



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program
Orange County

The Garden Beet

Winter 2018-19

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This newsletter is provided by the UCCE Master Gardener Program of Orange County.

Trained Master Gardener volunteers, ready to answer gardening questions, extend research-based information to the public about home horticulture and pest management through classes, hotlines, community events and demonstration gardens.

Want to know:

- What to plant when?
- How to manage a pest?
- How to become a Master Gardener?

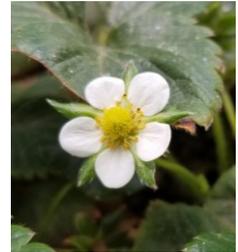
Visit our website at

<http://mgorange.ucanr.edu>

Every Rose Has Its Thorn

With Valentine's Day around the corner, gardeners of all stripes can find something to love about the Rosaceae family. Although the name evokes its more ornamental genus, *Rosa*, you may have noticed some handsome flowers set within serrated leaves elsewhere in your garden. Pome fruits like apple and pear, almonds and stone fruits, rubus brambles like black and raspberries, and even strawberries are Rosaceae family members. Rosaceae flowers typically have five petals, five sepals, and spirally arranged stamens fused together at the base to form a cup called a hypanthium. While not every family member has true thorns or prickles to contend with, keeping them and the rest of the garden looking their best in the winter has its share of challenges.

This homage to Rosaceae will equip you to face those challenges. Those filling their holiday shopping lists with bare root fruit trees should be sure to check the hotline tips about varieties that will perform well even with our less than cold winter nights. Visit a local venue that is open to the public specializing in roses. Learn the basics of pruning to keep your roses and their edible relatives productive. Incorporate pest management tips to keep thrips off the buds and mosquitoes off your ankles. On the days when rain keeps you indoors, learn how protecting the storm drains protects our oceans. While the worms in the garden may not be thrilled about drizzle, those in your new vermicompost bin can continue to do their part in diverting kitchen scraps from the landfill and increasing your soil fertility no matter the weather.



Strawberry. Image: Circe Denyer



Almond. Image: makamuki0



Blackberry. Image: Brett_Hondow



Apple. Image: Josef Petrek

Bite Like an Egyptian

You wouldn't be alone in believing local mosquitoes have become particularly irritating lately. University of California entomologists have been tracking the spread of the *Aedes* genus of mosquitoes throughout California since they were first detected seven years ago. *Aedes* are distinguished from other mosquitoes by the black and white stripes on their legs and back. Yet you are more likely to identify them because they are biting you briefly but repeatedly below the knee at any time of the day.

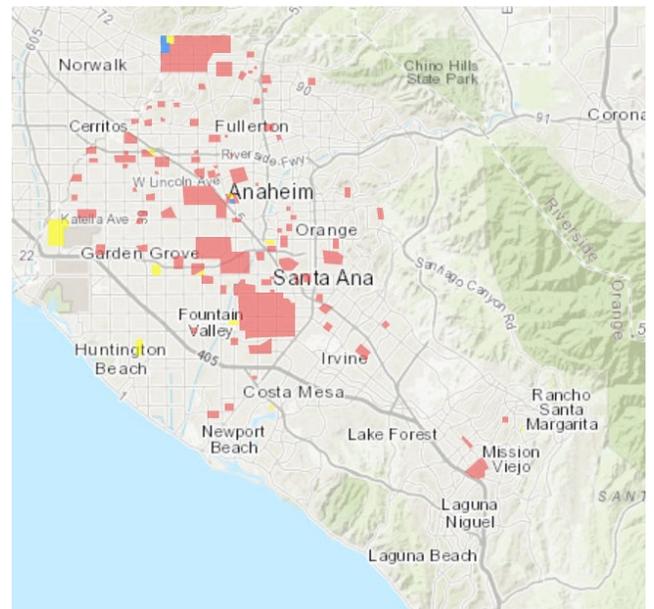


Source: Public Health Image Library (Public Domain) Female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.
http://www.publicdomainfiles.com/show_file.php?id=135192636168
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Of the three species of *Aedes* under surveillance in LA, San Diego and Orange Counties, epidemiologists are most concerned with *Aedes aegypti*. Its strong preference for human blood makes it a more potent vector to spread infectious diseases between people than *Aedes* species which feed less discriminately on any vertebrate host or the *Culex* species which prefer birds. *A. aegypti* does not seek shelter in vegetation which allows it to feed and breed both indoors and out and it is the most prevalent of the three, with detections in 25 cities in OC.

