



2013 ANNUAL Edition
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Riverside County

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Anyone interested in preserving their environment can become a supporter of a Certified Wildlife Habitat.



GARDEN VIEWS



University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardener Program, Riverside County



Since 1917 the County of Riverside has supported the programs of the UC Cooperative Extension which include: subtropical horticulture, environmental horticulture (which includes the Master Gardener program), poultry, viticulture, farm management economics, field and vegetable crops, and food and nutrition programs.

The Riverside County Master Gardener Program was one of the first two programs started in the State of

California (the other was Sacramento County). There are now 45 counties in California that support Master Gardener Programs. Statewide there are more than 5,400 active volunteer Master Gardeners.

The first Master Gardener (MG) class in Riverside County completed their training in 1980. Since 1980, Riverside County MGs volunteer hours of sharing gardening information in their communities exceeded 104,000 hours. Between 1981 and 2012, MG volunteers accumulated more than 2,789,363 hours statewide. Local MGs answered over 1,000 inquiries last year at information tables.



Currently Riverside County has 262 active MG volunteers and has two classes of trainees getting ready to graduate in 2013: one class is hosted at Western Municipal Water District Offices (Riverside) and a second class is held at the Palm Desert Campus, of the University of California, Riverside.



MG volunteers are trained by University of California, Cooperative Extension advisors and other experts. The Riverside County MG volunteers in turn share their knowledge with members of their community through information tables, a speaker's bureau, a telephone hotline, emails, propagation and demonstration gardens, and more.

Anyone interested in becoming a UCCE Master Gardener can contact the Riverside County Volunteer Services Coordinator, Stephanie Pockock, at 951-683-6491 X 230.

GARDENING ADVICE is provided by Volunteer Master Gardeners in many ways: 1) phone (Hotline: 951-683-6491), 2) walk-in advice at 21150 Box Springs Road, #2092, Moreno Valley, 3) group presentations, 4) Information Tables provided at community events, 5) county Website (ucanr.org/sites/riversidemg), 6) email at ceriverside@ucanr.edu, 7) Facebook (search Google for "UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County"), 8) QRReader (app to scan is provided below), or 9) via the Garden Views Newsletter published monthly (you can request an electronic copy be sent to you), or 10) MG propagation and demonstration gardens.

CITRUS UPDATE

Prepared by Tom Shea, UC Staff Research Associate, Subtropical Horticulture Program, UCCE Riverside County, and a Master Gardener

Some Favorites When Your Space Is Limited; For the Homeowner in Southern California



LEMONS & LIMES

These are the "year round citrus" that you can use on a daily basis, whether squeezed over salads and seafood/fish or used in deserts or in drinks. Plant them near the kitchen, so that they are handy to pick and use at a moments notice, day or night. My suggestion

is not to plant more than one of lemon or lime.

Meyer Lemon is a great choice for a homeowner lemon. The tree is smaller, compact, heat tolerant and multi-trunked plus it recovers from frost and freeze well. This hybrid cross of orange and lemon produces a milder, less acidic fruit. The Meyer Lemon is now finding favor with chefs, as it does not overpower whatever it is used with. [Year round]

Variagated Pink Eureka Lemon is a good choice if you want a more tart lemon. It is a very attractive tree with white and green leaves plus white and green striped fruit. The flesh has bits of light pink. The standard Eureka lemon can easily get out of hand but this tree keeps to a small size—8 to 12 feet maximum. [Year round]

Bearss Seedless Lime, aka Persian Lime or Tahitian Lime, is the common store lime. It is seedless, juicy with excellent flavor and somewhat cold hardy. [Year round]

Mexican Lime, aka the Bartender's Lime or Key Lime, is the perfectly round small lime with seeds but also thorns. It is not cold hardy. Look for the thornless variety. [Year round]

Tavares Limequat is a good lime substitute when cold/frost/freeze does not allow you to grow limes. It has abundant, juicy fruit with few seeds, plus the rind is sweet and edible. Snip neck and squeeze. Attractive compact ornamental qualities [Year round]

ORANGES

Washington Navel Orange is the granddaddy of them all. No seeds, an easy peeler and flavorful. Another interesting new navel is Cara Cara Navel with pink fleshed fruit, perhaps sweeter than Washington navel, but the same in all other respects.

