The Nevada County Board of Supervisors recently passed a ban on outdoor cultivation or "grows." Although some officials have said that the ban will protect the environment, others predict that outdoor cannabis cultivation is not going away.

"Instead of disappearing, the ban is likely to drive cannabis cultivation further underground, depriving responsible farmers the opportunity to grow within a framework of rational land use rules and regulations. Rather than protect our environment, it seems far more likely that the ban will exacerbate bad environmental practices on public and private land," said Caleb Dardick, SYRCL's executive director.

The South Yuba River Citizens League will host the second annual "Growing Green for the Yuba," an all-day workshop for watershed stakeholders interested in learning more about best practices in cannabis cultivation that protect the environment, on March 19.

While most of the attention surrounding cannabis cultivation has focused on medical, economic, or social impacts, SYRCL remains committed to sharing educational information that protects the river from potential negative impacts from

Recognizing that Nevada County has long been a center for organic, sustainable agriculture, SYRCL has organized this educational workshop to demonstrate how responsible agricultural practices can protect the environment.

SYRCL's "Growing Green for the Yuba" day-long informational workshop with local and regional experts will highlight practices for cannabis cultivation that will safeguard the Yuba watershed. The workshop presenters will address a variety of topics including land use, water management systems, soil health, nutrient use, and pest management. There will also be a panel discussion focused on local and statewide regulations and legislation. The workshop will close with a networking happy hour sponsored by Three Forks Bakery & Brewing Company.

"Last year, nearly 100 people came away from the workshop with the tools they needed to grow cannabis in a way that does not harm the water quality, fish and wildlife we cherish here in the Yuba watershed," said Amigo Bob Cantisano, a renowned leader in the organic gardening movement who spoke at last year's workshop. "If all growers agreed to farm using environmentally sustainable methods, we can foster a truly 'green' Green Rush in the foothills."

"SYRCL is not 'for' or 'against' cannabis cultivation. We're simply saying that if you are going to grow, adopt best practices and do it in a way that doesn't harm our waterways," said Dardick.

The "Growing Green for the Yuba" workshop is sponsored by Sweetland Garden Mercantile, Forever Flowering, Munkelt Law Office, and Vital Garden Supply. The workshop is organized in coordination with the California Growers Association and Americans for Safe Access-Nevada County.