After making landfall in the United States a few hundred years ago, *Aedes* brought epidemics of yellow fever. The Philadelphia epidemic of 1793 and Memphis epidemic of 1878 resulted in 4,000 to 5,000 Yellow Fever mortalities respectively. Now, *Aedes* spread dengue fever and chikungunya, with more than 21 cases reported in both OC and LA. While there are no cases of Zika contracted in California yet, public health officials are concerned that an infected traveler could introduce the disease and there is not yet an effective vaccine or treatment available for those infected.

While the possibility of completely eliminating *Aedes* in southern California is remote, University of California researchers



OCVector.org detections of the three types of *Aedes* mosquitoes (red is *A. aegypti*)

are hard at work to mitigate mosquito impact. They are testing releasing non-biting male mosquitoes who have been sterilized either through irradiation or infection with *Wolbachia pipientis* bacteria to limit the number of eggs hatching. They are using gene sequencing to better understand how many distinct *Aedes* populations exist in California, how far and fast they disperse, and to find faster more cost-effective ways to identify the specific species of eggs collected in traps. They are testing the efficacy of various pesticides on *Aedes* which is notorious for its resistance to many pesticides approved for mosquito control in California. They are even investigating how *A. aegypti's* immune system responds to the Zika virus to be better prepared if an outbreak does occur.



UC Davis Bill Hazeltine Grant funds mosquito research in memory of the late manager of several mosquito abatement districts. Image: <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/bugsqquad/>

For all types of mosquito control, research advocates a two-pronged approach of limiting reproductive habitat and wearing protection to dissuade adults from biting you or your family. These are outlined in detail on the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Pest Note website: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7451.html>.

Limiting reproductive habitat calls for eliminating standing pools of water. While endemic *Culex* mosquitoes lay large batches of eggs in relatively large pools of water, *Aedes* mosquitoes lay small batches of eggs in multiple locations. *Aedes* larvae can mature in an eighth of an inch of water and eggs stay viable in dry environments for as long as five years. The good news is that the mosquito's range is rarely more than a few hundred meters, so neighborhood efforts to reduce habitat can have a dramatic effect.



Image: 628th Aerospace Medicine Squadron



Bromeliad's overlapping leaves pool water, potentially harboring mosquito eggs. Image: OCVector.org

Fill plant saucers with sand or gravel to limit access to standing water. Bird baths, discarded tires, buckets, watering cans, kiddie pools, pool covers, flower vases, even up-turned bottle caps and bromeliad plants which pool water in their leaves, are common culprits. Store containers inverted to discourage the accumulation of standing water. Screen and seal rainwater barrels, septic vents, and underground irrigation drainage entry points which would offer mosquitoes difficult-to-access pools of perpetual standing water. Clean roof gutters annually to ensure proper drainage. Fill tree holes with sand and mortar. Inspect irrigation systems for leaks and excess run off.

In ideal conditions, mosquitoes can progress from eggs to adults in one week, so public health officials advise changing standing water every four days in pet and livestock troughs. They also

advise treating water with *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) commonly found in a dissolving floating “donut” form which creates a poison in mosquito larva guts but is nontoxic to humans. In standing bodies of water that do not connect to natural water ways, such as man-made ponds, vector control offices can provide residents with mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) which feed on mosquito larva. Using pumps in water features to circulate water can also help.



Gambusia preparing to eat mosquito larva. Image: USCDCP

To protect yourself from those adult female mosquitoes looking for a blood meal in order to lay eggs, focus on personal protection. Screen windows and doors to your home. Use mosquito netting over beds, cribs and baby carriers. Wear long sleeved shirts and pants.

For exposed skin, Consumer Reports found EPA-registered insecticides containing either 20% or more concentrations of Picaridin or 25% or more DEET could provide five to eight hours of deterrence. However, these should not be used on babies younger than two months or applied to children’s hands, eyes, or irritated skin. Wash off repellents when no longer needed.

Table 1. Select mosquito repellent ratings from Consumer Reports recent study.