[Dec.-April] Robertson Navel is an early navel by about a month; it was found in Redlands in 1925 as a sport or mutation - smaller tree, big producer & just like the Washington Navel in fruit characteristics. [Nov.-April]

Lane Late Navel a spring-summer bearing navel orange. Much like Wash. Navel - no seeds, an easy peeler and flavorful. Also consider Barnfield, another late navel. [Feb.-June for both]

Valencia is the juice orange that does not peel easily and has seeds. However, there are two new seedless varieties, Midnight and Delta. [March-Aug.]

Smith Red Valencia is a new variety with red fleshed fruit and very few seeds. [Jan.-May]

Blood Oranges - Tarocco is considered the most flavorful with hints of berries and Moro is the "bloodiest", that is, has the deepest, darkest red color - can be almost purple. [Jan.- March]

CONTINUED TO NEXT PAGE



You can download QRReader to your phone, this will take you straight to the Riverside County Master Gardener site.

CONTINUED FROM CITRUS UPDATE

MANDARINS - TANGERINES

Seedless Kishu is a golf ball sized fruit that is sweet, without seeds and peels extremely easily. [Oct. to Jan.]

Gold Nugget is another wonderful fruit that is seedless and an easy peeler. It starts to bear in March and holds well on the tree until August. Its flavor is rich and sweet. [March to Aug.]

Tango is the seedless W. Murcott Afourer. Fruit is high quality, an easy peeler, seedless, juicy, sweet rich flavored - very attractive shiny deep orange skin color. [Late Jan. through April]



GRAPEFRUITS

Star Ruby Grapefruit, is the reddest fleshed one for lovers of red or pink fleshed grapefruit. [Feb.-Aug.]. Requires high heat to produce sweet fruit.

Oroblanco, is really a hybrid cross of pummelo and grapefruit, that is white fleshed, without seeds, very mild and sweet. Melogold is much like its sister, Oroblanco, but not quite as sweet. [Dec.-May]

"Cocktail Grapefruit" - it is not truly a grapefruit, but rather a cross between Frua mandarin and Siamese Sweet pummelo. This is truly a great fruit to juice. because it is so sweet and so juicy but has many seeds. [Dec. – March]

pH Information

The pH of anything indicates its active acidity or alkalinity.

Active soil

Acidity represents the excess of Hydrogen ions over the Hydroxyl ions in the soil.

More Hydrogen ions than Hydroxyl ions = soil acidity.

More Hydroxyl ions than Hydrogen ions = alkaline soil.

pH Scale = neutral at 7.0

Higher readings = alkalinity 8+

Lower readings = acidity 6-

To neutralize acidity, add lime to the soil

To neutralize alkalinity, add gypsum or sulfur to the soil

All soils benefit from use of compost or humus in the form of decomposed organic matter.

MG volunteers host propagation and demonstration gardens to enhance learning opportunities

for the general public and other master gardeners. Sites to visit include:

- 1) Grow Lab, 3569 Crowell Avenue, Riverside via back road off Helena or Diana Streets, and
- 2) 2) Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center at 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Riverside.

About the Bagrada Bug...Bagrada hilaris

Information taken from UCR / IPM websites

Situation: The Bagrada bug (also called harlequin bug) was first found in June 2008 in Los Angeles County. Currently it is widely distributed in southern California and southern Arizona.



Photo by G. Arakelian

Damage: Bagrada bug is a major pest of crop plants in the Brassicaceae family; which includes cabbage, kale, turnip, cauliflower, mustard, broccoli, and radish. The Bagrada bug has also been recorded attacking papaya, potato, maize, sorghum, cotton, capers, and some legumes.

The damage is inflicted on host plants when adults and nymphs insert their needle-like mouth parts and suck juices from the plant. This action results in large stippled or wilted areas on leaves. Often the growth of newly formed central shoots or heads of plants become stunted. Populations can build up quickly damaging densities that require control. Heaviest infestations are typically observed in organic farms, community gardens, and residential gardens where little or no pesticides are used.

Local residents, not familiar with this new stink bug, often think they are a variety of beneficial lady bugs, because the Bagrada adults are about the same size and have a similar bright coloration. Females lay eggs in the soil beneath host plants, but may also deposit eggs on leaves. Usually all life stages are present together on plants.

Research: Very little is known about the identification and impact of biological control agents, in particular parasitoids, that attack eggs, nymphs, and adult Bagrada bugs.

Solutions: Handpick bugs or their eggs. Eliminate groundcovers or weedy areas (especially mustards) in early spring before populations build up. Destroy old cole crop plants and mustards because they provide breeding areas. Insecticides are generally not recommended in gardens.