Brand name	Rating	Active Ingredients	Effectiveness against (in hours)		
			Aedes	Culex	Deer ticks
Sawyer Picaridin	96	Picaridin 20%	8	8	8.5
Ben's 30% Deet Tick & Wilderness Formula	93	DEET 30%	7.5	8	8.5
Repel Lemon Eucalyptus	87	Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus 30% (Approx. 65% PMD)	7	8	7
Repel Scented Family	82	DEET 15%	5	8	8.5
Natrapel 8 hour	81	Picaridin 20%	8	8	6
Off Deepwoods VII	74	DEET 25%	8	8	5
Cutter Natural	29	Geraniol 5%, Soybean oil 2%, Sodium Lauryl Sulfate 0.4%, Potassium Sorbate 0.1%.	1	0.5	8
EcoSmart Organic	7	Geraniol 1.0%, Rosemary Oil 0.5%, Cinnamon Oil 0.5%, Lemongrass Oil 0.5%.	0.5	0.5	1.5

Image: University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Retail Nursery and Garden Center IPM News

To access more prevention tips, report daytime-biting mosquitoes, or request an inspection and treatment, visit the OC mosquito and vector control district website: <https://www.ocvector.org/InvasiveMosquitoes.html>

Test Your Stormwater IQ



1: True/False: The OC storm drain system and the sewer system are part of the same underground system.

2: True/False: Substances flowing through the storm drain

are tested and filtered before they are discharged to the ocean.

3: True/False: It is illegal to put anything other than rainwater in the storm drains.

4: Stormwater pollution can be caused by:

- Local businesses
- People like you and me
- Pets
- All of the above

5: To dispose of toxic or poisonous products and their containers, you should:

- Flush them down the toilet or sanitary sewer
- Take them to a household hazardous waste collection site
- Place in a storm drain

6: Putting used motor oil in the trash or pouring it down the storm drain:

- Is usually safe
- Won't cause a problem
- Can pollute the ocean

7: When you wash your car, you should:

- Use any cleaner available
- Try to divert water to a landscaped or planted area
- Also clean your engine

8: When you use pesticides or fertilizers in your home and garden you should:

- Select less toxic alternatives, read the directions, and use only the amount needed
- Dispose of the partially full containers in your household garbage
- Use extra water to make sure pesticides or fertilizers penetrate the soil

9: When performing home repairs or remodeling work you should:

- Allow your contractor to clean their vehicles or tools by rinsing them off in the gutter
- Store bags of cement and plaster under cover and away from gutters and storm drains
- Wash paint chips and dust down the storm drain

10: When you see a water pollution problem you should:

- Call the County's Water Pollution Reporting Hotline
- Visit <https://myOCeServices.ocgov.com> to submit a Service Request under Water Pollution.
- Call 911 if it's an emergency
- All of the above

Check your answers and learn which watershed you belong to by visiting:

<https://h2oc.org/resources/runoff-101/>

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and ROT!

Nearly one-third of trash is organic. You can divert much of this material from the landfill while increasing soil fertility by composting kitchen scrap “greens” and shredded junk mail “browns.” Only a few items should not be composted:

- Soil which adds weight and discourages turning of the pile for more rapid composting
- Ashes because most California soils are already alkaline or basic and ashes would drive the pH value even higher.
- Meat, fat, or cooked fruits and vegetables
- Manure from meat-eating animals including dogs, cats, and humans which can harbor disease-producing organisms.
- Seed-bearing weeds which may not be completely killed even in a high temperature compost pile
- Diseased plant materials which may contain heat-resistant viruses.



Wire compost pile. Image: sacmg.ucanr.edu



Vermiculture. Image: ucanr.edu

There are composting methods to work with every gardening situation. You could start a compost pile in your yard using a wire cage or wooden shipping pallets. If you do not have enough material or energy to turn the pile, you can bury compost directly in the garden at a depth of two to three feet. Limited yard space isn't a problem for those doing vermiculture, the practice of raising redworms in an aerated container. Redworms will consume their weight kitchen scraps daily while their waste or castings are prized as a soil amendment.

To learn more about how to set these systems up and troubleshoot any challenges, see chapter three of the California Master Gardener Handbook or visit <http://mgorange.ucanr.edu/Soils-Fertilizers-Compost/>.

Strip to Combat Chilli Thrips

By Linda Genis, UCCE Master Gardener of Orange County

Did you notice unusual growth on your rosebushes this past summer – miniature buds and twisted leaves? If so, your garden was probably visited by chilli thrips (*Scirtothrips dorsalis* Hood). These pests were first reported in Florida in October of 1991 and made their way to Orange County, CA. by August of 2015. They prey on more than 200 different plants including, as their name implies, peppers. They are also pests of citrus trees, tomatoes, eggplant, and other edibles.

“Unlike other thrips, pupae of chilli thrips are generally found on leaves, leaf litter, or on the axils of leaves, in curled leaves, or under the calyxes of flowers and fruits,” notes James A. Bethke of the UC Nursery and Floriculture Alliance.



Example of rose bud and leaf damage caused by Chilli Thrips



Chilli thrip under magnification Image: University of Florida

Affected plant parts should be pruned, bagged, and placed in the trash, along with leaf litter on the ground below the plant. Because chilli thrips build up an immunity to pesticides fairly rapidly, the American Rose Society recommends alternate spraying with spinosad and horticultural oil when chilli thrips are present.

When you prune your roses this winter, be sure to strip off all the leaves and clear the ground beneath your bushes.

Chilli thrips can overwinter in the litter on the ground.

You can read more about this invasive pest at:

http://ucfnfanews.ucanr.edu/Articles/Regional_Report_San_Diego_and_Riverside_Counties/Summer_2016_Chilli_thrips/

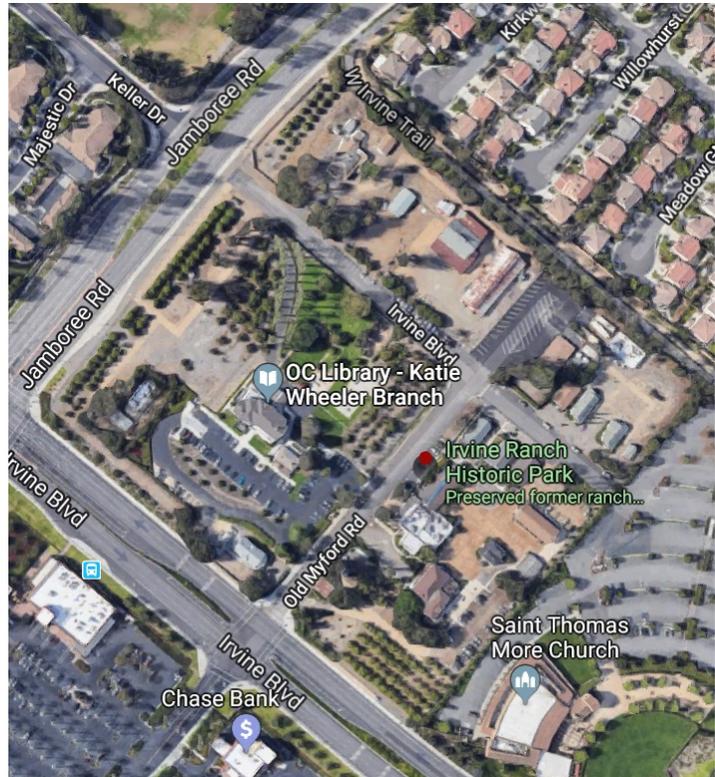
Not-So-Secret Garden: Katie Wheeler Library Roses

By Kathy Williams and Sandy Denny, UCCE Master Gardeners of Orange County

In early 2007, UCCE advisor John Kabashima charged Master Gardener Fred Tarnay with the task of preserving the Irvine Family rose garden. Close by, the Katie Wheeler Library was being constructed where the original Irvine family home stood until it was damaged in a fire in 1965. While the builders took pains to replicate the details of the original home, there

was no attempt to preserve any of the original horticulture at the site. Instead, workers emptied the cement buckets and cleaned the paint cans in the rose planters.

The library in the Irvine mansion would join numerous historically significant buildings which had moved to the site in the 1970s for preservation. The western corner houses both the library and Cogan House (1913). The northern corner includes Krauss House (1897) as well as agricultural buildings. The eastern corner is referred to as Foreman’s Row with bungalow cottages that housed ranch supervisors. The southern corner contained the company’s headquarters which is now the headquarters of OC Parks, a bunkhouse for ranch hands, James Irvine II’s office which was converted into an agricultural laboratory, and the Mess Hall.