UC Riverside Hosts IPM Train-the-Trainer Workshop

By Janet K. Hough, Master Gardener



August 21, 2012 is a day that I will definitely remember for a long time. I was privileged to be one of 50+ Southern California Master Gardeners who attended the Integrated Pest Management Advanced Training that was held at UC Riverside's Pentland Hills Conference Center. The workshop was a daylong event that included topics such as : "How Master Gardeners can help with Invasive Pests", "What is included in Biological Control", and how "Weed Management" .

MGs from Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and Riverside Counties were first introduced to the goals and vision of the Statewide IPM Program. IPM combines environmentally sound practices to prevent and manage pest problems over the long-term. The goal is to protect people, the environment, and beneficial pests. The IPM vision is to "Make IPM the way that California residents manage pests". Did you know that Master Gardeners (MGs) answered over 28,602 questions through their

Help Lines last year?

Aubrey Bray, the new Program Representative of the Statewide Master Gardener Program, told us that we have 45 MG programs statewide. Each of these programs share "best practices" at biannual conferences held throughout the state. She introduced us to another upcoming IPM Train-the-Trainer event, a 2-day "Edible Landscapes" training that was held in late October at Cuyamaca College, San Diego County and at UCLA, Los Angeles County.

MGs were told how they can help spread the word about new pest invasions and what to do to control their presence. It is estimated that a new, unwelcome pest is introduced every 60 days into California. These invasive pests are likely to cause environmental and economic harm if MGs cannot get the word out and provide helpful advice to their communities' gardeners. Her list of "bad bugs" was long and very comprehensive.

Breakout sessions introduced MGs to lots of information to be shared with other MGs and their communities, such as:

1. **Know Your Labels:** DANGER-POISON (not for home use), DANGER (highly hazardous to the environment), WARNING (moderate health threat of 1 teaspoon to 1 oz. quantity), and CAUTION (low toxicity where 1 oz. is relatively non-toxic). The background behind the OMRI logo found on many pesticide bottles was explained (OMRI = Organic Materials Review Institute). OMRI is a non-profit organization that determines which products are allowed for use in organic production and processing. MGs took a tour among pesticide bottles to read and review labels.

2. **Use natural enemies:** Predators, parasites (good bugs), and pathogens are very effective although they take a bit longer to implement. Know what plants to grow to attract those beneficial natural enemies into your yard.

3. **Weeds:** Learn to identify familiar looking weeds, review background information on their habits, and research by using the IPM website.

MG Advisory Chair Lucy Heyming, studies a "bad bug" under glass

Good bugs—three life cycles of lady beetles are shown below. They eat bad bugs such as:



- * Aphids
- * Mites
- * Psyllids
- * Scales
- * Whiteflies



Provocative Flowering Tree for the Inland Empire

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

Imagine living in an area where you can have colorful flowering trees throughout the year. Imagine no more; we have it all here in Riverside County; flowering trees abound year round. Here are a few that are fairly common and quite easy to grow and maintain for decades. Some we see as street trees, and, others are lovingly tended by gardeners in their own yards. In January, just as the winter holidays end, ornamental pear, "Cup and Saucer" magnolias, and vibrant flowering quince start to sprout. Come February, fragrant blossoms from stone fruit trees like plum, peach, and apricot begin to burst into bloom. Ah, then March & April bring out the gorgeous pink and yellow Tabebuias. In May & June, we see the voluptuous, though messy, Jacarandas. Summer months bring us brilliant colors with Crape Myrtles and Palo Verdes.

So then in October, just when the Crape Myrtles and the Liquid Ambers and even a Ginkgo or two begin to turn colors, out comes this provocative tree with eye-popping pink flowers our "Silk Floss Tree", native to Argentina and Brazil. Here are some factoids: **Family:** Bombacaceae; **Genus:** *Ceiba* (SAY-bub) **Species:** *speciosa* (spee-see-OH-suh), AKA *Chorisia speciosa*.

Barbed Spine



Seed Balls



Pink Flowers

Silk Floss is a very mysterious tree - with its barbed trunk spines, mango sized cottony seed balls, and flirtatious dark pink flowers. It's here every fall. Enjoy this beauty.

COOKING CORNER

Master Gardeners share their favorite recipes. Quite often these recipes are the result of their backyard harvests. Each Garden Views Newsletter features a new taste treat.