The grounds and the landscaping are much what they were in the 60s. The former main entry to the residence is still evident by the majestic rows of *Washingtonia robusta* fan palms flanking the old driveway that date back to 1906. The wall surrounding the garden was built shortly after the Charles Lindbergh kidnapping case to protect the family.

As for the rose garden itself, Tarnay and a few dedicated Master Gardeners found preservation required consistent watering, weed control, feeding and pruning. Doing so also preserved a botanical piece of history. When they took inventory of the varieties of roses in the garden, they found some with tags which had been planted in the last 10-15 years, but they also found many without tags which could not be identified even with help from rose catalogs. Judging by their large trunks, these may have been planted by the Irvine Family as much as a century ago.

A small core group of Master Gardeners gathered to begin the rehabilitation of the rose garden and a small core group continues to maintain the Family Garden here at Irvine Ranch every last Saturday and second Thursday of the month. Join them for a rose cutting demonstration January 26 from 9AM-11AM. The rose garden is open to the public seven days a week from 7AM to 5PM.

8 Simple Steps to Perfectly Pruned Roses

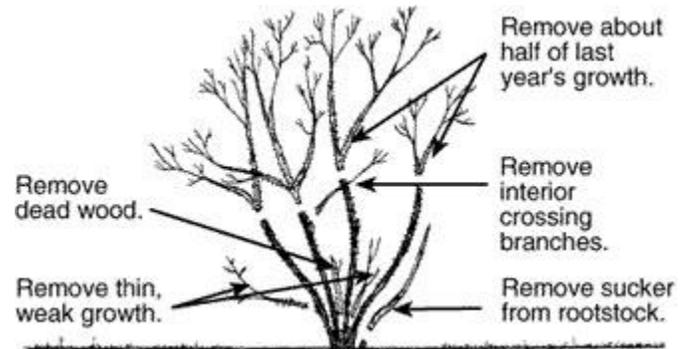
By Teena Spindler, UCCE Master Gardener of Orange County

Although roses in Southern California never really go dormant, January is the time of year to give them an annual pruning. It's tough to do since many plants are still blooming! Pruning, while sacrificing a few blooms now will result in a healthier plant and better blooms in the coming year.

Follow these eight steps to have roses ready to bloom their heads off come spring!

1. Canes (branches) growing towards the interior of the bush: Remove all, cut flush to a main, outward facing cane.
2. Canes crossing one another: Choose the most healthy, vigorous looking, and outward pointing cane and cut off the others.
3. Dead, diseased or old woody canes: Cut off at base of plant.
4. Canes thinner than a pencil: Cut off flush to a main cane or base of plant.
5. Shorten remaining outward pointing canes by one third to two thirds of the previous year's growth by cutting 1/4" above an outward pointing leaf node. Removing more of the previous year's growth results in fewer but larger flowers on longer stems. The goal is to have three to seven outward pointing canes growing from the base of the plant.
6. Remove all leaves from plant.
7. Remove all fallen leaves and debris under and around plant. (see Chilli Thrips article)
8. Spray pruned shrub and ground with a dormant spray.*

The goal is to have a resulting bush that is shaped like a v-shaped vase, open in the middle so that it could hold a beach ball in the center of the bush.



Source: El Paso County Master Gardeners
<https://txmg.org/elpaso/event/2015-annual-rose-pruning-demo-events/>

* Dormant spray is a horticultural oil or fungicide or combination that is sprayed on the plant while 'dormant'. The oil smothers insects and fungal spores and the fungicide deters fungi such as those that cause black spot, powdery mildew and rust. Pre-mixed sprays for roses are available at nurseries or home improvement stores, or you can make your own with the Cornell University Formula:

- 1 gallon water
- 2 tablespoons fine horticultural oil
- 1 tablespoon mild liquid soap (not detergent)
- 1 heaping tablespoon baking soda (acts as a fungicide)

Stir each addition thoroughly. Put mixture in clean sprayer and spray plants thoroughly.

Tips for Dormant Pruning of Trees

Many of the principles for pruning roses apply to pruning trees to improve their health and appearance, such as removing dead, weak, diseased, low, broken or crossed branches. The [California Master Gardener Handbook](#) also offers the following tips:

- **Know fruit-bearing habits:** Research your tree's bearing habit; whether it fruits on new or older wood in order to determine the effect timing and amount of pruning will have on flowering and fruiting. Trees that flower on current growth will flower more profusely with dormant pruning. Flowering will be delayed on trees that flower on one-year-old growth and you should limit pruning to 10-15% of the leaf area and time your pruning at or near the end of a bloom period.
- **Southwest sun protection:** If dramatic cuts are made to allow more sunlight to penetrate the canopy, consider painting white latex paint diluted with an equal part of water or Boudreaux mixture on newly-exposed southwestern portions of the tree to protect from sunscald.
- **Skip sealants:** It is not necessary to close cuts with sealants or dressings which seal in moisture and may encourage decay rather than wound healing.
- **Sanitize tools:** Between pruning trees and before storing your tools, it is a good practice to sterilize them to avoid spreading plant diseases. Dilute one-part bleach with between four-and-nine-parts water to disinfect. Bleach can corrode tools so clean pruning tools with a shaken mixture of two teaspoons emulsifiable oil, a half cup of vinegar, and one and a half cups of water.



Citrus orchard whitewashed for sun protection. Image: ucanr.edu/blogs

For additional information about building and maintaining a home orchard, Master Gardeners also recommend [Home Orchard: Growing Your Own Deciduous Fruit and Nut Trees](#).

CALENDAR: UCCE Presentations, Workshops, and Talks

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

12/2 9-10AM: **Succulents**
 Anaheim Packing District
 440 S Anaheim Blvd, Anaheim, 92805

12/4 3-5PM or 6:30-8:30PM: **Gifts from the Kitchen**
 South Coast Research and Extension Center
 7601 Irvine Blvd, Irvine, 92618
 \$25 Materials Fee. Register at
<https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=25910>

Thursdays 8:30-9:30 88.9FM KUCI
"In the Garden" radio show

12/6 10-11AM: **Backyard Orchard Citrus**
 Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center
 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, 92692

12/1 **Eat a Red Apple Day**

12/8 9-10AM: **California Natives**
 Reata Park
 28632 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano, 92675

12/12 **Poinsettia Day**

12/27 **Visit the Zoo Day**

12/29 9-11:30: **Rose Cutting Demonstration**
 Irvine Ranch Historic Rose Garden
 13042 Old Myford Rd, Irvine, CA 92602

DECEMBER Garden Tips

- **Prepare for the Holidays!** – Purchase holiday plants such as poinsettias and potted evergreens. Place in bright light but away from direct sunlight. Remove foil or plastic wrappers from pots. Water when the surface of the soil feels dry to the touch until water flows from bottom of the container. Do not let sit in standing water.
- **Quick Garden Spruce Up** – To spruce up the garden for all the holiday entertaining: 1) Re-plant containers at entryway with cool season flowers such as pansies, dianthus, snapdragons, cyclamen, or alyssum. 2) Trim, deadhead, and generally tidy up plant beds. 3) Plant cool season color in plant beds per (1) above, if desired. 4) MULCH plant beds. Mulch makes the garden look tidy and fresh.
- **Vegetables** – Continue to plant cool season vegetables such as lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, carrots, onions, beets, radishes, spinach, kale, peas. For information on growing each vegetable, visit: <http://cagardenweb.ucanr.edu/Vegetables/>
- **Native/drought tolerant plants** – December is a good month to plant these water thrifty plants. Remember to keep them together in the same irrigation zone. Do not mix with plants that have higher water needs.



JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

1/3 10-11AM: Backyard Stone Fruit
 Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center
 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, 92692

1/12 9-10AM: Rose Basics
 Reata Park
 28632 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano, 92675

Thursdays 8:30-9:30 88.9FM KUCI
"In the Garden" radio show

1/26 2-3PM: Succulents
 Huntington Beach Public Library
 7111 Talbert Avenue, Huntington Beach, 92648

1/6 Bean Day

1/10 Houseplant Appreciation Day

1/26 Seed Swap Day

1/28 Daisy Day

1/29 Carnation Day



Seed Swappers at the Orange Public Library Seed library.