PLACES TO VISIT

highlights of trips near and far are shared by Master Gardeners who have visited local sites or made trips around the world. One local site for Master Gardeners is: The Grow Lab

The Grow Lab is a Master Gardener project where Master Gardener Volunteers and Trainees go to practice their skills and share their knowledge with the community. Visitors are introduced to espaliering, propagating, grafting and composting techniques. They also demonstrate vegetable gardening and designing techniques (i.e. using bottles that help keep the soil warm, etc.). Special events are hosted at The Grow Lab: like growing pumpkins for children to pick their own pumpkin; harvesting herbs; or designing a butterfly garden for public presentations. Master Gardeners also propagate plants and prepare vegetables from seed to sell at the annual UCR Botanic Gardens plant sales.



A special Thank You to Master Gardeners Frank and Lucy Heyming for their generous offer to allow Master Gardeners use of their property for The Grow Lab Site

Other Special Riverside MG partnerships include:

- 1) **Western Municipal Water District Landscapes Southern California Style Garden** at 450 East Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, www.wmwd.com
- 2) **UCR Botanic Gardens** on the UCR Campus where MGs annually participate in plant sales and plant maintenance, gardens.ucr.edu
- 3) **Inland Empire Garden Friendly Program**, iegardenfriendly.com
- 4) **UCR Palm Desert**, 75-080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert, 92211, www.palmdesert.ucr.edu
- 5) **Riverside Metropolitan Museum Heritage House & Gardens**, www.riversideca.gov/museum/heritagehouse
- 6) **Growcology**, www.growcology.com

Local Tours Give Master Gardeners a Heads-Up for Sharing Information ...

Snowline Apple Orchard in Oak Glen-above the heat (5,000 feet) offers an extremely friendly tour of this century old growing area; from growing to pressing apples and picking raspberries. Not to mention the hot mini-apple cider donuts and fresh cider. There are many places along the way for picking your own apples or stop at one of the farms that do the work for you. You can also visit shops where lots of apple selections abound, and knowledgeable staff to help. Open to the public year round. 39400 Oak Glen Road, Yucaipa. 909-797-3415



Citrus Experimental Station, UCR-popular yearly tour that is both educational, interesting, and eye-opening to all levels of MG's.

Open to the public one time a year. www.citrusvariety.ucr.edu



Kallisto Greenhouses, Fontana-everything you want to know and more about houseplant propagation in one place (25,700 square feet). Open to the public two times a year.

9988 Redwood Avenue, Fontana
909-829-9101



Temecula Olive Oil Company, Temecula- from groves to pressing (tasting included). Open to the public.
www.temeculaoliveoil.com

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The *Garden Views* newsletter is published monthly, September through June, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County, Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training. **Residents who want to receive electronic newsletters can contact Stephanie Pocock, Volunteer Services Coordinator.**

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Garden Views Newsletter
<http://ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/>

Facebook: Google "UCCE Riverside Master Gardeners"

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Lucy Heyming

Master Gardener
Chair 2012-2013

Greetings!

As Chair of the Riverside County Master Gardeners, I want to encourage you to look for Master Gardeners all over Riverside County. From South County in the Temecula area, to Lake Elsinore, Corona, Norco, Moreno Valley, Riverside, Perris, Menifee, Hemet, Banning, Beaumont, Idyllwild, Palm Springs, Palm Desert, Indio, Coachella, and Mecca, you will see Master Gardeners volunteering and educating the public.

Our mission is to provide the gardeners of Riverside County with research-based information promoting environmentally responsible and sustainable horticultural practices. We accomplish this by providing information tables, hot lines in the Riverside and desert areas, lectures, workshops and advice to community, youth and school gardens.

We are an enthusiastic group of people who are ready to share our expertise with you. Ask us!



Stephanie Pocock

Volunteer Services
Coordinator

I began working at the University of California, Cooperative Extension Riverside County, in January 2008; I joined the volunteer class already in progress to learn about the Master Gardener (MG) Program. As a volunteer coordinator for more than ten years, I enjoy working with people but especially with those who are volunteers. Master Gardener volunteers have an interest in learning more about gardening and sharing that knowledge with others.

My job duties include managing the MG Program volunteers, monitoring information forms and applications of prospective MG volunteers, scheduling and attending MG training classes, MG continuing education meetings, and MG Advisory Board meetings. The UC Cooperative Extension, Master Gardener Program has grown tremendously; classes are offered in Riverside and in Palm Desert.