January is National Mail Order Gardening Month Image: Kansas Seed House, 1899

JANUARY Garden Tips

- **Roses** – Plant bare-root roses (less expensive than roses in pots). Prune and dormant spray existing rose bushes. For more info: <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7465.html>
- **Fruit Trees/Berries** – Plant bare root deciduous fruit trees and berries. Prune and spray existing trees with appropriate dormant spray to prevent disease and pests. For information on specific trees and berries, visit http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/Fruits_&_Nuts/index.cfm
- **Camellias and azaleas** – Choose and plant camellias and azaleas while they are blooming this month. The plants are resting while they bloom, planting later disturbs the roots when they are actively growing.
- **Order seeds** – A fun activity for a rainy January day is perusing seed catalogs and ordering seeds for those **warm season** veggies and flowers. Start seeds indoors in late January/early February for planting out in March.
- **Lawns** – Fertilize cool season lawns such as tall fescue and ryegrass, but do not feed warm season lawns such as Bermuda or St. Augustine because they are dormant now.



FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

2/7 1-2PM: **The Busy Gardener Month by Month**

Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, 92692

2/8 9-11AM: **Jams and Jellies: Canning and Food Safety**

Fullerton Community Center
340 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton, 02832

2/9 9-10AM and 11AM-noon: **Butterflies** (2 presentations)

Los Rios Park
31747 Los Rios St, San Juan Capistrano, 92675

Thursdays 8:30-9:30 88.9FM KUCI
"In the Garden" radio show

2/5 **Primrose Day**

2/16-2/23 **Future Farmers of America Week**

2/28 **Floral Design Day**

2/26-3/2 **Invasive Species Awareness Week**



Primrose



FFA week starts on Feb 16

FEBRUARY Garden Tips

- **Feed fruit trees** – Fertilize citrus, avocado and deciduous fruit trees this month with fertilizer for fruit trees (not too much nitrogen which will produce leaves at the expense of fruit).
- **Feed roses** – It will take a month or so after pruning for roses to sprout new leaves. Once new leaves are present, feed with fertilizer for roses according to package directions.
- **Vegetables** – This is the last month to plant those cool season veggies mentioned in December tips. In March it's time to start planting warm season veggies.
- **Flowers** – Fill in empty spots in the garden with the cool season flowers mentioned in December tips. Like veggies, it will be time to plant warm season annual flowers in March. Plant perennial flowers such as lavender, guara, yarrow, salvia when they appear in nurseries. Cut back existing perennials.
- **Pests** – With winter rains (hopefully!), start of longer days, and new plant growth, garden pests will become more plentiful. Bait for snails, hose off aphids, and practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM) For more info on IPM visit:
<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/menu.homegarden.html>



Monthly Garden Tips provided by Teena Spindler, UCCE Master Gardener of Orange County and guest speaker for the KUCI 'In the Garden with UC Master Gardeners' segment. For more garden tips, tune in on the first Thursday of each month at 8:30am at KUCI FM 88.9 or online anytime at <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/archive.cfm>

On a “Mission” to Cultivate Coastal Gardening

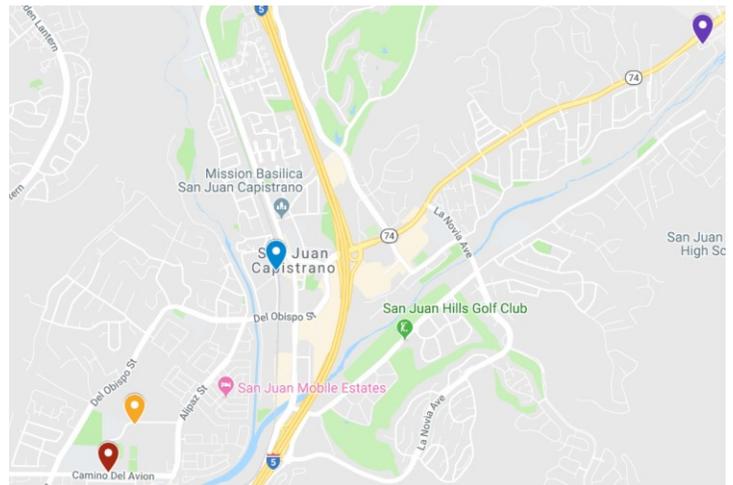
By Kris Bonner and Laurie Menosky, UCCE Master Gardeners of Orange County

South county UCCE Master Gardeners have started an ambitious monthly gardening education program in San Juan Capistrano (SJC) with presentations and workshops at multiple locations to meet the needs of this coastal city.

UCCE Master Gardeners partnered with the SJC Community Services Department to begin the planning. While the city embraced efforts to provide science-based information to suburban gardeners, they also wanted more. They sought a program that would reach additional populations in this diverse city. Now Master Gardeners will provide traditional presentations, hands-on workshops, a community garden troubleshooting tour, and a fun and magical Butterfly Activity.

Reata Park. Join Master Gardeners on the second Saturday morning of (almost) every month at Reata Park, located in east SJC near many new housing developments. Upcoming topics include California Natives (12/8) and Rose Basics, Planting and Pruning (1/12).

Los Rios Park this historic park is situated on one of the oldest streets in Orange County. Visit the 200+ year old Montanez Adobe house on your way home from one of the two Butterfly Activities in the Park (2/9).



Community Garden. San Juan Capistrano rents out 20 x 20-foot garden plots—vegetables only, no trees. Many of the renters live in a nearby mobile home park and rely on their gardens to help meet the nutritional needs of their families. In June 2019, Master Gardeners will host a “talk and walk” to help with real life pest problems. Plans are also underway to offer future presentations in the Community Garden in Spanish to extend outreach.

Community Center Workshops. To meet the need for more hands-on workshops at the SJC Community Center, Master Gardeners successfully hosted a first workshop on Pumpkin Succulent Center Pieces. SJC resident and Master Gardener Nina Ostensen led the workshop which combined gardening and artistic elements while teaching attendees how to care for and propagate succulents. She also donated a fantastic assortment of succulents from her own garden to work within a limited materials budget. Next up is an herb workshop on 3/22 (with donations from a local nursery).

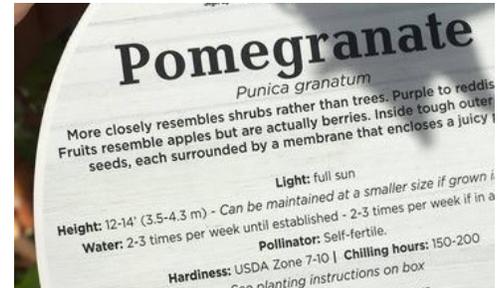
For more information on how to attend the activities listed, see the Calendar on pages 11-13

Hotline FAQ

By Linda Genis, UCCE Master Gardener of Orange County

Orange County gardeners have a wide variety of trees to choose from for their home orchard – but will everything grow here? Winter is the time to plant new deciduous fruit trees because they are dormant. To end up with a good crop, these are some things to keep in mind.

1. **Chill Hours?** Many fruit trees require chill hours which are the number of hours that the temperature drops below 45° between November 1st and February 28th. In Orange County, that number is typically below 200. The tag on a fruit tree should say the number of chill hours it requires to set fruit; trees requiring 400 or 600 hours of winter chill can't be counted on to bear fruit in our climate. You may want to do some research before you go tree shopping so you can have an idea of what to look for.



To learn more about low-chill tree varieties, visit:

<http://www.davewilson.com/sites/default/files/assets/Low-Chill.pdf>

To learn more about chill hours in Orange County, visit:

http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/Weather_Services/chilling_accumulation_models/Chill_Calculators/?type=chill

2. **Self-Fertile?** Some fruit trees require another fruit tree nearby for the blossom to be pollinated. This information should also be on the tag attached to the tree. This varies with the specific variety of tree. For example, the Anna apple tree will bear fruit without a pollinator nearby, but it will produce more fruit in the presence of a Golden Dorsett. Sweet cherries generally require a pollinator. If the tree you select is labeled “self-fruitful” it does not require another related variety to set fruit.
3. **Site Selection?** Before you buy a new tree, make sure you have a place to plant it where it will get at least six to eight hours of sunlight, especially during the growing season. Check the suitability of your soil by digging a hole, filling it with water, and checking to see if the water drains out. If all is well, you are ready to buy a new tree.

For more information about tree care, please visit our website <http://mgorange.ucanr.edu/> and contact our hotline if you need more advice.

It may take a few years, but there's nothing like enjoying a peach picked from your own backyard tree.

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